



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 21st MARCH 2024

PRESENT: Councillor C Dean (Chair), Councillors B Clarke, J Harper, B Price, L Smith and P Turner

CABINET: Councillor Andrew Cooper
Councillor Martin Summers

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Tina Mustafa (Assistant Director Neighbourhoods), Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships), Lee Birch (Head of Neighbourhood Services), Steve Gee (Operations Manager, Joint Waste Service), Victoria Woodhouse (Customer Relations and Performance Manager, Joint Waste Service), Leanne Costello (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer) and Laura Sandland (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

GUEST: Chief Inspector Rob Neeson

85 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Claymore.

Councillor L Smith gave apologies that they would need to leave early and left the meeting at 19:00.

Cllr J Harper gave apologies that they would need to leave early and left the meeting at 19:46.

86 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th February 2024 were approved as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor B Price)

87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

88 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair advised that she had an update on an exempt matter which she would discuss later in the meeting.

89 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH COMMITTEE

There were none.

90 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH COMMITTEE FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL

The Chair highlighted that an item had been referred to the Committee from Full Council in February 2023 improving water quality within the rivers in Tamworth and that a report had been circulated with the agenda.

The Committee agreed to add the matter to the Work Plan to the next Municipal year and to see if they could invite someone from Trent Rivers Trust to the meeting.

91 DUAL STREAM RECYCLING QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Steve Gee and Victoria Woodhouse to present the report of the Operations Manager to provide the Committee with an update on Joint Waste Service Operations.

The Officer highlighted the following –

- The report is now a report on Operations in general not just the recycling scheme.
- Service is in a good place.
- Missed bins did increase recently however some of the figures from the previous year were records lows and this is still an acceptable rate.
- Rates are down to an average of 2 per month.
- Resident participation is good at 98/99%.
- Green waste figures are where we would expect them to be for this time of year.
- Contaminated bins are down to 1279 compared with 1488 in the previous year.
- Christmas tonnage figures are now available which show how busy the period gets which is not unusual for this period.
- The service is still looking at an overspend of approximately £40000, which against a net expenditure of 9 million is not a concern.
- Conversations around future budgeting are taking place.
- Various projects which are ongoing are listed in this report, including consideration of the long-term strategy of the service (5/10 years). Members will be invited to participate in this. The service is ready to go out to tender for the fleet replacement which is expected to cost around £11.5/12 million. The service is looking at alternative fuels which would reduce their carbon footprint. A paper will be brought to a later IS&G meeting. A recycling campaign is about to be launched working with Lichfield District Council and sponsorship had been sought in to cover the

cost. Committee were advised that other authorities are interested in adopting the product.

- The Officers noted that it was the last meeting they would attend with the Chief Executive, Andrew Barratt and thank them for the work they have done with the service.

The Committee made the following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

1. It was good news that recycling campaign was being launched to get the message out there.
2. Thanks to the Officers for the comprehensive reports that they had produced throughout the year.

Resolved that the Committee:

Note the update on the performance of the Operation Service

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor L Smith)

92 TAMWORTH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN UPDATE 2024

The Chair welcomed the Assistant Director, Partnerships, Jo Sands, Chief Inspector Rob Neeson before handing over to the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health and Community Partnerships to introduce the report to consider the 2024 annual refresh of the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023-2026, priorities, and action plan.

The Officers highlighted:

- That the priorities highlighted within the report for 2023-2026 are not expected to change for the next couple of years.
- There is still £61394 for community safety projects per year until March 2025.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour** – the neighbourhood impact team is in place; an environmental crime officer is also in post and there have been some successes with deployable cameras. Data is showing a steady decline in ASB over 3 years. The Town Centre is showing as a hot spot for ASB, but this is due to the night-time economy, however this is decreasing.
- **Community Cohesion** – work is ongoing including, a strategic approach to working with asylum seekers through Government funding. The Armed Forces Covenant is in place and Holocaust Memorial events are planned.
- **Domestic Abuse** – work continues with New Era Victim Service and attending multi agency meetings (MARAC). There has been a small increase in reports of domestic abuse.
- **Drug Related Crime and Harm** – the Council have a process in place within the housing for dealing with any issue. There are support services in place and Officers continue to attend multi-agency meetings.

