

## **Housing & Community Safety Select Committee**

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday, 21st July, 2011.

**Present:** Cllr Julia Cherrett(Chairman), Cllr Derrick Brown(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Michael Clark, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr David Wilburn

**Officers:** Mike Batty(DNS), Graham Birtle, Anthony Duffy, and Kirsty Wannop(LDS)

**Also in attendance:** None

**Apologies:** Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Miss Tina Large,

### **HCS 18/11 Evacuation Procedure**

The evacuation procedure was noted.

### **HCS 19/11 Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

### **HCS 20/11 Draft minutes - 23rd June 2011**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2011.

Agreed that the minutes be approved.

### **HCS 21/11 Draft Minutes - 30th June 2011**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2011.

Agreed that the minutes be approved.

### **HCS 22/11 EIT Review of Housing Benefits**

Members were provided with a report that provided further information which the Committee requested at its meeting on 30th June 2011. Members raised their concerns that the report showed an increase need for the service. The Committee were also concerned over Housing Benefit being cut and people having to pay more rent than previously and the strain this could put on the public.

### **HCS 23/11 EIT Review of Community Protection and Security Services**

Members received information regarding Community Safety and Security, from Head of Community Protection.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Crime levels across all 26 wards highlighting the 5 wards with the highest incidences of crime recorded.
- Crime rates over the last seven years (2003/04 - 2010/11) showed a 49% reduction in recordable crimes. This did not include anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- Additional community safety provision was provided in the 5 wards recording

most incidences of crime.

- ASB type of offences mainly related to alcohol confiscations, littering, fly tipping and dog fouling.
- Vacant post within the Community Safety Services.

Members raised concerns over announced police cuts from the government and what effect this would have on crime figures for the borough. The Committee felt that making cuts within the Community Safety team at this time could also have a negative effect. Members proposed to recommend to Cabinet to delay the EIT review until the effects of the police changes were known.

AGREED that:

Members recommend to Cabinet that the EIT review be delayed until the effects of the police changes were known.

Members recommend to Cabinet not to delete the vacant posts but, where possible, fill them to counteract any reduction in police officer staffing and to maintain or improve the crime figures in the borough.

**HCS**      **Member Development**

**24/11**

The Committee was asked to contact the Scrutiny team if any training was required.

**HCS**      **Work Programme**

**25/11**

A tripartite meeting would be scheduled as soon as possible to discuss the recommendations for the EIT Review of Community Safety and Security Services.

**HCS**      **Chair's Update**

**26/11**

N/A