

**Minutes of a Meeting of the External  
Partnerships Select Committee held at  
Surrey Heath House, Camberley on 14  
January 2014**

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+ Cllr Josephine Hawkins - Chairman  
+ Cllr Paul Deach – Vice-Chairman

- Cllr Glyn Carpenter	- Cllr Ken Pedder
+ Cllr Ian Cullen	+ Cllr Ian Sams
Cllr Tim Dodds	+ Cllr Pat Tedder
+ Cllr David Hamilton	- Cllr Alan Whittart
+ Cllr Lexie Kemp	+ Cllr John Winterton
- Cllr Adrian Page	vacancy
+ Cllr Chris Pitt	

+ Present  
- Apologies for absence presented

Substitutes: Councillor Rodney Bates substitute for Councillor Alan Whittart  
Councillor Bill Chapman substitute for Councillor Adrian Page

In attendance: Councillor Mrs Vivienne Chapman

## **20/EP Minutes**

The open minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **21/EP Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed Graeme Preston, Business Advice & Compliance Supervisor for Surrey County Council's Trading Standards department, and Mike Potter, Chairman of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group. She also welcomed Sergeant Andy Crane and Sergeant Julie Hillman from the Neighbourhood Police Team.

The Committee was informed that Kevin Cantlon had recently been appointed to a new role as Economic Development Officer and would consequently no longer be the Lead Officer for the Committee. On behalf of Members the Chairman thanked Mr Cantlon for the excellent work he had carried out on behalf of the Committee. It was reported that Peter Hunt, the Executive Head of Transformation, would be taking on the role as Lead Officer from the next meeting.

## **PART I** **(public)**

## **22/EP Crime and Disorder Update**

The Committee was informed that the detection and prevention of residential burglaries was a Force priority; between 14 October 2013 and Christmas an operation to target burglary dwellings had taken place with a view to directing resource towards areas where properties were considered to be at risk. It was reported that although the Force had achieved a 17.7% reduction in

residential burglaries compared to the previous year, equating to 126 fewer offences during that period, Surrey Heath had recorded a slight increase in the number of burglaries compared to the previous year, which amounted to 7 additional burglaries. Members were informed that, despite this rise, Surrey Heath was the 4<sup>th</sup> safest borough in the County in relation to burglary of dwellings.

Members were advised that Asian gold burglary was a particular type of burglary that was subject to national focus, where a particular type of high value gold was targeted by thieves. Measures were in place locally to engage with affected communities.

Camberley Town Centre benefited from the resources allocated to a year-round operation to monitor the night-time economy in town centres, with the objective of reducing the number of incidents with violent crime and disorder. Sergeant Crane reported that initiatives, including the relocation of the taxi rank, the night-time closure of the High Street and the Taxi Marshalls, had made a significant impact on reducing incidents in the Town Centre: there had been a 30% reduction in anti-social behaviour and crime since between December 2012 and November 2013. Alcohol related incidents were down by 14.4%, public place incidents were down by 16.7 % and licensed premises incidents were down by 29.6%. He also noted the beneficial work of the Street Angels. Safer Neighbourhood Area Patrols were also carried out at weekends by neighbourhood officers who patrolled areas of concern highlighted by communities.

Members were informed that between 21 December and 4 January an operation was conducted to ensure sufficient resources were in place to effectively police hotspot areas in Town Centres during the Christmas period. There had been a 60% reduction of incidents with violent injury in Camberley Town Centre compared to the previous year.

Sergeant Hillman reported that during the Christmas period the Team had increased its plain clothes patrols in Camberley Town Centre to address the increased opportunity for shoplifting during the festive period. The operation had generated positive results, in particular the arrest and charging of 2 prolific shoplifters. In addition, Sergeant Crane reminded Members of the Camberley Together Against Crime (CTAC) initiative and noted the benefits for Town Centre Traders joining the scheme.

The Committee was reminded that the Drive Smart campaign, a partnership between the Police and the County Council, aimed to reduce road casualties, tackle anti-social driving and make the County's roads safer. That year the campaign had mainly focussed upon cycling, a result of its popularity following the Olympics. The Drive Smart campaign supported community speedwatch programmes. It also supported Road Education and Enforcement Days, partnership agency events with partners including Environmental Services, Taxi Licence, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. In the previous year Drive Smart had dealt with over 1,800 drivers in Surrey Heath for a range of offences.

