

POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd July, 2024 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.30 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr M.J. Roberts (Chairman)
Cllr Julie Hall (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Halleh Koohestani

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo, Cllr T.W. Mitchell and Cllr Ivan Whitmee.

Cllr Thomas day attended the meeting as Standing Deputy and Cllr Sue Carter attended the meeting online and was therefore unable to vote.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

7. WORK PLAN

The Board noted the current Work Plan.

It was agreed that the Marmot Health Strategy would be discussed at the next Progress Group meeting.

8. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

The Board welcomed Mr Roger Sanders, Risk, Performance and Procurement Service Manager, who presented Report No. ACE2409 that provided information on the process for the review of the Council's Procurement Strategy. Also present was Cllr Abe Allen, Enabling Services Portfolio Holder, who had been invited to attend for this item.

The Board was advised that the introduction of the Procurement Act 2023, due to come into force in October 2024, placed a requirement on the Council to review and update both its Contract Standing Orders and its Procurement Strategy. The current Procurement Strategy covered the period 2020 to 2024, with the new Strategy setting out the Council's strategic vision and priorities for this area of work for the following three years to 2027. As a duty of the new Act, the Strategy would incorporate elements of the National Procurement Strategy.

In discussing the proposed Procurement Strategy, Members stressed the importance of incorporating social values as part of the procurement process. The Board discussed the report and made the following comments:

- Can we set up a local directory to encourage the local of businesses? Needs to be kept up to date.
- When looking at strategic outcomes, engagement with the education sector is essential
- In relation to Contract Standing Orders, a heavy weighting should be place on green issues rather than simply encouraging

Subject to the above comments, the Board ENDORSED the development of the new Procurement Strategy, as set out in Report No. ACE2409.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sanders for his report.

9. **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

The Board welcomed Ms Abby Roper from Vision4Youth (V4Y), who provided a presentation on work undertaken in relation to youth engagement in Yateley and Ms Emma Lamb, the Council's Community and Partnerships Service Manager, who outlined the current provision in Rushmoor. Also present was Cllr Sophie Porter, Community & Residents Portfolio Holder, who had been invited to attend for this item and for the workshop that followed.

The Board was advised that V4Y had been a youth club provider for over twenty years, providing facilities to young people aged 11 – 25 years. The Yateley Friday Night Club had been established in 2015 with support from Yateley Town Council. In 2018, the Town Council had allowed the club to start meeting, rent-free, in The Tythings and this had provided the opportunity for the club to expand. The expansion of the club had required V4Y to seek more volunteers and this proved to be a challenging process. It was reported that V4Y currently operated six different youth clubs during term time across two venues in Yateley and Darby Green, with around 160 young people accessing these groups. In addition to the club nights, V4Y also supported qualified youth workers who walked the local streets once or twice a week, visiting hot spots and building relationships with young people. This work involved close liaison with the police. Members were informed that, over the summer holidays, V4Y would run a Summer Holiday Youth Club as part of the Department for Education's 'Holiday Activities & Food' programme. This was aimed at young people aged 11 – 16 years and was free to those who qualified for Free School Meals. Finally, V4Y offered 1:1 support for young people with Youth Social Prescribing, which was aimed at providing early intervention in cases of social isolation, irrespective of the originating cause.

Ms Lamb went on to describe the current provision for young people in Rushmoor. This included:

- Rushmoor Youth Influence – a forum for young people to hear from experts and to share opinions on key issues, supported by Rushmoor schools and Army Welfare Service
- Prospect Youth Club – currently providing some mental health support services
- Youth Café – set up in response to feedback from residents, businesses and partners, currently led by a local ward councillor, partnership between Council, Step by Step and Hampshire Cultural Trust
- Detached Youth Work – Safer Street 5 Fund for detached youth work provision in ASB hotspots, currently ongoing
- Yellow Brick Road project - £34,000 for one year project to support 25 11-17 year-olds at risk of exploitation, twelve sessions with a mentor with follow-up support

Members were informed that a number of gaps and barriers had been identified and these had been used to shape the objectives and approach being adopted in terms of youth provision in Rushmoor. The focused approach would involve both outreach and also work with local schools. It was identified that an important part of the approach was in relation to communications, where, amongst other approaches, the Council would use its own social media channels. The workshop that was to follow the meeting would consider how to support and encourage local young people. During August, the feedback from this session and from Rushmoor Youth Influence would be collated and, in September, the Board would receive further report outlining proposals for a future Youth Engagement Strategy. Ms Lamb ran through a list of draft proposals being considered, including:

