

Housing & Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Friday, 27th February, 2009.

Present: Cllr Julia Cherrett(Vice-Chair), Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Bill Woodhead

Officers: Mike Batty(DNS), Peter Mennear, Sarah Whaley, Kirsty Wannop(LD)

Also in attendance: Inspector Stephen Young (Cleveland Police)

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Allison Trainer, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt

HCS 55/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

HCS 56/08 Minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2009

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2009.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February be approved and forwarded to Council.

HCS 57/08 Review of Neighbourhood Policing, Neighbourhood Watch and CCTV

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee with evidence gathered for the Review of Neighbourhood Policing, Neighbourhood Watch and CCTV.

The Committee received a copy of suggested draft recommendations and the following points were discussed:-

Neighbourhood Policing

- The committee discussed the issue of there being a number of community safety agencies in the borough including Neighbourhood Police, and the Neighbourhood Enforcement Service, and that residents were faced with various contact numbers which can cause confusion as to who is the correct contact for a particular problem. The committee discussed the possibility of both the police and council call handlers being able to deal with calls received in error, by transferring the calls or the details of the issue to the correct service, and that this should be included in the recommendations. Members discussed that the call handlers should signpost members of the public to the correct number for similar occurrences in the future.

- It was suggested that the details of local teams needed to be kept up to date when included in Member Induction Packs and promotion of the 302930 number should be circulated to residents with details of what the number was to be used for.

Inspector Steve Young informed the Committee that further promotion of local

teams was underway and details of local teams were to be distributed to all Stockton residents on postcards and also displayed on posters around the Stockton area.

Neighbourhood Watch

- Members raised issues that the Neighbourhood Watch caused confusion with residents not knowing if they were a member of the scheme and suggested that a relaunch could result in increased uptake. It was also suggested that the Council should support Neighbourhood Watch and work together to improve the scheme.

- The Committee also discussed the format of Ringmaster emails which were sent to the public and the fact that the layout was not easy to read. Inspector Steve Young agreed that the information could be made better.

CCTV

- Members suggested that funding for new equipment could be sought through a bid for capital funding, as well as maximising use of planning obligations for both the equipment and their on costs.

- Members requested that an approach be made to Cleveland Police for financial support for the CCTV network.

The Committee were informed that since the last meeting, contact had been made with the managers of Castlegate and Wellington Square shopping centres (in relation to CCTV) and feedback was included in the summary of evidence.

The Committee noted the need to continue to promote the positive message in relation to the fall in crime, but at the same time crime prevention advice should continue to be provided.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The information be noted.

2. The draft recommendations be amended to reflect the discussion and be included in the draft report which would be forwarded to the next meeting for agreement.

**HCS
58/08**

Work Programme

- To prepare questions for witnesses attending the next meeting**
- To review the project plan in respect of the current review**
- To discuss ideas for future review topics**

Members discussed the scope and project plan for the current review and were advised that the next meeting on 12th March 2009 would be to finalise the recommendations.

CONCLUDED that the work programme be noted.

