

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 21st September, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr M.D. Smith (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr K. Dibble (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Jessica Auton
Cllr Jules Crossley
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr S. Trussler

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr A. Adeola.

Cllr Nem Thapa attended the meeting as Standing Deputy.

14. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICING

The Committee welcomed District Commander Gillian Cox, Hampshire Police and David Lipscombe, Community Safety Manager, who were in attendance to update on current issues across the Borough, and to address the matters in the Notice of Motion on Youth Crime Prevention raised at the Council meeting in April, 2023, which had been referred to the Committee for consideration.

The Committee received a presentation which covered, roles and responsibilities of the Community Safety Team, data on the local police establishment and details of their roles, the Community Safety Partnership and its strategic assessment and partnership plan and current priorities for both the Community Safety Team and the Police, including data on crime types related to young people.

Since Hampshire County Council (HCC) had removed funding for youth provision, it was advised that some organisation had continued to operate, however no provision had continued in Rushmoor. The Community Safety Partnership offered some initiatives including Safer Streets, Think Safe, Choices and Fighting Chance. It was also noted that the Council offered some provision for young people including, Prospect Youth Club (Farnborough), Rushmoor Youth Influence and a Youth Café, currently being developed in Aldershot, through the Community and Partnerships Team.

The Committee discussed the presentation and raised a number of comments and queries, including:

- Police Community Support Offices (PCSO) – It was noted that changes were anticipated for the role of the PCSO going forward. It was advised that there was currently live recruitment for PCSOs, however potential applicants were opting to apply to be Police Constables (PC) instead, and existing PCSOs and call handlers were moving on to become PCs, resulting in a high turnover of staff. The Committee noted that the issue was currently being looked into.
- Reporting – following concerns raised by residents to Members relating to reporting crime, not being able to get through on 101, and the general feeling that some crimes weren't followed up on by police, it was noted that the police would always encourage reporting to help build a picture of patterns and trends. Reporting through the online portal allowed for engagement with those reporting. It was felt that better communication with the community, in particular on positive outcomes, was something that should be developed further.
- CCTV – The Committee requested data on the impact of the move to Runnymede of the CCTV operation.
- Area Cars - it was noted that the proposal was for one area car per team (one based in Rushmoor and one in Hart).
- New Named Beat Officers – these officers would be deployed in certain areas as a single point of contact for residents. It was noted that the areas were yet to be determined but Members would be updated once these were confirmed. The appointment of named beat officers would assist with beat surgeries held in local wards in conjunction with ward Councillors, promoting engagement with residents.
- Call Handling time data - A request was made for data on call handling and it was advised that the SLA for 999 and 101 calls would be shared with the Committee.
- Choices – It was noted that the Choices initiative ran by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) had had an impact in the schools that had engaged, however the uptake was advised to be low in Rushmoor, and Members were asked to encourage their local schools with Year 6 and 7 cohorts to consider running the initiative with their pupils. The details would be circulated.
- Aldershot Park – following an incident in Aldershot Park, earlier in the year, when the ward had been identified as “an area of concern”, updated information would be shared with Members which detailed “areas of concern” to the VRU.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – it was suggested that ASB figures seemed comparatively high for the area that Rushmoor covered. It was noted that a comparison would be made on the previous year's figures and a report made to the Committee. The Committee were advised that the current Strategic

Assessment gave more information on ASB and crime data generally, including comparisons with previous years.

- Traveler Community – during a discussion regarding land occupied at times by the traveler community, it was noted that legislation sometimes prevented the police from taking any action to remove camps and the ultimate responsibility lay with the land owner.
- Community Safety Survey – it was advise that over 700 people had responded to the survey, which had been the first of its kind. Respondents' age would be looked at going forward and consideration would be given to targeting the younger population, through engagement with schools and colleges.