- Programme of support to secondary schools by holding three open days a year. Activities include council chambers, mayor and office, budgeting tool, design your own park
- Work with Junior Leadership Teams in schools
- Young People Led Forums – supported by RBC
- Young apprentice to work across departments focusing on work relating to their peer groups
- HCC NEETS Boost program (ran at Basingstoke Council)
- Engage young people in our surveys and social media using platforms they use
- Work with Springpod to provide a virtual work experience programme
- Offer good quality work experience places

- Support partners to deliver services that are appropriate to young people in each area
- Work with young people and partners to find effective solutions to address ASB and crime prevention
- Ensure we are inclusive and accessible to everyone
- Continue Youth Café & Youth Club

The Board discussed the presentations and made the following comments:

- Important to consider how to target those not in education
- Contacts in schools help to improve attendance at events
- In relation to a question about the demographic of volunteers – explained normally ladies whose children had grown up but a broad spectrum
- V4Y offer ‘young leader’ positions for maturing young people
- V4Y changed into a registered charity as it expanded as this removed financial liability from the previous trustees and provided better opportunities for applying for grant-funding
- Important to have clearly defined aims for the Council’s activities
- Whilst V4Y did not consult directly with young people when it was starting up, the views of the community were definitely considered

The Board ENDORSED the process set out in the presentation and looked forward to further involvement in this area.

The Chairman thanked Ms Roper and Ms Lamb for their presentations.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 1st August, 2024 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Halleh Koohestani (Chairman)
Cllr Nadia Martin (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr S. Trussler (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Leola Card
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr Bill O'Donovan

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr A.H. Crawford, Cllr Thomas Day and Cllr M.J. Tennant

Cllrs Sarah Spall, Jacqui Vosper and Ivan Whitmee attended as Standing Deputies.

7. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING DEPUTY

NOTED: The appointment of Cllr S.J. Masterson as Standing Deputy for the Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year in place of Cllr M.D. Smith.

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th June, 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

9. DELIVERY OF KEY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL & SERCO IN PARTNERSHIP

The Committee welcomed Ms Ruth Whaymand, the Council's Environmental Contracts Service Manager and Mr Aaron Straker, SERCO Contract Manager who were in attendance to present SERCO's 2023/24 Annual Report. Also present was Cllr Becky Williams, Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder, who had been invited to attend for this item.

Ms Whaymand set the scene and explained what would be covered during this session. She recapped the process by which the contract had been awarded in 2017 and provided an overview of the service areas involved. It was stressed that the relationship between the Council and SERCO was a very close one, with a 'one team' approach to service provision. A number of changes had been made to the

contract since 2017, including the introduction of weekly food waste collections and alternate weekly collection for rubbish and recycling.

Mr Straker started by setting out background information about SERCO and how the company operated. In relation to the services delivered at Rushmoor. These could be set out under three headings:

- Collections
- Street Cleansing
- Ground Maintenance

The Committee was provided with data in relation to domestic collections, including various performance measures. It was confirmed that such information was discussed between SERCO and the Council at monthly performance review meetings. Mr Straker admitted that the missed food collection rate was higher than he would like and steps were being taken to address this. The Committee discussed the collections section of the presentation and made the following comments:

- Important that residents eligible for the assisted collection scheme know how to access this – confirmed that this should be arranged through the Customer Services team
- Currently an issue around the replacement of broken food waste bins – ensure SERCO made aware on every occasion
- Will be interesting to see how the development of AI impacts on this service area
- Explained that the Council uses Portsmouth City Council for internal audit as the Council's internal auditor does not have capacity to carry this out
- Publicity needs to be clearer on the disposal of vapes
- Discussion around collections from properties where bins are unavoidably stored permanently on pavements and collections from HMOs and flats
- Clarified that a 3% pay rise would result in £35,000 increased expenditure
- In relation to the Megaskip proposal, SERCO have quoted for a pilot involving regular collections from high-risk areas using a box van
- Confirmed that missed bin stats rely on resident reporting on every occasion

