

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE** held at 10.00am on Thursday 12 July 2012 at County Hall.

These Minutes are subject to confirmation by the Select Committee at its meeting on 27 September 2012.

**Members:**

- \* Steve Cosser (Chairman)
- \* Chris Norman (Vice-Chairman)
- \* Mike Bennison
- A Graham Ellwood
- \* Mrs Angela Fraser
- \* Denis Fuller
- \* Mr David Ivison
- \* Jan Mason
- A John Orrick
- \* Michael Sydney
- \* Colin Taylor
- A David Wood

**Substitute Members:**

- \* Ian Beardsmore
- \* Peter Hickman

**Ex officio Members:**

Mrs Lavinia Sealy (Chairman of the Council)  
Mr David Munro (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

**In attendance:**

- \* Helyn Clack (Cabinet Member for Community Services & the 2012 Games)
- \* Kay Hammond (Cabinet Member for Community Safety)

A = apologies  
\* = present

**PART 1**  
**IN PUBLIC**

**46/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from Graham Ellwood, John Orrick and David Wood. Ian Beardsmore and Peter Hickman substituted for John Orrick and David Wood respectively.

**47/12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 22 MAY 2012 [Item 2]**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

48/12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS [Item 3]**

There were no declarations of interests.

49/12 **QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 4]**

There were no questions or petitions.

50/12 **RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE TO ISSUES REFERRED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE [Item 5]**

- A response from the Cabinet was received on Fatal Fire Deaths in Surrey, Consultation on an Outcomes-based Commissioning Framework for Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Infrastructure in Surrey April 2013 – March 2016.
- The Chairman informed the Committee that he would remain in close consultation with the Cabinet Member on the issue of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector and would bring any significant issues of concern back to the Select Committee for consideration. This was welcomed by the Committee.
- The Committee welcomed the response of the Cabinet Member in relation to the Community Right to Challenge and felt that its views had been taken into account.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

None.

**Recommendations:**

None.

**Select Committee next steps:**

None.

51/12 **COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS (CSPs) IN SURREY [Item 6]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None.

**Witnesses:**

Gordon Falconer	(Community Safety Unit Senior Manager)
Sarah Haywood	Surrey Police Authority)
Carole King	(Waverley Borough Council)
Jane Last	(Programme Manager),

Keith McGroary	(Community Safety Manager, Spelthorne Borough Council)
Michael Baker	(Surrey NHS)
Gavin Stephens	(Chief Superintendent, Surrey Police)
Kay Hammond	(Cabinet Member for Community Safety)

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

(Colin Taylor joined the meeting at 10.09am)

- The Committee noted that there had been a clear decline in the resource going into Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Surrey, and that this trend had accelerated this year. Concern was also expressed with regards to Member input and leadership in the process when key decisions were being taken by an officer-driven board.
- It was suggested that greater use should be made of the expertise in regards to community safety that is available at the Borough level. It was noted that although the Council was currently facing severe financial constraints, some positive elements had resulted from the streamlining of services such as co-location with police. This co-location has enabled day-to-day working to be more straightforward. The Cabinet Member was also thanked for increased Member involvement in the process.
- The view was expressed that funding reductions would make community safety work more difficult, though the key concern would be resources coming in from partners. Concern was expressed that this could slow the progress made to date by CSPs, and it was suggested that core funding could help ease funding pressures.

(Mrs. Angela Fraser joined the meeting at 10.16).

- It was suggested that changing residents' attitudes on crime could be a way to tackle the problems associated with funding reductions, by encouraging people to come forward with information on local crime.
- The Committee was informed that £106,000 of funding for strategic projects was within the gift of the Community and Public Safety Board, and that this funding had not yet been allocated. However at present spending was primarily focused on domestic abuse, mental health, problems associated with alcohol and reoffending. The need to tackle issues locally was emphasised.
- Officers acknowledged that there would be challenges ahead with regards to what kind of service CSPs could provide in the context of funding cuts. The Committee was informed that Central Government had not yet made clear what the allocation of funding would be from April 2013, though it would likely be a lower amount than 2012.
- Concern was expressed at the level of public health funding in Surrey, with the County receiving on average £17 per head compared to the national average of £40. The Cabinet Member recognised that this had been an ongoing issue and emphasised the need for the Council to work in more effective ways to deliver the same quality of services.

