

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee sitting in its role as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 18th March, 2015 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

County Borough Councillor R.K.Turner – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

S.Bradwick	P.Jarman
G.R.Davies	G.Thomas
(Mrs.)M.E.Davies	C.J.Williams

Officers in Attendance

Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.P.Mee – Service Director, Public Health & Protection
Mr.A.Malin – Community Safety & Partnership Coordinator
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

South Wales Police

Ms.S.Burke – Chief Superintendent

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs.)C.Leyshon, M.A.Norris, (Mrs.)J.S.Ward, P.Wasley and C.J.Willis.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – to note that there were no declarations pertaining to the agenda.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee sitting as the Crime and Disorder Committee held on the 19th March, 2014 be approved as an accurate record.

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

4. THE ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME & POLICING ACT 2014, IMPLRICATIONS OF THE NEW TOOLS AND POWERS TO TACKLE ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

In conjunction with the report of the Group Director, Community & Children's Services the Committee received Mr.P.Mee, Service Director, Public Health & Protection and Mr.A.Malin, community Safety & Partnership Coordinator who with the aid of PowerPoint slides provided Members with an overview of the implementation of the "Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, 2014" in Rhondda Cynon Taf and the associated new tools and powers together with an outline of the management of anti social behaviour in the County Borough.

The Chairman also welcomed to the meeting Ms.Sally Burke, Chief Superintendent of South Wales Police, who contributed to the presentation of the report and to the answering of questions made by Members.

It was reported that the new Act repeals the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 and the Anti Social Behaviour Act, 2003. However, despite the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act becoming `live` in October, 2014 the implementation of the various pieces of legislation have been staggered nationally with some (such as the Criminal Behaviour Orders) now being utilised and others having been deferred by Home Office steers.

The presentation made to Members complimented the contents of the report and the Officers together with Ms.S.Burke gave their observations in more broader terms under the following headings as shown on the slides:-

- Management of Anti Social Behaviour in Rhondda Cynon Taf

Daily Partnership working with South Wales Police, Youth Offending Service, Probation, Cwm Taf LHB, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) amongst others.

The Unit manages Perpetrators, Victims and `Hot Spot` locations

Well developed best practice process including:-

- Victim focussed approach
- Vulnerability risk assessments/action plans/`3 in 3`
- Weekly ASB tasking forums
- ASB operations
- Seasonal projects e.g. Op BANG (bonfire night)
- Early intervention focus
- Use of voluntary and formal enforcement actions

- Anti Social Behaviour Unit Statistics for 1st January 2014 to 31st December, 2014
 - 4004 ASB referrals (increase in numbers from the year before) of which there were 2924 ASB incidents.
 - Over 75% of perpetrators ceased offending after intervention
 - 1457 victims
 - 102 vulnerable/high risk victims managed
 - 78% of vulnerable/high risk victims experienced no further ASB after intervention
 - 94% of victims stated their situation was resolved/greatly improved following intervention.
- Government reasons for new legislation:-
 - Condense the existing 19 powers into 6 new powers
 - Ensure greater focus on the victims of ASB
 - Ensure partnership working in complex cases
 - Address a lack of flexibility in the existing powers
 - Introduce positive conditions to address root causes
- Notable powers replaced:-

Key New Tools, Powers and Comparisons	
New Power	Similar Previous Power
Criminal Behaviour Orders – live since October, 2014	Anti Social Behaviour Orders
Public Spaces Protection Orders – live since October, 2014	DPPOs
Community Protection Notices – live since October, 2014	ASBIs/ABCs
Closure Power – live since October, 2014	Premises Closure Orders
Injunction to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance – launch date of 23 rd March, 2015	ASBIs – ASB Injunctions
Community Trigger/Community Remedy – designed to empower victims and communities to call agencies to account where problems have not been resolved. The guidance states that these will be implemented on a regional basis by Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) to ensure consistency. The South Wales Police PCC is leading on this and the `go live` dates for these in RCT have been deferred and is currently out for consultation.	N/A

Following the presentation, a number of questions were asked by Members which were duly responded to. In conclusion, Ms.S.Burke reported that whilst the number of referrals had increased, which in many ways demonstrated that people were now more confident in reporting incidents, repeat incidents had reduced. Early intervention and working with partners were key factors in breaking the demand.

The Chairman thanked Ms.Burke, Mr.Mee and Mr.Malin for providing Members with an overview of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, 2014 and for competently answering the questions raised by Members, they then left the meeting.

Note: At this juncture 6.15 p.m. the Chairman stated that he had agreed to the consideration of the following report of the Director, Legal & Democratic Services (urgent item) by Members sitting as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and not in its role as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

5. NOTICES OF MOTIONS – COUNCIL MEETING - 4TH MARCH, 2015

In his report the Director, Legal & Democratic Services sought Members' consideration to the establishment of Scrutiny Working Groups to deal with the Notices of Motions as presented at the Council Meeting held on the 4th February, 2015 and it was **RESOLVED** –

1. That a Working Group of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be established to deal with the under-mentioned Notice of Motion:

“This Council understands the effect fuel poverty has on our most vulnerable residents and believes that the current energy market provided by “Big 6” energy providers does not work in the best interests of the citizens of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

This Council believes there are better ways of providing energy to our residents and as a consequence will research options to enable the Council to seek to consider becoming an energy supplier.”

2. That a Working Group of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee be established to deal with the under-mentioned Notice of Motion:

“That this Council, in an effort to end exploitative zero hours contracts, instructs that our Contract Procedure Rules be varied.

The variation to provide for contract specifications based on a community benefit approach. This would require a social return on investment by disallowing delivery of the contract by staff on zero hours contracts of employment.

This Council further orders a review of current contracts to examine the possibility of varying them in a further effort to end exploitative zero hours contracts.”

3. That both of the above Scrutiny Working Groups be given delegated authority to report direct to Council with their recommendations.

**R.K.TURNER
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting closed at 6.20 p.m.