In relation to street cleansing, Mr Straker explained that SERCO provided four cage teams, responsible for cleansing specific sites such as shop fronts, parks and car parks, along with emptying the 800 litter bins in the Borough. In addition to the cage teams, there were two town centre barrow beats that were aimed at keeping

Aldershot and Farnborough town centres clean and tidy. The Hit Squad was a team of streets operatives that cleansed roads across the Borough using one large and two small mechanical sweepers. Finally, a team of public toilets operatives was responsible for the opening, closing, cleansing and restocking of public toilets. The Committee discussed the street cleansing section of the presentation and made the following comments:

- Excess litter on the A331 was discussed – this was acknowledged but explained that this was a complex situation with SERCO working jointly with two County Councils and a total of three district councils in respect of this section of road
- Weeding in parks was discussed – explained that spraying of weeds no longer takes place and manual weeding not part of the current contract
- Explained there is a leaf clearance schedule that started in November and is publicised on website
- It has been noticed that toilets around parks and fields no longer open – explained that this is a cost saving and to reverse would have a cost implication

AGREED – that the Cabinet be informed that the Committee considers that environmental factors are important when making decisions about the budget.

In relation to grounds maintenance, Mr Straker explained that the variable climate brings challenges and, this year, this has led to falling behind with grass cutting. Members heard that grounds maintenance was monitored and managed closely by the Council with a partnership approach. The Committee discussed the street cleansing section of the presentation and made the following comments:

- Clarified that grass cuttings were never collected and always mulched
- In relation to wild verges – confirmed that these were not specifically seeded with wildflowers/plants but allowed to develop naturally
- No assessment made yet of any biodiversity gain from development of wild verges and reduced cutting of grass
- Asked if grass cutting schedule could be shared with ward councillors
- Queried whether SERCO had the ability to scale up operations now to catch up with grass cutting – SERCO doing best to do this
- Confirmed that no weeding was a policy decision and forms part of the contract – there is a small budget available to deal with hot spots
- Members were invited to submit any further questions or comments via email

In rounding off his presentation, Mr Straker provided information to Members around contract management and compliance, on board vehicle technologies that assisted operatives, health and safety, SERCO employee wellbeing and innovations, including the potential future use of electric freighters. It was confirmed that the current contract was due to expire in July, 2027. In discussing this final section, the Committee made the following comments:

- Would be helpful for residents to be informed of the reasons for recycling being rejected due to contamination – to be investigated, perhaps use of different stickers
- Confirmed that, if contract renewed, it was likely that existing vehicles would be replaced

The Chairman thanked Ms Whaymand and Mr Straker for their presentations.

10. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee noted the current Work Plan and that there would be two meetings in September, with the CIPFA report being considered on 12th September and, on 19th September, Chief Inspector Cox and the Council's Community Safety Team would be in attendance.

The Progress Group was due to meet on 15th August to plan the Committee's future activities.

The meeting closed at 9.42 pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 12th September, 2024 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Halleh Koohestani (Chairman)
Cllr Nadia Martin (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr S. Trussler (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Leola Card
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr M.J. Tennant

11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st August, 2024 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment at paragraph two on page 7 of the report;

AGREED – that the Cabinet be informed that the Committee considered grounds maintenance (i.e. weeding, grass cutting etc.) an important service for residents.

In relation to the meeting held on 13 June 2024, a number of issues were raised for clarity, these were as set out below:

- At the meeting, it was noted that Cllr Tennant had emphasised the importance of the CIPFA report being considered by the Committee. He asked that it was made clear if the Council was indeed bankrupt or not. In response to the comment, Mr Harrison advised that the Council was not bankrupt and that a meeting would be scheduled for the CIPFA report to be presented to the Committee for scrutiny.
- At the meeting, Cllr Trussler had requested to raise further questions outside of the meeting relating to the item on the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy, due to time restrictions on the evening. These questions had been raised via email and shared with relevant officers for response.
- The membership of the Committee's Progress Group had been recorded incorrectly in the minutes. It was noted that the membership should include Cllr Nadia Martin and not Cllr C.P. Grattan.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS - CIPFA REPORT

The Chairman welcomed Simon Allsop, Managing Consultant – Financial Management, at the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), who was in attendance to provide an independent overview of the CIPFA Financial Resilience Review of the Council, published in June 2024. The Council's Executive Head of Finance, Peter Vickers, was also in attendance.