- The Committee was informed that Members and Districts & Boroughs would have a key role in the scrutiny of the new Police & Crime Commissioner. It was suggested that when the Commissioner is scrutinised that it is organised in a manner that that gives a clear and consistent message. Officers agreed that this would be important and that a willingness to co-operate between partners would help determine the success of the Commissioner's tenure.
- It was noted that public confidence with regards to crime prevention was very high in Surrey, and that it would be important for CSPs and the new Police & Crime Commissioner to maintain this positive trend.
- The view was expressed that charitable organisations be used as a resource, as they carry out a lot of positive preventative work and community engagement. Officers stated they were very much in favour of the work of such groups, and that at present they supported a number of voluntary organisations.
- The Chairman noted that CSPs were in an unusual position this year, with uncertainty surrounding the election of the Police & Crime Commissioner and the amount of funding they will spend and allocate. The need for collaborative working and getting a clear and unified message across to the Commissioner was also emphasised.
- The Chairman thanked witnesses for the excellent work they had undertaken in their local areas.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

Officers to provide the Committee with further information relating to the five workstreams that have come out of the recent Community Safety rapid improvement event

**Recommendations:**

None.

**Select Committee next steps:**

To consider any further items on Community Safety Partnerships as and when required.

For a paper on Police and Crime Commissioners to be given at the January meeting of the Committee.

52/12 **FIRE & RESCUE ADVISORY GROUP (FRAG) [Item 7]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None.

**Witnesses:**

Kay Hammond (Cabinet Member for Community Safety)

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

- Concern was expressed that there could be a conflict of interest for the Fire and Rescue Advisory Group (FRAG) was not transparent and that its work overlapped with that of the Select Committee's Public Safety Plan Member Reference Group. Concern was also expressed that there could be a conflict of interest in with FRAG, in that the Cabinet Member could potentially be advised by Members who were also scrutinising her.
- The Cabinet Member welcomed the opportunity to clarify the role of FRAG to the Select Committee. Members were informed that the group had been formed as a result of a Fire Service Peer Review which referred to a need for additional political support. The Peer Review also stated that the level of interest raised by the Public Safety Plan needed to be maintained and built upon in order to give the Cabinet Member additional support for the Cabinet Member. FRAG was therefore part of a 'two pronged' approach to increase the capacity of the portfolio holder on this subject. The Committee was also informed that representation on the group was politically proportionate and Members were appointed by the relevant Group Leaders. There was also ongoing concern about duplication.
- The view was expressed that FRAG was operating within the rules of the Constitution and played an important role in advising the Cabinet Member. However, it was suggested that lines of communication from FRAG to the Select Committee improves and this should include the sharing of papers and changes in membership. It was asked that this is done in a timely manner.
- The Chairman was asked to consider the issues raised and bring forward to a future Select Committee Meeting.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

None.

**Recommendations (to Cabinet):**

None.

**Select Committee next steps:**

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will discuss FRAG outside of the meeting and the Select Committee will consider a further report on the subject at a future meeting.

53/12 **REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT (RIPA) 2000 [Item 8]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None.

**Witnesses:**

Steve Ruddy (Community Protection Manager)  
Kay Hammond (Cabinet Member for Community Safety)

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

- Officers informed the Committee that they were satisfied by the non-usage of RIPA for routine under-age sales test purchases because the level of interaction was low with a minimal level of intrusion. However, this process would be kept under review.
- The Committee was informed that an overall reduction in the number of authorisations for 2011/12 was a result of changes to legislation not requiring RIPA authorisation for test purchases and further partnership working with the police.
- Officers stated that they often worked in an advisory capacity to other Council services with regards to how they could use RIPA legislation.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

None.

**Agreed Recommendations:**

That the Committee confirms the Council's use of RIPA has been appropriate and proportionate.

**Select Committee next steps:**

- To continue to scrutinise the Council's use of RIPA on an annual basis and in addition any significant issues will be brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Select Committee by the relevant Officers.

54/12 **SURREY'S COUNTY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP [Item 9]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None.