ACTIONS:

What	Who	When
Share CCTV data following move to Runnymede	David Lipscombe – Community Safety Manager	October, 2023
Named Beat Officers – details to be shared with Members once available	District Commander - Gillian Cox	November, 2023
SLA data on 999 and 101 calls to be shared	District Commander – Gillian Cox	October, 2023
Circulate information on the Choices initiative to all Members	David Lipscombe – Community Safety Manager	October, 2023
VRU updated “areas of concern” information to be shared with Members	District Commander – Gillian Cox	October, 2023
Comparative data on ASB figures to be shared with Members	District Commander – Gillian Cox	October, 2023

The Chairman thanked District Commander Cox and Mr. Lipscombe for their reports and contribution to the meeting.

15. WORK PLAN

The Committee noted the current Work Plan and arrangements for the next Progress Group meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.29 pm.

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 26th September, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Jessica Auton (Vice-Chairman) In the Chair

Cllr Jib Belbase

Cllr Michael Hope

Cllr T.W. Mitchell

Cllr M.J. Roberts

Cllr Calum Stewart

Cllr Becky Williams

Cllr G. Williams

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Marina Munro, Cllr A. Allen and Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo.

Cllr P.J. Cullum attended as Standing Deputy.

8. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th July, 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

9. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

The Board welcomed James Knight, Service Manager – Place Protection and a David Lipscombe, Community Safety Manager, who were in attendance to guide the discussion around four policy areas which would inform the drafting of the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy.

The four policy areas for discussion were as follows:

Principles – during discussion on this area the Board suggested that the links to other policies, such as the Communications, Supporting Communities and Safeguarding Policies, should be broadened. It was also felt that the principles for dealing with anti-social behaviour (ASB), as set out in the draft policy, should be featured nearer the beginning of the document.

Response Times – following discussions it was noted that:

- An auto response feature be introduced when reports were made online or via phone, indicating how the response would be dealt with
- In the case of an emergency, emergency contact numbers to be included in auto response

Reporting – it was suggested that once a report had been received, the following actions could be taken:

- A case reference number could be provided
- Reports be graded via a triage system to determine urgency/need etc.
- Agree terms on feedback at initial contact (method/format/frequency of feedback), the Board felt it important to keep the informant up to date with progress on their case
- Consideration be given to ways of recording contact to enable better analysis of trends and tracking of repeat offenders.

The Board also felt that the Council could do more to raise awareness by promoting what powers the Council has when dealing with ASB, this could be linked to Communications Service Plan.

Enforcement – the discussion highlighted the need to ensure that the nature of enforcement reflected what was reported and that each case should be assessed on its own merits. In general discussion on this area, the Board commented on the following:

- Targeting issues to prevent escalation
- Consider best practice at other local authorities

It was recommended that the next steps would be for the Community Safety Team to consider the Boards comments and work to incorporate them into the draft Policy. A copy of the draft Policy would then be considered at the Progress Group on 1st November, 2023.

The Chairman thanked Mr Knight and Mr Lipscombe.

10. **HAMPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY - MENTAL HEALTH CONCORDAT**

At the previous meeting, the Board considered evidence in relation to mental health provision (both in terms of prevention and treatment) in Rushmoor. The Board explored current activity supporting mental wellbeing and the prevention of mental illness in the Borough. The Board also considered whether the Council should sign the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health and considered what benefit this would have for our residents. The Concordat was an initiative led by Public Health England (PHE) to facilitate local and national action around preventing mental health problems and promoting good mental health and committed organisations to work together to keep people mentally well.

The Board noted that since the last meeting, work had been undertaken to understand where the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health fitted into work that was already progressing within the Borough and to better understand what the benefits of signing it would be for the Council. The results of this work were considered by the Board and it was concluded that, for now, priority would be given to local mental health prevention activity over the steps required to sign the Concordat.

Following the discussion, the Board made the following recommendations to be made to the Cabinet:

- That a series of mental health prevention activities be supported through the Council's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This would be in line with the Council's investment plan which proposed using approximately £70,000 of UKSPF in 2024/25 for projects to support health and wellbeing. In light of the evidence that the Board has reviewed, it is recommended that the full allocation be used specifically to support mental health projects when the proposals are brought to Cabinet in February 2024.
- That whilst it is not proposed that the Council sign the Concordat at this stage, the Council should publicly express its full support for the principles set out in the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution to the discussion.