It was advised that the Leader of the Council had been invited to the meeting but had been unable to attend. However, should Members have any questions, for him specifically, it was requested that these were made in writing via email to the Leader for him to respond to accordingly. It was also noted that he would be happy to attend a future meeting to address the Committee and update in regard to the Council's progress in delivering its Financial Recovery Plan .

It was noted that the Council had commissioned CIPFA to undertake a review of its financial position and proposed response, as a result of concerns over emerging potential financial issues as set out in the General Fund Budget 2024-25 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024-25 to 2027-28 and advice from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), that their focus had been on Councils that had or were unlikely to set a balanced budget in 2024/25 and were therefore currently not eligible for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). The review had taken account of:

- Financial Management and Sustainability – an assessment of the Council's financial management and management risk, financial pressures, deliverability of savings plans and services and, any potential capital flexibilities
- Debt/Commercial Assets – an assessment of the Council's assets and investments taking account of commercial income, debt costs and other risks
- Capital Programme/Companies – an assessment of the Council's capital programme and management of related risk including the two Council owned companies, Rushmoor Homes Limited (RHL) and Rushmoor Development Partnership (RDP)
- Governance and Culture – an assessment of the Council's governance arrangements, leadership, operational culture and whether there had been appropriate governance procedures in place with the capability and capacity to make necessary transformation

The Report also set out improvement proposals and recommendations.

The Committee discussed the report and raised a number of issues, these included:

- Disposal of assets – clarity was requested on the disposal on assets that generated revenue, it was noted that should the Council ever be considered for EFS or were looking to avoid a S114 notice, all assets would need to be considered for disposal on their individual merits

- Implementation of a “golden triangle” – It was advised that a “golden triangle” referred to the three statutory officer roles within a local authority (Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and S151 Officer). The CIPFA Report indicated that having the S151 Officer reporting to the Monitoring Officer and not directly to the Head of Paid Service potentially weakened governance and independence. It was advised that the implementation of a “golden triangle” was a matter for the Head of Paid Service who should also consider the governance structure when making any changes. It was noted that a recommendation had been made as part of the Peer Review to carry out a review of governance arrangements in the round, and this could be considered as part of that review which was currently being implemented, with an expectation of findings within 6-8 weeks.
- A request for more regular reporting (from quarterly to monthly) on the financial position and in a format that was understandable to all Members - It was advised that plans were in progress to improve on reporting, to allow for more frequent updates to Members, this would help to ensure decisions were made in a timely manner and in a format that increased understanding. It was suggested that executive summaries were helpful, and a better understanding of the implications (a financial impacts paper) could assist Members to make informed decisions in line with the urgency of the matter.
- Financial Recovery Working Group – it was advised that the working arrangements of the Group were currently being considered, these included the ability to hold both informal and formal discussions, private sessions to address matters in a timely manner and urgent engagement with an independent advisor to act as a critical friend and provide challenge through the process. The Committee felt that the urgency of the working arrangements for the Group were not in line with the current financial position and the process needed to be accelerated to meet the need.
- The use of capital receipts for revenue – it was noted that the Government had granted the ability to use capital receipts to bridge the gaps in service provision and to address debt pressures.
- Risk – it was advised that the most uncertain area was property. Mapping was being undertaken on each asset to better understand the risk implications for each property.
- Vacancy costs – it had been reported that £1.23 million of vacancy costs had been budgeted for in the July 2024 budget plan. It was advised that the majority of this budget was used to engage interim agency staff when permanent staff could not be recruited and the only way to realise a saving from this fund would be to not engage agency/interim staff.
- Short term interest rate changes – in response to a query relating to response time to react to interest rate changes, it was advised that interest rates were monitored daily and reacted to accordingly when refinancing the Council’s

current debt profile, at present all refinancing was being undertaken short term (around one year) the Executive Head of Finance confirmed that the current MTFs assumed a medium term rate of interest at 4.1% and that once rates could be achieved at or around that level, then the Council would seek to secure some refinancing over a longer period.