**Witnesses:**

Martin Cusselle (Head of Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development)  
Helyn Clack (Cabinet Member for Community Services & the 2012 Games)

Chris Pitt (County Councillor)

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

- The Chairman congratulated officers for managing an increase of income and turnover in the Surrey County Sports Partnership (the Active Surrey Team and Surrey Sports Board).
- It was suggested that there be a representative for disability groups on the Surrey Sports Board. It was also suggested that greater funding be allocated for Camberley Judo Club, which had the potential to be the UK's national centre for judo. Officers responded that they were aware of plans to build further facilities for judo clubs, and would be able to advise these clubs how to make the best use of their allocated funding.
- Officers were asked to detail the merits of having both school and youth games as separate events. The Committee was informed that these events have different membership and had distinct purposes. Officers ensured there is as little duplication as possible between these two events
- The Committee was informed that the Surrey County Sports Partnership's revenue funding was spent largely on schools and historical grants, including public health projects. The Partnership's 'commitments' referred to in the report related to the rollover of undistributed grants.
- Officers stated that they were trying to get grants and work with local partners in order to encourage less financially able young people to participate in sport. Members were also informed that funding had been put in to more difficult to access sports such as sailing.
- It was suggested that a Member seminar be convened in order to inform Members of the aspirations and current work of the Surrey County Sports Partnership. The Chairman agreed to raise this issue at the next meeting of the Member Development Steering Group.
- The view was expressed that the Council's position on sport was not clear and this was illustrated by the lack of central Membership to drive and promote the topic and the absence of an overall sports strategy. Officers agreed that schools should have a governor who is a sports champion. The Chairman acknowledged that there was currently a review underway which would address the Council's position on sport in Surrey, and that the Committee should consider examining this work once the review is complete.
- The Chairman thanked officers for their report.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

- Officers to provide the Committee with information detailing the Surrey County Sport Partnership's core services (Officer Action 003)
- Officers to provide the Committee with details of the bodies funded by Sport England, and those that the Surrey County Sport Partnership works directly with (Officer Action 003).

- Chairman to propose at the next meeting of the Member Development Steering Group that a seminar on the subject of sport in Surrey be convened in order to inform Members of work currently underway and future aspirations of the Sport Partnership.

**Recommendations (to Cabinet):**

None.

**Select Committee next steps:**

The Committee will consider a further report addressing the Council's options for sport at a future meeting.

(Peter Hickman left the meeting at 12.24).

55/12 **SURREY COMPACT [Item 10]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None.

**Witnesses:**

Mary Burguieres	(Policy and Strategy Partnership Lead Manager)
Helyn Clack	(Cabinet Member for Community Services & the 2012 Games)

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

- The view was expressed that the profile of the Compact needed to be raised in order for it to encompass a greater number of groups. Officers responded that a number of major public sector bodies were signatories, and that these core signatories could help to raise and refresh the profile of the Compact.
- The Cabinet Member commended the Compact Chairman's efforts to help the Compact gain charitable status to widen its funding base. It was stated that the Council would continue to support Surrey Compact and has proposed to commit £25,000 of funding per year for the next three years. This would be in addition to ongoing officer support and funding for a joint Surrey Compact and County Council annual event.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

None.

**Agreed Recommendations:**

That the proposals to support Surrey Compact from April 2013 are endorsed.



**Select Committee next steps:**

None.

56/12 **CABINET MEMBER PRIORITIES [Item 11]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None.

**Witnesses:**

Helyn Clack (Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games)

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

- The Chairman suggested that the Cabinet Member should have clearer objectives in relation to localism, and that the subject should feature more prominently in her priorities. The Cabinet Member responded that localism was central to the Corporate Strategy of the Council and that a recent success in this regard was local delivery of Community Grants.
- Recent work on the History Centre was commended and the Cabinet Member agreed that the outcomes of the History Centre Public Value Review had been positive. However, the Cabinet Member stated that there were still some issues that needed to be addressed around costs.
- The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that she intended to build upon the Olympic legacy in Surrey to develop sport and encourage people and businesses to visit the County.
- The Cabinet Member confirmed that Members would be able to see an initial version of the Community Partnership Public Value report prior to September 2012.
- The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member for discussing her priorities with the Committee.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

None.

**Recommendations:**

None.

**Select Committee next steps:**

The Committee will review the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games' Priorities on an annual basis.

57/12 **RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER [Item 12]**

**Declarations of interest:**

None.

**Witnesses:**

None.

**Key points raised during the discussion:**

The Committee asked that the Chairman write to the Leader of the Council in order to outline his concerns with regards to a lack of response from the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes on the subject of capital expenditure for fire stations.

**Actions/further information to be provided:**

The Chairman to write to the Leader of the Council to outline concerns with regards to a lack of response from the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes on the subject of capital expenditure for fire stations (Action number SC001) .

**Select Committee next steps:**

The Committee will review its recommendations tracker at its next meeting on 27 September 2012.

58/12 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 13]**

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be on 27 September 2012.

[Meeting ended: 12.53pm]

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**Chairman**