- **Public Place and Serious Violence** – support for Street Angels and Safer nights, along with promoting Ask Angela with our licensed premises. Pubwatch and knife awareness schemes are in place.
- **Vehicle Crime** – motorbikes continue to be an issue on cycleways; community safety promotional items in place; nuisance vehicle PSPO was renewed.
- **Vulnerable Persons** – the Officer gave an update on the Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership; there are a number of services in place including the Wellbeing Partnership; support for Betterway Recovery; Dementia Friends and continuing debt and generalist advice. We are now supporting a new charity, 'Dilemma' who support family and friend of people suffering from addiction.
- Future plans are highlighted in the Community Safety Plan.
- The Chief Inspector highlighted that a problem-solving approach was always taken and led by dedicated problem solvers to try to establish the root cause of issues and deal with them proactively.
- Data shows where there is a spike in an area it usual stays for a while and then starts to decrease due to it being effectively tackled.
- The Portfolio Holder highlighted the good work that was being done in the Borough and thanked the Police for the work they were doing.

The Chief Executive highlighted the strength of relationships and the success of the Community Safety Partnership.

The Committee made the following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

1. Acknowledged the hard work done by the police force in and around Tamworth.
2. Could an explanation be given for why we do not need a town centre police hub?
The Chief Inspector confirmed that whilst this is out of their hands, there is a police station within Tamworth. With regards to the Town Centre, data suggests that the town centre is no more dangerous at night than it is within the day. However, concerns are recognised, therefore they have looked at their neighbourhood teams and there is a dedicated PC for the town centre and a reinvigorated safer nights scheme in place for the night time economy, more specials have been introduced, alongside the completing of licensing checks. There are further plans for more proactive work ad for increasing visibility to keep people safe.
It was highlighted whilst they understood the reassurance of having a town centre location that a review of the closure of the front offices showed that it was not being used other than for calls to answer bail and MCI appointments.
3. Whether the lack of a police station came down to cost?
The Chief Inspector confirmed that whilst cost is a factor, geography is also important and that the force can get anywhere within really good time, which is backed up by grade one and two responses to emergencies where they perform better than the rest of the force.

The Portfolio Holder highlighted the importance of making everyone aware that there is a police station within Tamworth and that from experience the town centre is well looked after in the evening and any trouble is dealt with promptly by the police supported by the door staff.

4. Clarification as to whether the figure of 1392 people supported is a figure just for Tamworth?

Officers confirmed that this is Tamworth's figure for the first three years of the service. The level of support can vary, from advice/guidance to repeat service users.

The Committee acknowledged that the data shows how essential the service is.

5. Do all landlords buy in to Pubwatch?

Whilst not all licensing premises are signed up, the majority of town centre establishments are part of the scheme.

6. Was the knife crime awareness ran across all of the high schools and whether this can be fed into primary schools?

Officers confirmed that this was rolled out across all of the high schools and that they have had some further money come through that they are considering how to use to support this. The Community Safety partnership plays an important role in this and that there is a commissioned PHSE officer looking to do that work across primary schools.

Resolved that the Committee:

endorsed the 2024 annual refresh of the Community Safety plan and related actions.

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor B Price)

93 INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY AND GROWTH SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair introduced their report to provide the Committee with a draft of the Committee's Annual Report for 2023/24 (Appendix 2) together with a draft of the Introductory Report (Appendix 1) which will be presented to full Council in the 2024-2025 municipal year

The Committee noted an error in the membership that Councillor L Clarke had not been on the Committee but Councillor L Wood.

Resolved that the Committee:

considered and commented on the draft Annual Report and Introductory Report and thereafter endorsed the draft Annual Report and Introductory Report for submission to full Council, following agreement by the Chair of any final amendments and updates to reflect the final meeting of the 2023/2024 municipal year

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor Smith)

The Chair thank all of those who had been on the Committee for their hard work over the year.

94 FORWARD PLAN

There were no new items identified by the Forward Plan.

95 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The Chair updated the Committee that the Migrant Travellers working group had met and would be having another meeting at the beginning of April.

A date is being arranged for the HGV drivers working group.

96 INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

There were no items to add to the work plan.

97 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved that:

That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, and Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public

(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by Councillor B Price)

98 24-HOUR CCTV MONITORING SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Partnerships/Assistant Director-Neighbourhoods to set out a progress update which includes a presentation to above Scrutiny Committee on the Council's 24-hour CCTV monitoring shared service with West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), which is for a term of 7 years from 30th March 2020 to 30th March 2027

Resolved that the Committee:

Endorsed the progress update on the Councils 24-hour CCTV monitoring shared service with West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). Presentation to scrutiny - Appendix A.

The Committee moved a further recommendation:

That the Chair of this Committee write to the operatives thanking them for the work that they have done on behalf of the Committee the and Council.

(Moved by Councillor B Price and seconded by Councillor Clarke)

Chair