

## Scrutiny Committee

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee** held in the **Telscombe Room, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes** on **Thursday 26 November 2015** at **10.00am**.

**Present:**

Councillors P Gardiner (Chair), J Carter, V Ient, R O’Keeffe (Minutes 20 to 26), S Osborne (Minutes 20 to 24), I Lington, J Peterson and C Sugarman.

**Officers Present:**

R Brittle, Committee Officer  
 J Harper, Head of Business Strategy and Performance  
 S Jump, Head of Finance  
 S Reid, Head of Customer Service

**In Attendance:**

Councillor P Franklin, Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling  
 Chief Inspector Rob Leet, Sussex Police

### Minutes

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>20 Minutes</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the addition of thanks to Rachel Allan for the support she had given to the Scrutiny Committee. The Committee wished her well in her future career.</p>	
<p><b>21 Apologies/Declaration of Substitute Councillors</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Enever and J Harrison-Hicks.</p>	
<p><b>22 Variation in the Order of the Agenda</b></p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p><b>22.1</b> That Agenda Item 6 entitled “Sussex Police in 2020 – Working for a Safer Sussex” be taken immediately before Agenda Item 4 entitled “Written Questions from Councillors”; and</p> <p><b>22.2</b> That Agenda Item 8 entitled “Portfolio Progress and Performance Report Quarter 2 (July – September 2015) “be taken immediately</p>	

before Agenda Item 4 entitled “Written Questions from Councillors”.

### **23 Sussex Police in 2020 – Working for a Safer Sussex**

The Chair introduced Chief Inspector Rob Leet to the Committee, and thanked him for attending.

The Chief Inspector delivered a presentation (a copy of which is contained in the Minute book) which provided details relating to “The Sussex Local Policing Model”. He explained that Sussex Police were required to make a further saving of £57 million over the next four years, and that it was expected that the new Local Policing Programme would provide savings of up to £29 million annually by 2019.

The Chief Inspector explained the “Journey of Local Policing” between 2015/2016 to 2018/2019. It included details of the specific changes which needed to be implemented in relation to chain of command, the introduction of resolution centres, and a change to the role of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

The Committee thanked the Chief Inspector for his presentation. Members expressed their concern about the lack of support for those with mental health illnesses, and that they hoped that the Police would continue to be proactive in providing support to those more vulnerable.

The Committee noted that in some areas of France, the role of Mayor was utilised to act as a point of contact and provide feedback between the community and the Police. Inspector Leet noted that the PSCOs did, and would continue to, maintain contacts with Town and Parish Councils.

The Chair asked that the Committee be provided with electronic copies of the presentation given by the Chief Inspector.

HBS&P

#### Resolved:

**23.1** That the presentation given by Chief Inspector Rob Leet on the Sussex Local Policing Model be noted.

### **24 Portfolio Progress and Performance Report Quarter 2 (July – September 2015)**

The Head of Business Strategy and Performance informed the Committee that the portfolios referred to in the Report had changed since the Report was prepared. She assured the Committee that the revised portfolios would be reflected in the next quarterly report.

HBS&P

The Committee raised concern over the proposal of refuse collections

occurring every two weeks. The Head of Business Strategy and Performance confirmed that the Waste Strategy had been approved by Cabinet in July 2015 and that all Members of the Scrutiny Committee had been provided with the report prior to that meeting.

The Committee also expressed concern over the percentage of food waste not being recycled. Councillor Franklin informed the Committee that food waste recycling had been analysed and steps were being taken to improve the rates of recycling. He also informed the Committee that the Council had produced Christmas cards for all residents which provided further information about the importance of recycling food waste. Councillor Franklin praised the work of the Head of Customer Services and his team in this area.

The Committee raised a query over waste and recycling collections for certain areas of the District during the Christmas period, and the length of time some residents had to wait for a collection. The Committee held the view that lessons should have been learnt from the similar issues that arose last year, and that the delays in collections may have a detrimental effect on people continuing to recycle.