- Risk Management – it was acknowledged that work needed to be done on how risk was managed, mitigation actions and how key risks were identified and monitored. It was noted that prioritisation of risk should be considered and that work to review the approach to risk was underway.
- Treasury Management – it was advised that a strategy had been developed to move funds when interest rates were more favourable. At present no funds would be fixed longer term until more sustainable interest rates (3.1% as set out in the recovery plan – revised up to 4.1% in the July Report to Council) were realised.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the recommendations as set out in the CIPFA report and recommended that all should be adopted without any undue delay. In addition, the Committee further recommended that:

- The work of the Financial Recovery Working Group be accelerated to reflect the urgency of the financial position facing the Council.
- Pre-scrutiny was used to consider any future governance matters in a timely manner to avoid any further delays in improving the process of governance.
- Serious consideration be given to appointing an independent person (possibly from CIPFA or similar independent public financial body) to the Financial Recovery Working Group to provide external independence and challenge.

The Committee also requested information on best practice, where councils in a similar situation had acted quickly and started to address their financial positions positively. In addition, examples of financial papers written in plain English were requested. Mr Allsop agreed to share this information.

The Chairman thanked Mr Allsop and Mr Vickers for their time and contribution to the meeting.

13. **WORK PLAN**

The Chairman deferred discussion on the Work Plan to the next meeting of the Committee on 19 September, 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.14 pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday, 19th September, 2024 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr Halleh Koohestani (Chairman)
Cllr S. Trussler (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Leola Card
Cllr A.H. Crawford
Cllr P.J. Cullum
Cllr Thomas Day
Cllr C.P. Grattan
Cllr G.B. Lyon
Cllr Bill O'Donovan
Cllr M.J. Tennant

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Nadia Martin

14. COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Committee welcomed Chief Inspector Gillian Cox, Hampshire Police and the Council's Community Safety Manager, David Lipscombe who were in attendance to report on current issues, challenges and positive news stories within the policing and community safety sector. Also in attendance was the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Becky Williams.

Mr Lipscombe provided an overview of the Community Safety Team and their key roles and responsibilities. It was noted that the Team were the first point of contact for calls primarily relating to anti-social behaviour (ASB), crime and disorder and neighbourhood youth disruption. Early intervention methods were used to try and tackle these issues in the first instance, these methods included warning letters, home visits, education, and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.

Management of the CCTV service also fell within the Teams' remit. Since the relocation of the CCTV unit to Runnymede, the service had benefited from increased hours of service and better camera review options. A request was made for a cost analysis of the CCTV service.

An update was provided on the Community Patrol Team, following a recruitment process, there were now five members of the team with one vacancy. Those in post had recently completed the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme course, which allowed officers to be granted with certain police powers.

The Committee were apprised of what had gone well and current concerns for the Team. Things that had gone well included, a closure order at a property where the

residents were causing significant ASB, Think Safe - a Year 6 project highlighting how to act in certain scenarios, and "Yellow Brick Road" a project which helped young people at risk of exploitation. Current concerns included Farnborough Town Centre where the street attached/homeless had recently been causing a number of issues, neighbour disputes and residential cannabis use, and mental health and housing issues.

The Committee were informed about the response to the recent Community Safety Survey. It was noted that the survey could only be completed online at present, however 930 residents had responded, double the number of responses from the previous year. It was also reported that a larger number of young people had engaged with the survey following contact with the two local colleges. However, only 3% of respondents had been from the Nepalese community and consideration on how to increase this for the 2025/26 survey, would be given. The length of the survey was also discussed and it was felt that it could be shortened for future years.

It was advised that on 9 September, a meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Community Safety had taken place. The meeting attended by Elected Members and Officers from Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor reviewed the partnerships priorities for 2023/24 and endorsed the work of the Safer North Hampshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership and its plans for 2024/25 which included:

- Improving feelings of safety and health outcomes within the Community Safety Partnership area
- Serious violence
- Domestic abuse
- Antisocial behaviour
- Town centre engagement

The Committee discussed the presentation and raised a query regarding the "Choices" project. "Choices" was a project funded by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) allowing a group of experts to attend schools and engage with years 6 and 7 on a variety of issues, including drug use, alcohol use, sensible decision making, healthy relationships etc. It was noted that the project had been offered to all schools in the Borough but take up had been mixed.

A discussion was also held on the subject of fly-tipping, and requests were made for data by ward, land divisions, enforcement boundaries and that consideration be given to increasing the penalty charge amount.

