

Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Minutes

6.00pm, Wednesday 24 March 2004
Committee Room 1, The Council House
Salisbury

Present

Councillor Mrs M I Evans (Chairman), P J Leo (Vice Chairman), Mrs P Brown, B E Dalton, Mrs J A Green, Mrs J M Greville, M A Hewitt (substituting for R H Bojdys), M J Osment, P V H Paisey and B M Rycroft

Apologies – Councillor Mrs P J Bissington and Mrs E A Chettleburgh

Cabinet Members

Councillor J A Cole-Morgan (Portfolio Holder, Community and Housing)

Tenants Panel

Mr C Duller, Mr D Edwards, Mrs J Fazackerley, Mr D Illsley and Mr T Watkins

Apologies: Mr J Hinnis

Officers

Debbie Dixon (Policy Director), Arabella Davies (Democratic Services Officer) and Alison Egarr (Community Safety Projects Manager)

Minutes

31. PUBLIC QUESTION/STATEMENT TIME

Mr Duller made the following statement:-

“In relation to the report on improving the Council’s contribution to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, I am concerned that this has taken two years to come to fruition. I also feel it is incomplete as it does not mention bus services/transport where anti-social behaviour does occur and prevents the public from using these services.

The report also refers to trouble in the City, but there are also problems in rural areas and these should be taken into account.

Finally, there should be a joint committee that considers anti social behaviour issues and identifies potential problems in advance. Otherwise, I feel that this is a comprehensive report”.

The Chairman replied that the report could not be completed in the first year because there was insufficient time. However, the working group was able to concentrate on completing the report in the second year.

The Chairman acknowledged that anti-social behaviour is a problem on the buses and this issue will be looked at. She added that the working group comprised both rural and urban members and this was reflected in the fact that the report did take into account anti-social behaviour in both urban and rural areas. The Chairman informed Mr Duller that he would receive a written response in 10 working days.

32. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING –

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 21st January 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest or whipping arrangements.

34. IMPROVING THE COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION TO TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Panel considered the previously circulated report of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group and received a presentation from the Community Safety Projects Manager, setting out the purpose of the review and the key findings.

During discussion of this item, Members made the following points:-

- Consideration should be given to the level and location of facilities provided for young people.
- Better lighting can help reduce anti-social behaviour, for example at Victoria Park, the installation of flood lighting and increased usage of the park in the evenings has helped reduce vandalism.
- Installation of CCTV can help reduce the occurrence of anti-social behaviour. Southampton City Council uses a portable CCTV vehicle.
- Interaction with young people via youth groups/schools should be encouraged and educating them about what constitutes bad behaviour could help.
- When dealing with anti-social behaviour, the Council should adopt a policy of zero-tolerance.
- Names and details of offenders should be publicised
- The Council's local strategy on tackling anti-social behaviour should be publicised throughout the district.
- Where anti-social behaviour orders are used, schools should be kept informed.
- Regard should be had to the fact that eviction orders and installation of CCTV could simply move the problem onto another area.
- Post conviction anti-social behaviour orders must be monitored to ensure their effectiveness.
- City Ambassadors and Police Support Officers can help reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Co-ordinated activity with the Council itself is essential when improving the Council's contribution to tackling anti-social behaviour. The proposed internal officer working group will ensure this co-ordination.

RESOLVED – That the Panel accept the report of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group and support the recommendations and actions contained within it.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET – That the Cabinet consider the report of the Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group and adopt the recommendations and actions contained within it.

35. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

AGREED – That the next meeting of the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting be held on 21st April at 6pm in Committee Room 1.

The meeting closed at 7.24 p.m.