

Minutes of a Meeting of the External Partnerships Select Committee held at Surrey Heath House, Camberley on 29 May 2012

+ Cllr Josephine Hawkins - Chairman
+ Cllr Bob Paton – Vice-Chairman

+ Cllr Glyn Carpenter	+ Cllr Adrian Page
Cllr Ian Cullen	Cllr Ken Pedder
- Cllr Paul Deach	+ Cllr Ian Sams
+ Cllr David Hamilton	- Cllr Pat Tedder
+ Cllr Beverley Harding	+ Cllr Alan Whittart
+ Cllr Paul Innicki	- Cllr John Winterton
+ Cllr Lexie Kemp	

+ Present

- Apologies for absence presented

Substitutes: Cllr Rodney Bates substitute for Cllr Pat Tedder
Cllr Charlotte Morley substitute for Cllr John Winterton

In attendance: Councillors Joanne Potter, Audrey Roxburgh and Valerie White

001/EP Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 March 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

002/EP Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Sarah Haywood, Partnership Policy Officer for Surrey Police Authority and Inspector Martin Goodwin, Neighbourhood Inspector for Surrey Heath.

PART I

(public)

003/EP Update on Police and Crime Commissioners

Sarah Haywood informed the Committee that on 15 November 2012 elections would take place to appoint Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC), which would replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. The PCCs would take office on 22 November 2012.

The PCC would be responsible for the 'totality of policing in their area' and for holding the Chief Constable to account, but must not impede the operational independence of the Chief Constable. The PCC would be the local link between the police force and the public, providing for the first time the opportunity for the public to have a direct say in policing matters.

Members were informed that one of the PCC's principal roles would be to set the strategic direction and policing objectives, which would be contained in a Police and Crime Plan. The first Police and Crime Plan would have to be presented to the public by 31 March 2013. In view of the PCC's appointment in November 2012, there would be a short timescale for developing the Plan, the process for which would include public

consultation. The PCC would also be responsible for appointing the Chief Constable and would have the power to dismiss the post holder. They would also set the annual budget and the policing precept.

The changes to police governance arrangements would also result in the establishment of Police and Crime Panels, which would scrutinise the PCC. The Panel would have the power to veto the appointment of the Chief Constable and the setting of the precept. The Panel would be responsible for reviewing the draft Police and Crime Plan and the PCC's Annual Report. It would also oversee all complaints against the PCC, although it was advised that at this stage it was not fully known how the complaints process would operate. Members were also informed that the Panel would be pivotal in ensuring that the PCC was justly holding the Chief Constable to account.

The Surrey Panel would contain 1 member representative from each district or borough council and the county council, plus 2 co-opted members. The Panel would need to be in place before the election of the PCC and it was hoped it would be established by July 2012. Surrey County Council, which would host the Panel, was preparing a training package and briefing material for Panel members.

The Committee was informed that the new governance arrangements was likely to have a significant impact upon partnership working in Surrey and the way agencies worked together and were held to account. There was an expectation that the PCC would work with a range of partners, including Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), to reduce crime. It was anticipated that the arrangements would mean fundamental changes for CSPs and, whilst there was a reciprocal duty to have regard to each other's priorities, the PCC would be able to request reports from CSPs and call meetings of CSP chairs. The Council would continue to be responsible for the scrutiny of the CSP through its own scrutiny process.

Members were informed that PCC would take over community safety funding and a number of funding allocations would be allotted to the PCC.

The transition into the new arrangements was being led by a small team at the current Police Authority and Members were advised that a smooth hand-over would require all local partners to work together

RESOLVED that the report be noted and a further report be received at a later meeting

004/EP Community Safety

The Committee was addressed by Inspector Goodwin from Surrey Police. Inspector Goodwin, who had taken up the post of Neighbourhood Inspector earlier that year, informed the Committee that on taking up the role he had assessed what the team did well and how it could be further improved. One important aim was to increase the visibility of the neighbourhood team, on which he was receiving positive feedback.

The Committee was informed that the neighbourhood team was increasing its focus upon preventative work, including work relating to alcohol, graffiti and underage smoking, which had doubled in the past few months. Over

the previous 3 months the number of search warrants completed had increased. It was noted that, whilst this could imply an increase in drugs in the area, it demonstrated the police's pro-active approach to drug crime. The team was also holding days of action which, using automated number plate recognition, would address travelling criminals coming into the borough.

Inspector Goodwin noted the importance of partnership working and advised on a number of successes carried out in partnership with other services, including a taxi day of action and anti-social closure orders carried out in the past few months. He highlighted work on the taxi marshal scheme which was being carried out in partnership and was demonstrating a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the town centre. The 4 month trial would be evaluated to establish whether there was justification for extending the scheme and the use of resources in that area.

The Committee was advised that the Inspector's priority areas were Frimley, the infrastructure around Frimley High Street, Frimley Park Hospital, Old Dean, and Camberley Town Centre.

Inspector Goodwin emphasised the positive outcomes from the Police's co-location in Surrey Heath House, in particular its positive effect on partnership working. He also advised that the number of visitors to the Police's front desk had increased.

Members were informed that there were a number of challenges for the team, including maintaining confidence levels and the night time economy. There were also challenges relating to the management of repeat neighbourhood issues, which were currently being measured and would be complimented by the work of the Joint Action Group (JAG) and Community Incident Action Group (CIAG).

The Committee considered recent crime data. It was advised that there had been a reduction in violence with injury and violence without injury. Vehicle crime was also down 20%, although there had been an increase that quarter, with a particular hotspot affecting the figures. It was also reported that drug arrests had risen by 28%.

Members discussed anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre during the evening and it was noted that residents in the roads surrounding the Town Centre experienced disruption and anti-social behaviour from Town Centre users walking home. Inspector Goodwin reported that it had been recognised that the night time economy was not restricted to the Town Centre and it incorporated routes home and to late night catering outlets; he was implementing a patrol strategy which, using heat maps, would ensure that patrols were taking place in the right areas at the right times.

RESOLVED to note the report and support the good work being undertaken by Inspector Goodwin and his team

(Note: In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, Councillors declared personal interests in respect of the above item as follows:

- a) Cllr Rodney Bates as he worked for the community safety department at a neighbouring authority; and

- b) Cllr Alan Whittart as he was a member of the local Community Incident Action Group and attended the Youth Surrey Support Services.)

005/EP Committee Work Programme

The Committee considered a report on the work programme for the 2012/13 municipal year.

The Committee agreed to schedule the organisations receiving community grants from the Council in its work programme in accordance with the Executive's request at its meeting on 21 February 2012.

It was agreed that the Work Programme would be circulated to members of the committee by email.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme for 2012/13, as attached at Annex A to these minutes, be agreed.

CHAIRMAN

External Partnerships Select Committee Work Programme 2012/13

Date		Topic	Presenter/ Author
11 September 2012	1.	Citizens Advice Bureau	TBC
	2.	Voluntary Services Surrey Heath	TBC
	3.	Age Concern	TBC
	4.	South East Coast Ambulance Service	TBC
13 November 2012	1.	Surrey Heath Sports Council	TBC
	2.	Surrey Heath Arts Council	TBC
	3.	Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership	TBC
	4.	Council for the Protection of Rural England	TBC
15 January 2013	1.	Community Safety	Inspector Goodwin
	2.	The Butts	TBC
	3.	Tringham Hall	TBC