The Committee was also advised of operations undertaken to target cross border crime, the benefits of which included disrupting criminality, creating a dispersal effect through marked police activity in the area, enabling the team

to gather intelligence, and dealing with traffic matters. The events were run every quarter at different locations in the borough.

Sergeant Hillman reported that Operation Nemesis 2 had recently been undertaken to disrupt activity of drug dealers coming into the borough and to tackle the use of Class A and B drugs. Since July 2013 there had been 24 drugs warrants executed, resulting in various charges.

Members were updated on initiatives undertaken to address rural crime and were reminded that the Neighbourhood Team had a dedicated rural affairs officer. An operation had been undertaken in late 2013 to tackle a small rise in opportunity theft in rural areas.

In December 2013 minor adjustments to shift patterns had been introduced in order to provide better area resilience in the Neighbourhood Team and to provide assurance that there would always be an officer available who covered a particular area. It was noted that these changes would result in officers covering larger areas and the potential effect this could have for them building relationships with the local community was highlighted by some Members. It was also suggested that any changes to the Neighbourhood Team should be communicated to councillors.

The Committee was advised that the Neighbourhood Team had achieved 93% satisfaction rate with the public.

**RESOLVED, that the presentation be noted.**

### **23/EP Trading Standards, Surrey County Council**

Graeme Preston, the Business Advice & Compliance Supervisor for Surrey County Council's Trading Standards department informed the Committee that Surrey County Council's Trading Standards department was based in Redhill and had 50 members of staff who undertook a diverse range of functions across the County.

The Policy and Operations Team comprised the in house legal staff, the intelligence team, and the department's in house financial investigator. This team was also the department's contact for the national illegal moneylending team.

The Business Advice and Compliance Team principally focused on helping the business community. It was reported that Trading Standards operated a chargeable business advice policy. The Team undertook a number of functions, including licencing petrol filling stations, firework safety, under age products, and animal health, which included both animal welfare and preventative measures to reduce the risk of disease. It was also responsible for food standards regarding the quality and labelling of food.

Members were advised of the Primary Authority initiative, a relatively new process through which businesses, who previously may have had contact with several Trading Standards departments across the country, could form a relationship with a single authority, which would become known as its primary authority. It was reported that the department had 3 primary authority relationships with companies based in Surrey Heath.

The Committee was reminded about the Buy with Confidence scheme and its trader approval scheme. There were currently 35 Buy with Confidence members in the borough. Members suggested that the Buy with Confidence scheme could also be promoted in Heathscene and proposed that an article could be included in the next issue. . It was further proposed that a link to trading Standards could be placed on the Council's website.

The third team within the Trading Standards department dealt with investigations and enforcement. It was reported that 10,000 complaints had been received in the previous year. Members were advised that the number of complaints received meant that the Team could not deal with every complaint received. Doorstep crime and rogue trading were high priority areas for the Investigations and Enforcement Team. As part of targeting rogue trading and doorstep crime, Trading Standards operated a Rapid Action Team in partnership with the Police to provide a swift response when notified that offenders were in the area or there was an opportunity for evidence to be obtained.

Trading Standards also recognised the value of preventative work and the use of household no-cold calling stickers to act as a deterrent was noted. Members were also advised of efforts being undertaken by Trading Standards and Police Forces to address postal scams. The team also had a Vulnerable Persons Officer who worked closely with Adult Social Services. It was noted Trading Standards alerts highlighted current scams.

Mr Preston informed the Committee that in 2013 in Surrey Heath 14 doorstep interventions had taken place, 25 animal health interventions had been undertaken, 30 food standard inspections had been carried out, 14 underage sales visits had taken place, and 36 potential mail scam victims had received support.

