

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2018** AT 7.15 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 Mrs A Jones (Mayor)
Mrs J Cleave M Joyce
C Coyle-Moore K Purchase (Dep Mayor)
R Hayes Ms L Roberts
M Hocking T Ward
D Howe

By Invitation: Inspector Nigel Yelland, Devon and Cornwall Police
Sergeant Sharon Unsworth Devon and Cornwall Police

In attendance: Philip Rowe – Town Clerk
Alex Robinson – Committee Administrator

362. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Nigel Yelland and Sergeant Sharon Unsworth, Devon and Cornwall Police to the meeting.

363. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor R Jenks.

364. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 1st November 2017 were received and signed as a correct record.

365. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

366. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

367. **LOCAL POLICING – UPDATE AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman introduced Inspector Nigel Yelland and Sergeant Sharon Unsworth and invited them to give a brief update to Members, on the local policing issues in the town.

Inspector Yelland thanked Councillors for their invitation and gave a brief account of his background and recent appointment to the role of Inspector for Newton Abbot. He further updated Members and raised the following key points:

- To reinforce connectivity between the Police and local Community through the Council and other partners,

- Re-energise the work of the local night-time economy in supporting the town,
- As an operational Police Officer, he had met with Street Pastors and commended their work in the town,
- Additional resources have been applied to the night-time economy with the deployment of Sergeant Sharon Unsworth and an additional PC,
- Officers with specialist training have been brought in to resolve the ongoing issues with some groups of youths,
- The Inspector preferred a robust approach and would make appropriate use of Community Orders but was keen to ensure that there was a balance between the use of consequences and not criminalising young people unless deemed necessary,
- The Speed Watch programme was well underway and the 12 volunteers had almost completed the required training programme, and
- The use of Special Constabulary to support the night-time economy programme but noted that overall the numbers of these officers would reduce over time.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Yelland for his update and invited brief questions from Members having acknowledged the Inspector's very recent appointment. The following points were reported in response to questions raised by Members:

- Additional Police presence requested for the town and wider community would not necessarily be possible but sufficient existing resources would be supplemented by response teams based upon risk and threat levels,
- Welcomed the support of the Street Pastors and commended their efforts in the town,
- Newton Abbot had not been included as an Knife Amnesty drop off location and this would be considered for future amnesty programmes,
- Members would welcome updated crime figures at the next meeting,
- The Positive effect of public perception of a visible Police presence balanced with limited resources,
- Local Policing emphasis is on less Beat Officers to enable focus on high threat issues, child exploitation, online crime but reassured Members that resources would be deployed if threat recognised.
- Use of Orders (Community and Dispersal) to be used appropriately to achieve effective reduction in crime and not a dispersal of perpetrators to alternative location,
- Encourage reporting of all crime, to gain valuable, comprehensive intelligence,
- Positive effect of sharing information with community through extended use of social media,
- Development of Police Advocates Scheme to disseminate information and report back, Councillor M Joyce is Town Council representative and will update Members following forthcoming meeting, and
- Sergeant Unsworth to provide contact details for Members access to Beat Team.

The Chairman thanked both Inspector Yelland and Sergeant Unsworth for taking time to meet with the Town Council and for taking questions. Following which, Inspector Yelland and Sergeant Unsworth were invited to leave the meeting.

368. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

None reported.

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

(i). **NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 23rd NOVEMBER 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 November 2017 be hereby approved and adopted.

(ii). **NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 25th JANUARY 2018**

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 January 2018 be hereby approved and adopted subject to it being noted that the Round Two Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund would be submitted on 28th February and the Chairman thanked the project teams on behalf of the Town Council for the extensive work undertaken to date.

370. **CALENDAR AND LIST OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2018/19**

The Chairman invited Members to consider the Calendar and List of Meetings scheduled for 2018/19 (previously circulated) and noted the dates for office closure during the Christmas and New Year period. Following discussion, it was;

RESOLVED that the Calendar and List of Meetings and Events be hereby adopted and approved subject to the insertion of the Christmas office closure dates from Midday 20th December 2018 reopening Thursday 3rd January 2019.

371. **GREATER EXETER STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to update Members on the progress regarding the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan and its implications for Newton Abbot. The Town Clerk updated Members with the aid of presentation slides and acknowledged that there was limited information available about the strategy. The proposals cover a geographical area contained within the authorities of East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge (excluding the National Parks) and it intended to produce a formal statutory document that would encompass Local Development Plans and specifically in relation to Newton Abbot the Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016. The previous consultation and call for sites attracted over 700 applications and a draft document is due for publication and inspection later this year.

In summary the Clerk advised Members to be aware of the proposed document and the potential implications for Newton Abbot and a further update would be reported to Committee once a draft document became available.

372. **HEART OF THE SOUTH WEST – LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

The Chairman noted the summary Paper, previously circulated, and the link with the previous item reported in Minute 371. He invited the Clerk to update Members on progress of the Local Enterprise Partnership in developing a strategic economic plan for the business economy within the region. The Clerk explained the role and findings of the LEP and it was noted that the key areas identified as providing the best economic opportunity all lay outside of the area of Newton Abbot, albeit

Teignbridge District Council were committed to the programme and involved in its development. The Clerk emphasised the importance of the Council's awareness of the LEP and the proposed strategic document. Members expressed concern at the lack of employment provision made within close proximity of Newton Abbot despite the extensive housing development. Councillor M Hocking in offered to continue to monitor the progress of the strategic plan and to report back to Committee once the draft report had been published which was anticipated to be in the autumn 2018.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mike Hocking and the Town Clerk report back to the Policy and Resources Committee following the publication of the draft Strategic Economic Plan.

373. VISION, PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The Chairman referred to the revised document, previously circulated and noted that it had recently been updated to reflect the Council's current vision, priorities and objectives for the next year. Accordingly, it was;

RESOLVED that the revised Vision, Priorities and Objectives document, be hereby approved and adopted.

374. INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The Committee received and noted the overview of Income and Expenditure statement for Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1st April – 31st January 2018. Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statement for the Policy and Resources Committee for the period 1st April – 31st January 2018, be hereby, approved and signed by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

375. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

376. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be Wednesday 20th June 2018.

CHAIRMAN