

## Scrutiny Committee

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee** held in the **Telscombe Room, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes** on **Thursday 3 March 2016** at **10.00am**.

**Present:**

Councillors P Gardiner (Chair), S Adeniji, J Carter, N Enever, V Ient, R O’Keeffe MBE, S Osborne and J Peterson

**Officers Present:**

R Brittle, Committee Officer  
J Harper, Head of Business Strategy and Performance

**In Attendance:**

Councillor T Nicholson, Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners

	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>38</b>	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Councillor Adeniji asked that it be noted that, at the meeting on 14 January 2016, he had returned to the room for the remainder of Minute No. 34, having been absent for only the initial presentation of the Report relating to that Minute.</p>	
<b>39</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Harrison-Hicks and I Linington.</p>	
<b>40</b>	<p><b>Declaration of Interest</b></p> <p>Councillor Osborne declared her prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6 (Lewes District Community Safety Partnership Annual Report) as she would be involved in some future work with the Community Safety Partnership.</p>	
<b>41</b>	<p><b>Lewes District Community Safety Partnership Annual Report</b></p> <p>The Committee received Report No 40/16 which detailed the recent work undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership within the past year.</p>	

The Head of Business Strategy and Performance reminded the Committee that it did not have the remit to scrutinise the performance of the Police but that it had a duty to scrutinise the Community Safety Partnership and its effectiveness.

The Head of Business Strategy and Performance informed the Committee that the Community Safety Partnership received funds from the Police Crime Commissioner to enable it to allocate grants to organisations to help achieve its objectives. Members noted that there had been a proposal from the Police and Crime Commissioner that a joint Community Safety Partnership be created between Lewes District Council, Eastbourne Borough Council and Wealden District Council, merging the existing Partnerships.

The Committee commented that it had strong reservations regarding the proposed merged Partnership, due to the differences between the Districts and the need to keep a local focus on this work. It was felt that there was a lack of information relating to the success of previous projects initiated by the Community Safety Partnership.

The Committee was reassured that data relating to the crime statistics had been readily available to the Community Safety Partnership in undertaking its work.

Resolved:

- 41.1** That the activities of the Lewes District Community Safety Partnership during 2015/2016, as set out in Report No. 40/16 be noted;
- 41.2** That the plans to merge the three District Community Safety Partnerships, to include Lewes, Eastbourne and Wealden Districts be noted but recommended that this be resisted as it could be detrimental to safety;
- 41.3** That the planned actions in response to the Council's new duties relating to the "Prevent" Agenda be noted; and
- 41.4** That the Cabinet Member for Customers and Partners, be asked to recommend to the Lewes District Community Safety Partnership that:
  - I. If a joint partnership is to be introduced between Lewes District Council, Eastbourne Borough Council and Wealden District Council, the budget for each Local Authority should be managed separately, with each Local Authority having their own specific priorities, separate from each other;
  - II. Task and Finish Groups should be reintroduced to deal with specific areas of work for the Community Safety Partnership;

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III. That there be greater communication with Members of the District Council (through Member First) and Town and Parish Councils, regarding the work of the Partnership and the process on how to apply for grants which are available from the Community Safety Partnership; and

IV. There was a need for greater focus on addressing road safety issues;

*(Note: Councillor Osborne declared her prejudicial interest in this item as she would be involved in some future work with the Community Safety Partnership. However, with the permission of the Chair, she chose to remain in the room and take part in the discussion but did not take part in any voting or decision thereon).*

HofBS

#### **42 Portfolio Progress and Performance Report Quarter 3 (October – December 2015)**

The Committee considered Report No 41/16 which detailed the progress and performance in respect of key projects and targets for the third quarter of the year (October to December 2015 (Quarter 3)).

The Committee raised concerns about the overall rate of recycling within the District. It requested that the next Report relating to Waste and Recycling which was due to be heard by Cabinet later in the year, be referred to the Scrutiny Committee first so that recommendations could be made to Cabinet by the Scrutiny Committee.

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Members of the Committee commented that they remained concerned about the sickness levels, specifically within the Waste and Recycling service. The Committee asked to be provided with comparative data on sickness from other authorities that had their own in-house waste/recycling service.

HofOD

Members queried the breakdown between planning appeals where decisions had been delegated to Officers and those that had been heard by the Planning Applications Committee, in relation to the proportion of appeals which had been allowed by the Planning Inspector. The Committee noted that although the Planning Applications Committee had received information relating to Planning appeals, greater emphasis should be placed on the data and the agendas of the Planning Applications Committee should be adjusted to reflect this. The Committee also requested that consideration be given to quality assurance processes within the service.

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In relation to the Tourism Strategy, the Committee queried what the Tourism Strategy involved and what it was aiming to achieve. It also queried whether the Strategy had been effective, and how the effectiveness and outcomes were being monitored. The Committee commented that it felt the name of the project "Stay Lewes" was not representative of the entire

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District, and focused too much on Lewes as a Town.

The Committee discussed the amended timescales in relation to the Devolution of Council property project. Members requested assurances that the new timescales would be achievable.

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Resolved:

**42.1** That Report No. 41/16, Progress and Performance Report for Quarter 3, be noted.

**43 Forward Plan**

The Committee received the Forward Plan of the Council.

Resolved:

**43.1** The Forward Plan of the Council be noted.

**44 Date of Next Meeting**

Resolved:

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

All to note

The meeting ended at 12:20pm.

P Gardiner  
Chair