11. **WORK PLAN**

The Board noted the Current Work Plan.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Thursday, 9th November, 2023 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr M.D. Smith (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs. D.B. Bedford (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr K. Dibble (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr A. Adeola
Cllr Gaynor Austin
Cllr Jules Crossley
Cllr Mara Makunura
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr Sophie Porter
Cllr S. Trussler

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Jessica Auton.

Cllr P.J. Cullum attended as Standing Deputy.

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 7th September and 21st September, 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

17. CALL-IN - LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION (LTA) INVESTMENT INTO PUBLIC TENNIS COURTS IN PARKS

The Committee was advised of the submission of a request to call-in the resolution made by the Cabinet on 17th October, 2023 in relation to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Investment into Public Tennis Courts in Parks. The request for call-in had been submitted by Cllrs Becky Williams, Gareth Williams, Halleh Koohestani, Abe Allen and Christine Guinness.

The Committee was advised that should the call-in request be rejected the decision made by the Cabinet on 17th October, 2023 would take effect as of 10th November, 2023. If the call-in request was accepted, a report would be made to Cabinet at its next meeting on 21st November, 2023.

Cllr Becky Williams attended the meeting to present the call-in request and the reasons behind it. The Committee noted the reasons, which included, that:

- there had been inadequate evidence that the agreed plan aligned with priorities set out in the Council Plan relating to improved health and wellbeing and access to facilities to promote healthy and active lifestyles;

- the consultation survey had not targeted particular user groups or households that the Council wished to encourage participation from;
- there was inadequate evidence that the agreed plan was affordable for residents, in particular those of low income;
- by delegating the decision on the charging structure and operator selection to officers, the impact on participation across all residents had not clearly been prioritised or targeted;
- a clear plan of recommendation for the provider had not been made, and;
- no alternative funding options had been considered for the refurbishment of the tennis courts.

Cllr Sheehan, Operational Services Portfolio Holder, addressed the meeting on behalf of the Cabinet. Cllr Sheehan advised that the Department for Culture Media and Sports had provided the LTA with £22million of funding, which would be further topped up with LTA funds to provide circa £33million to invest into the provision of public tennis courts in parks. It was noted that the LTA would prioritise investment to authorities with an existing stock of courts, where some/all were in the poorest of condition. Rushmoor's public tennis courts had been identified as being within this category.

It was advised that the LTA had undertaken technical assessments of Rushmoor's three park tennis sites to fully understand the cost of the works required to ensure they were all fit for purpose. It was noted that an offer had been made of £114,043 from the LTA to fund the improvements. By entering into the agreement with the LTA, the Council would be agreeing to a "book and play" system with a managed and affordable charging model, with aspects of free tennis. The overriding purpose of the proposed charging model had been to create a sinking funding for future maintenance.

Following a discussion on the issues raised, it was proposed by Cllr Porter and seconded by Cllr K. Dibble that:

"consideration be given by the Cabinet to give direction to officers to look at additional funding to provide more free tennis for residents - in addition to the provisions set out within the LTA agreement".

The Committee voted FOR: 4; AGAINST: 6 and the proposal was declared lost.

In summing up, Cllr Becky Williams and Cllr M.L. Sheehan each responded to the discussion. In response to a query regarding the amount of free tennis that would be available, Cllr Sheehan advised that until the procurement process had been carried out and charging levels had been determined, an answer could not be given, however there was a concrete assurance that free tennis would be available.

The Chairman then asked the Committee to vote for or against the decision being referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

There voted FOR: 4; AGAINST: 6 and the call-in request to refer the decision back to the Cabinet was declared lost. Therefore, it was advised that the decision made by

the Cabinet at its meeting on 17th October, 2023 would become effective from 10th November, 2023.

