

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING** OF THE **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 12th JULY 2017** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor M Ryan (Chairman)
C N Parker (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Mrs C Bunday R Jenks
C Coyle-Moore M Joyce
R Hayes K Purchase (Dep Mayor)
M Hocking Ms L Roberts
D Howe T Ward

In attendance: Philip Rowe – Town Clerk
Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk
Sally Henley – Town Development Manager
Alex Robinson – Committee Administrator

By Invitation: Ms Rebecca Hewitt, Community Safety and Safeguarding
Manager, Teignbridge District Council

97. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed Ms Rebecca Hewitt, Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager from Teignbridge District Council to the meeting and thanked her in advance of her presentation to Members.

98. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J Cleave and Mrs J A Jones (Mayor).

99. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 22nd February and the Special Meeting on 3rd May 2017 were received and signed as correct records.

100. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

101. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

102. **COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - PRESENTATION**

The Chairman introduced Ms Rebecca Hewitt, Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager from Teignbridge District Council and invited her to update Members, on the role and activities of the Community Safety Partnership in the town.

Ms Hewitt thanked Councillors for their invitation and informed Members of the wide geographical area that she covered; which included working directly for South Hams District Council, West Devon District Council in addition to Teignbridge District Council. She explained that the role of Community Safety Partnership was formed by legislation in 1998 in order to reduce crime and disorder and tackle anti-social behaviour and reduce re-offending.

Ms Hewitt had been in the post since its commission in 1998 and worked to a strategic assessment plan based upon intelligence and partnership working with the police, local agencies and directives from central government and the Home Office. The key target areas were organised crime; counter-terrorism; trafficking; fraud and child exploitation which encompassed other crime and disorder within.

The local Crime Safety Partnership comprised a comparatively small team of staff which amounted to only 1.5 Full Time Equivalent staff for Teignbridge who worked to a strategic plan, which detailed their priorities and deliverables based upon a reduction in resources year on year.

Ms Hewitt highlighted some of the key areas of priority engagement and work, albeit this list was by no means exhaustive:

- Domestic/sexual violence and abuse – this had particular focus on vulnerable young people with the intention of strengthening young people to be more resilient to opposing such crimes and recognising the links with sexual exploitation,
- Domestic homicide – as manager for the region, Ms Hewitt led reviews and acted upon the outcomes and recommendations made from the reviews,
- Multi-agency risk assessments – focused on the impact on people's lives; having targeted students in school as it was recognised as a valuable means to engage with young people,
- Anti-social behavioural work – the team concentrated on work with vulnerable young adults,
- Shop-lifting – they had worked with larger shops and stores to suggest methods of managing shop-lifting and prevention,
- Drug related crime – there had been an increase in drug 'culture' and increased drug supply in the area and this had been a key priority target,
- Child exploitation and sexual abuse – the team had worked with children using a theatre production taken into schools to demonstrate the seemingly simple ways in which children can be exploited and to strengthen their resilience to not be vulnerable to the perpetrators of these crimes,
- Training of Taxi-drivers – one of the areas acknowledged by the investigation into the Rotherham Child Abuse case, was that the local taxi-drivers were often the 'eyes and ears' of early crime but they did not know the significance of their sightings. Therefore, work had been done locally, to train drivers into their ability to alert police of their concerns at the earliest stage,
- Looked after children and young adults – Newton Abbot has a higher than average concentration of childrens' care homes and residential care for 16+ young adults and work has been done to increase resilience to crime or abuse,
- The Phoenix scheme specifically targeted vulnerable young people to prevent a move into crime, which has concentrated on housing, family and social issues to identify their needs in prevention of crime,
- Prevent extremism – the national Prevent scheme had been rolled out locally under statutory duties and the effects of extremism had been experienced locally,

- Suicide – reported as a significant issue locally which had raised concerns, together with self-harm which had been approached via work in secondary schools,
- Safeguarding – work with the other agencies when co-ordinating big events to ensure the safety and security of young people,
- Hate crime – an increasing concern with the ever expanding use of social media and the way in which people use social media,
- Dementia groups – Ms Hewitt highlighted work with local Town Councillors on supporting vulnerable adults.

Ms Hewitt reported that she and her team worked with an increasing number of partnerships, which included; Police, Fire service, Health professionals, all three tiers of local authority, young offenders' groups, intervention groups and the Dartmoor National Park. It was apparent that these partnerships had all faced budget reductions and cuts to resources so the shared work, without duplication of effort, was even more important. Ms Hewitt concluded her presentation by noting that it was their intention that Newton Abbot was a safe place and that they wanted to make safer. They would continue to target specific threats to the community and added that they had embarked on a new initiative, the 'Be Curious Campaign' encouraging young people to speak out and report unusual behaviour or situations.