The Head of Customer Services confirmed that the post for the Project Manager to implement and oversee the new Waste Strategy had still not been filled and that the recruitment process was ongoing.

The Head of Finance informed the Committee that there had been an improvement in invoices being paid on time in October (ie since the period reflected in the report) and that officer training in this area had been taking place since the end of Quarter 1. The Committee queried whether the target set for invoices to be paid on time was too high and should be re-evaluated.

HofF

The Committee queried whether Locate East Sussex had been offering appropriate support to businesses in the North Street Quarter, and requested to be informed of the brief that had been provided to Locate East Sussex and whether it had met this brief.

HofR

In response to a question, the Head of Business Strategy and Performance confirmed that the telephony project was about to enter stage two, and that this aimed to address some of the issues and problems currently being encountered.

The Chair informed the Committee that he intended to write to those who had met their Quarter 2 performance targets and thank them for their work.

Resolved:

- 24.1** That Report No 158/15 relating to the Portfolio Programme and Performance Report for Quarter 2 (July-September 2015) be noted, with no recommendations to be made to Cabinet.

The Chair advised that he had agreed, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the two documents listed below relating to Agenda Item 10, be considered as a matter of urgency in order that the Committee could make its decisions on the most up to date information:

- i) Wave 1 and 2 Housing – Public Consultation; and
- ii) Housing Supply and Demand.

## **26 Equalities Annual Report**

The Head of Business Strategy and Performance reported that this was the first time the Equalities Annual Report had been brought before the Scrutiny Committee. She presented the Report explaining that it set out the progress made against the 2014/2015 Equalities Action Plan. She informed the Committee that Members views were also sought regarding plans for the coming year.

The Equality Act 2010 protected people from discrimination on the basis of their protected characteristics. The Act applied to employment rights, service provision and the provision of goods and facilities. The Act required local authorities to set equality objectives to be reviewed at least every four years, with information being published annually to show how the provisions had been met.

The Committee agreed that the Report was well thought out and the Chair confirmed that he would feed this view back to Cabinet.

### Resolved:

- 26.1** That Report No. 157/15 be noted;
- 26.2** That the proposed actions for 2016 as set out in the Equalities Annual Report be endorsed and recommended to Cabinet; and
- 26.3** That the current Equalities Objectives, as set out in paragraph 4.6 of Report No. 157/15 be endorsed and it be recommended to Cabinet that they be retained for a further year.

## **27 Forward Plan**

The Chair reminded the Committee that the Forward Plan was on the agenda for information only, and should be regarded as a tool to assist members of the Scrutiny Committee in their policy development role.

The Committee requested that it be provided with information regarding previous Scrutiny activity relating to the North Street Quarter Joint Venture.

### Resolved:

HofDS

27.1 That the Forward Plan be noted.

## 28 Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015

The Chair tabled two proposals for items to be added to the Work Programme (copies of which are contained in the Minute book). The first proposal was entitled "Wave 1 and 2 Housing – public consultation", with the second proposal was entitled "Housing Supply and Demand". The Committee agreed that a scoping report for each was to be brought to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee in January 2016.

HBS&P

The Head of Business Strategy and Performance informed the Committee that from April 2015 all members of staff at Lewes District Council would be receiving the living wage. She asked whether the Committee still wanted to proceed with the review requested in September 2015 in light of that information. The Committee confirmed that it did not wish to proceed.

### Resolved:

28.1 That the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015 be noted and;

28.2 That the Committee be presented with a scoping report on Wave 1 and 2 Housing – public consultation and Housing Supply and Demand at the January 2016 meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

## 29 Date of Next Meeting

### Resolved:

29.1 That the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee scheduled to be held on Thursday 14 January 2016 in the Telscombe Room, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes commencing at 10:00am be noted.

The meeting ended at 12:15pm.

P Gardiner  
Chair