18. ARTS AND CULTURE (CULTURAL COMPACTS)

The Committee welcomed Lee McQuade, Economy and Growth Service Manager who was in attendance to give a presentation on the work being undertaken by the Council in collaboration with Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT), Arts Council England (ACE) and other partners, around arts and cultural activity in the Borough.

It was advised that Rushmoor had been identified as one of eleven authorities in the ACE South West Region as a priority place, with a high need and opportunity to increase arts and cultural activity in the place. As a result of this, the Council had commissioned a Cultural Strategy to inform planning and investment over the next ten years and to provide a delivery plan for the next five years. A Cultural Compact (Partnership), had also been established. The aim of these partnerships was to provide help and support to make step changes in strategic governance of culture, which would help more people and more places benefit from engaging with cultural opportunities. The Compact must link the cultural sector to broader aspirations and priorities intersecting with the ambitions of health agencies, business, universities and other sectors.

The Committee noted the key priorities for the work in the short term, which included:

- building capacity through the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT), Cultural Development Manager
- town centres – by growing and enhancing core events and delivering more activities in our town centres
- town centre regeneration – through the Leisure and Cultural Hub and potentially ACE Place Partnership funding which could see a three year programme of activity in Farnborough
- use of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to stimulate new events and arts, cultural and heritage activity

In response to a query, it was advised that town centre activities undertaken so far had largely been funded by the Council, however, an expression of interest would be submitted, prior to Christmas, for some Place Partnership funding. If successful, it was anticipated that funds would become available early in the new financial year and would cover a three year period. It was also noted that some funding would be available through project grants for individual organisations.

Following a discussion it was recommended that activities should be available to all residents and consideration should be given to targeting the least culturally engaged communities. It was also felt important to, not just enhance existing events, but to create new events going forward.

ACTION:

What	By Whom	By When
Share the details of the Cultural Strategy Action Plan with the Committee	Lee McQuade, Economy and Growth Service Manager	November 2023
Return to the Committee in 6-12 months' time to provide an update on the work	Lee McQuade, Economy and Growth Service Manager	June - November 2024

The Chairman thanked Mr McQuade for his presentation.

19. CLIMATE CHANGE - SCORECARDS

The Committee welcomed Rachel Barker, Assistant Chief Executive and Sophie Rogers, Climate Change Officer, who were in attendance to provide a presentation on the recently published Climate Change Scorecards. Cllr Martin Tennant, Major Projects and Property Portfolio Holder, was also in attendance.

The Committee were made aware that the first set of Climate Change Scorecards, which had been based on the Climate Change Action Plan in 2021, in which the Council had achieved a score of 46%, compared to a district average of 43%. The current set of scorecards had been based on Climate Change action, between January 2019 and January 2023, and the Council had achieved a score of 20%, compared to a district average of 29%.

The process and methodology was described, which included consultation, questioning with criteria and clarification, and information gained through Freedom of Information requests. It was also noted that each section had been weighted differently. The Committee were advised that the Council had scored highly in biodiversity and, collaboration and engagement, but lower in areas such as transport – due to levels of nitrogen dioxide and PM2.5 levels, governance and finance, and, planning and land use, due to the Council's Local Plan having been published prior to the Climate Emergency being declared.

It was noted that since the scores had been published, councils had been given the opportunity to query the scores. It was advised that a number of queries had been made in response to the achieved scores for Rushmoor.

The Committee received a brief update on the Climate Change Action Plan, which would be presented in full at a future meeting of the Committee.

Following a discussion with regard to the Local Plan, it was noted that the process to produce a new Plan was complex and took considerable time. The existing Plan, which ran until 2032, would be updated and the new Plan would address the Climate Emergency in greater detail.

ACTION:

What	Whom	When
Share the carbon footprint information with the Committee	Sophie Rogers, Climate Change Officer	November, 2023

The Chairman thanked Ms Barker and Rogers for their presentation.

20. WORK PLAN

The Committee noted the current Work Plan.

The meeting closed at 10.08 pm.

CLLR M.D. SMITH (CHAIRMAN)