Following the presentation, the Chairman thanked Ms Hewitt for a thorough and comprehensive presentation and he invited questions from Members. Councillors raised many questions which covered the following key areas:

- The limited staff assigned to the Community Safety Partnership team both locally and across the region,
- The marked decrease in PCSO's and delay in increase of PC's to the area,
- The lack of visible policing on the streets of Newton Abbot, which amplified residents reduced confidence in community safety,
- The value of PSCO's in gaining valuable intelligence first hand from their local knowledge of the area, schools and families,
- Safer Internet Centre, based in Exeter offered training and support to build resilient young people to the dangers of mis-use of social media,
- Loss of teaching support staff in schools who were able to gain first hand intelligence and which now placed increasing pressure on vulnerable young people,
- Safe Places for vulnerable children were no longer managed therefore children were encouraged to go to somebody they trust,
- Honest Truth initiative concentrated on training driving instructors to raise awareness of antisocial driving and drink/drug driving among their young drivers,
- Emphasised the importance that the Town Council and the wider community place on the value of having local policing and visible PCSO's to maintain confidence in public safety,
- Encouraged work with year 6 students prior to their transition to secondary school and youth groups to raise awareness and build resilient young people,
- Enforcement and consequences for antisocial behaviour must be upheld to ensure young offenders do not re-offend or progress to serious crime,
- Whilst the Community Safety Partnership worked to a strategic plan they often had to reprioritise resources to meet unforeseen issues,
- The importance of keeping the Town Council and local Councillors informed and involved in the work of the Community Safety Partnership to share intelligence and provide support for the work of the programme; ideally with updated briefings annually or every 18 months.

Councillor Rob Hayes reported that the Newton Abbot and Torbay Street Pastors had recently combined and this had resulted in a shared operation which would enable the training of School Pastors and Response Pastors which, Members agreed would be an extremely valuable asset to the town.

The Chairman thanked Ms Hewitt on behalf of his fellow Members for her comprehensive presentation; following which, Ms Hewitt was invited to leave the meeting. Following a further discussion, accordingly it was

RESOLVED that the Mayor write letters to both the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner, Ms Alison Hernandez, expressing the Town Council's increasing concern at the lack of neighbourhood policing in Newton Abbot and the support and high value placed on retaining PCSO's in the area.

103. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Chairman invited Members to consider the Terms of Reference for the Policy and Resources Committee. Following discussion, accordingly it was

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Policy and Resources Committee, be hereby, approved and adopted.

104. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The following Members reported on their attendance at meetings of outside bodies:

(i) Councillor Mike Hocking reported on the TALC meeting to which he had attended:

- A presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner on the reduced levels of community policing and TALC expressed concerns that this had affected the reduction in public confidence in community safety.

(ii) Councillor Mrs Carol Bunday reported on the NAST meeting to which she had attended:

- Following a visit by David Eaton a member of the PCC office, he had been very impressed with the work of NAST and the operation of the central control room. NAST had been commended for their exemplary work, following which it had been suggested that they provide a hub for other local authorities and may also be eligible for additional funding from the PCC office.

(iii) Councillor Rob Hayes reported on the Cycle Forum meeting to which he had attended:

- The Newton Abbot to Mortonhampstead route (phase 2) was now due to commence following which, the link to Bovey Tracey would be undertaken, but had been delayed due to a lack of funding.
- The section of the Exeter to Newton Abbot route namely from the Race Course to the Passage House Inn was due to start, but had also been delayed awaiting the release of funding.
- Additional cycle routes into the new housing developments at Hele Park and Wolborough had been submitted.

105. **SUB COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

(i). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 23rd FEBRUARY 2017

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 23rd February 2017 be hereby approved and adopted;

(ii). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 23rd MARCH 2017

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board - held on 23rd March 2017 be hereby approved and adopted;

(iii). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 27th APRIL 2017

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 27th April 2017 be hereby approved and adopted;

(iv). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 25th MAY 2017

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 25th May 2017 be hereby approved and adopted;

(v). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 23rd JUNE 2017

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 23rd June 2017 be hereby approved and adopted;

The Chairman provided Members with a further update. He reported that the posts recently advertised under tender had now been filled and those appointed were as follows:

Project Co-ordinator	Ms Lorna Turner
P.R Consultant	Mr Nigel Canham
Community Engagement	Mrs Kate Green
Bid Writer/Fundraiser	Mr Dominic Acland

Additional posts for the development phase would now be advertised under tender. It was noted that the role of bid writer was a key position to ensure that 'match' funding could be achieved within the Development Phase. The Heritage Lottery Fund would award 65% of the value of the Delivery Phase and it was now important to secure the remainder from additional funders.

106. **POLICIES**

The Chairman introduced the new Policy documents, previously circulated. The Town Clerk reported that the first, Ethical Funding Policy, had been necessary in the light of the requirements to secure external funding for the Newton's Place project. The second, Social Media, had been produced because it was acknowledged that this was a rapidly increasing area of communication and the use of social media would ensure that the Council reached a much wider audience. However, the policy sought to ensure that staff, volunteers and Members made appropriate and secure use of social media on matters relating to the Town Council and Museum. Following a discussion among Members and their review of the policy documents it was;

RESOLVED that the:

- a) Ethical Funding Policy and
- b) Social Media Policy, be hereby, approved and recommended to Full Council for adoption.

107. **INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

A. The Committee received and approved the Overview of Income and Expenditure statement (previously circulated) for the Policy and Resources Committee for 206/17. Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statement for Policy and Resources Committee for the period 1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017 be hereby approved and signed by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

B. The Committee received and noted the Income and Expenditure statement for Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April – 31st May 2017. Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statement for the Policy and Resources Committee for the period 1st April – 31st May 2017, be hereby, approved and signed by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

108. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be Wednesday 13th September 2017.

CHAIRMAN