

MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP: FEAR OF CRIME

HELD ON FRIDAY, 8TH JANUARY 2010 AT 2.00PM

PRESENT: Councillors Garrett (Chair) Dolling, Neale, Stewart and Bullock
Co-opted Member – Kayliegh Deamer

LBC SUPPORT OFFICERS / ADVISORS

John Harper – Head of Local Democracy
Nicola Perry – CDRP Manager
Mark Farmer – Scrutiny Manager
Angela Fraser – Scrutiny Officer
Debbie Prasad – Enforcement Officer
Lisa Jerome – Principal Democratic Services Officer

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Singh and Timoney.

The Chair welcomed Kayliegh Deamer – Co-opted Member to her first meeting of the Group.

2. NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (REF: 3)

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2009 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY - SUMMARY (REF: 4)

Nicola Perry, Luton Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Manager gave a summary of the key findings to emerge from the Community Safety Survey carried out by CELLO MRUK Research commissioned by the CDRP. The survey focussed on gaining insight into the views of residents about their local area, key issues that influenced those views and establishing perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour.

It was agreed that the Group should take a further look at the

statistics but focussing on an area basis. NP advised that work had already been undertaken and a report had been written which had identified the main issues arising out of the survey; draft recommendations had been written which suggested how issues could be addressed; and comparisons of perceived fear had been made against actual statistics including a comparison of the statistics on an area by area basis.

Copies of the report were circulated to Members of the Group.

It was agreed that building public confidence in this area was a cross-cutting theme across the whole of the CDRP.

4. BRIEFING ON FEAR OF CRIME – BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE (REF: 5)

This item was deferred to a future meeting of the Group.

5. MANAGING A TASK AND FINISH GROUP (REF: 6)

Mark Farmer, Scrutiny Manager circulated a paper outlining the principles for a Scrutiny review.

It was noted that subject to the agreement of the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 13th January 2010, the deadline for this review would be extended to the end of June 2010.

Following discussion, it was agreed that prior to the next meeting, officers would work together to produce a project plan for the review and arrange a programme of meetings. Once this had happened, the Group could begin evidence gathering. It was important to ensure that the final report to be produced for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Board was evidence based. To achieve this, it would be necessary to identify specific groups of people throughout the Town to contact such as older citizen groups, black and minority ethnic groups, young people, the Youth MP, school councils etc. it was also suggested that the Area Committees should be used as a forum for consultation.

The Group was informed that officers were looking into arranging a visit to the London Borough of Merton in February/March to look at the work that had been carried out in that Borough on the issue of Fear of Crime.

5. DATE/DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS (REF: 7)

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Task and Finish Group be held at 2.00pm on Friday 29th January 2010.

MEETING ENDED AT 3.00 PM