**RESOLVED, that an article on the Buy with Confidence scheme be included in Heathscene and a link to Trading Standards be included on the Council's website.**

## **24/EP Neighbourhood Watch**

Mike Potter, Chairman of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch Support Group informed the Committee that the aim of Neighbourhood Watch was to work in partnership with the Police to prevent and reduce crime in neighbourhoods and provide reassurance to people in the communities. It provided up-to-date crime prevention advice, encouraged community members to be alert and watchful, and acted as a link between the police and community to pass on timely information in order to prevent and detect crime.

Members were advised that Neighbourhood Watch had started in Surrey Heath in 1995. There were currently 300 watches in the Borough, covering 900 homes, one of the largest networks in the country. In Surrey Heath the scheme was structured into 3 areas, as follows:

- Camberley
- Frimley
- Lightwater (covering the 6 villages in the Borough)

Each area had an Area Co-ordinator whose role was to be responsible for starting new watches, encourage the existing watches to go, and finding new Representatives when one left the scheme. It was reported that across the borough Neighbourhood Watch coverage was approximately 25%, although coverage in Chobham was noticeably lower than average.

The scheme's funds were primarily used for the Neighbourhood Watch signs but were also used for the production of its newsletter, Heathwatch. The magazine was published and distributed to all Watch members on a quarterly basis, with 10% of them now being distributed online.

Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch had attended 18 events in 2013 where it had provided crime prevention advice and sold small security items. At these events it also carried out a free service for marking bikes and baby buggies.

The Committee was advised that Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch's website had been re-launched in the previous year and provided a much improved resource for members and residents. It was also evaluating the potential use of Twitter and Facebook.

Members were informed that current challenges included publicising Neighbourhood Watch and encouraging residents to join the scheme and the need to overcome the perception that joining the scheme was a significant commitment. Mr Potter also reported that engaging with young people was also an area for development and Members suggested that in order to address this he could engage with local schools' citizenship programmes.

**RESOLVED, to note the report and thank Mr Potter for his presentation.**

## **25/EP Committee Work Programme**

The Committee considered a report on the work programme for the remainder of the 2013/14 municipal year.

Members of the Committee were also asked to consider any organisations they would like to receive presentations from in the 2014/15 municipal year. It was agreed to invite Accent Housing to the June 2014 meeting. It was also proposed that Jacqueline Riddles from the Family Support Team for Surrey Heath and Runnymede be invited.

**RESOLVED, that the Work Programme for 2013/14, as attached at Annex A to these minutes, be agreed.**

## **26/EP Exclusion of Press and Public**

In accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as set out below:

<u>Minute</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
27/EP	3
28/EP	3

**27/EP Minutes**

The exempt minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**28/EP Update on discussions with Surrey Heath Age Concern**

The Committee received an update on officers' discussions with Surrey Heath Age Concern (SHAC) following its previous meeting where it had expressed concerns about performance of Surrey Heath Age Concern, in particular in relation to its financial position.

Members were reminded that the organisation's Tea Rooms were the Council's specific area of interest and, following the previous committee meeting, officers had requested detailed financial information on the performance in that financial year. ACSH had been given a deadline of 20 January 2014 to submit this data and had not at that stage provided any information on the Tea Room's income or expenditure, which would be integral to its end of year financial position.

The Committee was informed that the Executive would be considering Revenue Grants awards for the 2014/15 year at its meeting on 11 March 2014; any decision would take into account the organisation's performance in 2013/14. It was agreed that the Committee would consider the information at its meeting on 4 March 2014 and any further recommendations arising from that item could be reported verbally to the Executive meeting.

**RESOLVED that further consideration be given to the item at the meeting on 4 March 2014.**

**29/EP Review of Exempt Items**

The Committee reviewed the minutes and decision which had been considered at the meeting following the exclusion of members of the press and public, as they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information.

**RESOLVED, that**

- i) In relation to the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2013, the detailed minute remain exempt; and**
- ii) minute 28/EP be made public.**

**CHAIRMAN**

**External Partnerships Select Committee Work Programme – 2013/14**

<b>Date</b>		<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter/ Author</b>
<b>4 March 2014</b>	<b>1.</b>	<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>	Dr Andy Brooks/ Nicola Airey
	<b>2.</b>	<b>Enterprise M3 LEP</b>	Geoff French
	<b>3.</b>	<b>Collectively Camberley BID</b>	Zoe Griffiths