

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23rd March 2011

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillors Atkin and Mrs. Hood.

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick, Lane and Mrs. Mead.

OS/35. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, it was agreed that Councillor Atkin be appointed Chairman for the Meeting.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Farrington (Vice-Chairman) and Mrs. Plenderleith (Conservative Group).

OS/36. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 19th January 2011 and of the Meetings held on 19th January and 9th February 2011 were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chairman.

OS/37. **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY**

Further to Minute No. OS/34 of 9th February 2011, the Committee undertook its crime and disorder scrutiny review. The Safer Communities Manager attended the Meeting and submitted a report on the agreed review area, to look at the publicity arrangements for the police "Have Your Say Day" programme. This extensive face-to-face public consultation exercise was undertaken by the Police each year, with 20 events held throughout the County between June and September 2010. Details were also given of the questionnaires completed online and those submitted through the post.

A breakdown was given of the events held and the South Derbyshire event had attracted the lowest number of respondents. Against the question "Before this event did you know that you had a Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team in your area?" the area scored particularly poorly and was the lowest in the County. The results were a surprise and the reasons for this were explored. Details were then given of the existing promotion undertaken by the Constabulary. It had recently revised its website, including the names and pictures of each Safer Neighbourhood Team. For future years, the Police Inspector had suggested holding an event in at least one rural location. The

Overview and Scrutiny Committee was asked for its assistance in reviewing the publicity arrangements.

Examples were displayed of the literature produced by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams currently. The Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) felt these were placed at appropriate locations.

It was questioned whether the event would have been more successful in the High Street, rather than in a supermarket entrance, but the latter tended to provide a steady flow of people. In Burton, it was noted that all shops had signs publicising the Safer Neighbourhood Teams in their windows. At the Safer Neighbourhood Meetings, it tended to be the same people present each time, unless someone attended to raise a specific matter. It was suggested to compile a list of suitable locations for the display of publicity materials. There was discussion about the size of posters used. The Officer had been in touch with other partnerships to see if there were any other publicity methods used, but this was not the case. A Member asked how many calls for service resulted from the flyers used, but this was difficult to gauge. A further area suggested was development of the police website and perhaps a link from the Council's website directly to the six area-based teams. Neighbourhood Watch Groups were a further suggested medium for circulating publicity. Similarly, making use of local village newspapers and other publications might help to increase public awareness. Producing a series of articles on the local police teams, for such publications and the local media might also assist.

The Council's Communications Officer had been invited to contribute to this review. She suggested more use of the Council's Area Forums and advised that the press had offered to assist, if a suitable press release was issued. The Officer felt there was a lack of understanding of the term "Safer Neighbourhood Team". She suggested the display of posters, including photographs of the local officers in hot food take-always, at mother and toddler groups, W.I. meetings and parish council venues. Other suggestions were making better use of notice boards, the mobile police station and the police surgeries. It was asked if the survey question could be changed to a term that was more understood by local people. A key aspect was around the design of publicity materials.

It was agreed that the Committee's feedback be submitted to Derbyshire Constabulary by the Safer Communities Manager, to improve future publicity for the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

OS/38. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2010/2011**

A copy of the Committee's Draft Annual Report had been submitted for consideration. It was noted that there would be no further meetings of the Committee between now and the Annual Council Meeting in May, when the Annual Report would be submitted. The Committee's authority was sought to delegate approval of any minor alterations to the document.

It was agreed that the Annual Report for 2010/11 be approved and that completion of the final document be delegated to the Chief Executive in

consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, to enable it to be submitted to the Annual Council Meeting.

OS/39. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received its final work programme report of the current Municipal Year.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

N. ATKIN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 6.35 p.m.