

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, REGENERATION, HOUSING AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 21st MARCH, 2012

Present – Councillors Critchley (Chairman), Mrs. Fairclough (Vice-Chairman), Allen (as deputy for Councillor Woodward), Burrows, Chadwick, Francis, Harkin, Lord, Pickup, Silvester, P. Wild and D. Wilkinson.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Sherrington	- The Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Mrs. G. Hughes	- Head of Community Safety
Superintendent Phil Davies	- Greater Manchester Police
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	- Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Woodward and Chief Superintendent Hull.

Councillor Critchley in the Chair.

50. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1st February, 2012 were submitted.

The minutes of the Community Safety Partnership focused meeting held on 2nd November, 2011 were also presented for information.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February, 2012 be received and signed as a correct record.

51. MONITORING OF DECISIONS

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which provided details of the progress of decisions taken at previous meetings of this Committee acting as scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership.

Resolved – That the updated position be noted.

52. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Committee received a joint presentation from Superintendent Davies of Greater Manchester Police and Gill Hughes, Head of Community Safety which explained to Members the detail of the current Be Safe Crime and Disorder Performance information which included-

- the current target performance for 2010/11 and 2011/12 year to date based on the Community Strategy Targets which showed an improving picture;
- matters around the current crime levels in context;
- the long term picture of Crime which highlighted that there were 6333 fewer Crimes in 2011/12 than in 2007/8;
- the long term picture of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) which highlighted that there were 10639 fewer ASB incidents in 2011/12 than in 2007/08.
- matters around ASB perception which showed an improving figure;
- the challenges in reducing total crime in terms of assaults, metal theft and public order;
- matters around narrowing the gap and crime;
- matters around narrowing the gap and ASB; and
- the challenges and opportunities going forward.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- matters around the types of theft, particularly theft from persons;
- clarification needed concerning the 601 Target Difference Crime statistic on the Current Target Performance schedule;
- the good work undertaken by the Police in terms of the improving picture;
- issues around the Police working with the CPS;
- matters around the reasons for crime;
- the role of Neighbourhood Policing Teams in reducing crime;
- matters around the changing nature of the types of crimes committed;
- the issue of scrap metal dealers and possible licensing regulations;
- crime and disorder matters in the Town Centre in the late evening / early morning period, particularly at the weekend and the effect of the licensing hours in this regard; and
- issues concerning troubled families.

Resolved- (i) That messrs Davies and Hughes be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation.

(ii) That the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Policy Development Group be asked to consider matters around the possible influence the Council could have in terms of the future regulation of scrap metal dealers.

(iii) That clarification be sought in terms of the 601 Target Difference Crime statistic on the Current Target Performance schedule and that the Committee be circulated with this information.

53. SKILLS SCRUTINY PANEL

Resolved – That this item be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of this Committee.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.33pm)