The Chief Inspector (CI) gave her presentation which provided an overview of the past 12 months. It was noted that this would be CI Cox's second year in post. The past year had seen a lot of organisational change and challenge, but it was advised that the team were now in a strong position, with stable leadership and solid working relationships with partners to move forward.

The Committee were apprised of the crime data for the period between August 2023 and July 2024. Crimes with the largest number of occurrences were noted as violence against the person and theft offences. However, it was noted that

occurrences of ASB had seen a reduction since June 2024, this could be attributed to levels of reporting and ASB meaning different things to different people. The outcome data had also been reviewed and this had shown a positive picture where an increase in crime had occurred, there had also been an increase in outcome.

Data was provided on Operation Sentinel, a Home Office led initiative tackling serious violence hotspots, of which there were two in Rushmoor, Aldershot and Farnborough town centres. Regular patrols of the areas were made and the teams ensured they followed guidance to be visible, observant and engaging. Since April 2024, methods had been amended to achieve 100% compliance rates.

Data on 999 and 101 calls was shared with the Committee, each showed big improvements on the previous years. For 999 calls the SLA was up by 17% as a result of more calls being answered quicker. With regard to 101 calls the average time to answer had reduced by 81% (03:07 minutes from 16:09 mins the previous year). It was suggested that this positive message could be promoted within the community to encourage more people to report via this channel.

The Committee noted the challenges and opportunities faced by the police service. these included:

- Victim satisfaction – it was noted that levels of victim satisfaction had dropped and there was a push within the service to improve through better communication.
- Drug related harm – it was noted that drugs were the greatest harm in the borough, it continued to be a priority of the community and it was vital that the work to prevent drug related harm was managed effectively.
- Protests – the force had and would continue to work to support the district during periods of unrest. The police worked within the community to ensure everyone felt safe allowing for the democratic right to protest. A request was made to involve CI Cox in the newly established Community Engagement Task and Finish Group following the Notice of Motion to Council on 15 August on Community Tensions.
- Resourcing – It was reported that the current resources met the demand in the area, however more resource would always be welcomed.

CI Cox advised on the engagement efforts within the force, these included Hants Alert - a platform to inform of current issues, Let's Talk – face-to-face surveys to identify key problems and highlight emerging issues and making the team more visible through Cops and Coffee sessions. Social media continued to be used to highlight successes. Ward distribution and contact information was also shared for the four local "Bobby's", engagement with the officers was encouraged and should more resource be allocated distribution of areas would be reconsidered.

The Committee discussed petty crime and low level criminal activities, such as shoplifting, petty vandalism and cannabis use. CI Cox advised that it was difficult strike the right balance, as things affected people and communities differently, by

tackling individuals' behaviours you lessened the occurrences of petty crime, but limited resources made this difficult. It was however noted that these types of crime should be reported and they would be looked at on a priority basis.

Further discussions were held around specific matters, these included;

- Threats to public officials - it was noted that Operation Bridger was in place, but mainly enforced around election periods. CI Cox would provide any information available to Elected Members for their information.
- Use of available town centre unit in Farnborough as a police hub to help address recent ASB – Cllr Becky Williams advised that following the recent increase in ASB in the town centre, the Community Safety Team were working with specific individuals to address the issues. A comprehensive strategy to tackle ASB was also be prepared.
- Shoplifting – it was advised that the action taken against a shoplifter was store dependent. The police worked with the stores to understand their targets, security and CCTV provisions, and addressed any incidents of shoplifting as deemed appropriate.
- Provision of 725 new police officers – it was noted that the new recruits would be distributed across Hampshire by the force's Corporate Insights Team.

ACTIONS:

What	By Whom	Date
Provide data on numbers of fly tipping incidents by ward	James Knight, Service Manager - Place Protection	November 2024
Map of what land belongs to who to be shared with Members	James Knight, Service Manager - Place Protection	November 2024
PPO stated as having said that the Council cannot enforce on VIVID land - is this correct?	James Duggin - Executive Head of Operations	November 2024
Provide POC for MOD Land to members	James Knight, Service Manager - Place Protection	November 2024
Review the length of the Community Safety Survey for year three to make it shorter	David Lipscombe - Community Safety Manager	2025/26
Consideration be given to the amounts charged for PCN's to be a more effective deterrent.	David Lipscombe - Community Safety Manager	--

Consideration be given to the promotion of 101 and the impacts of crimes that are not reported, as part of ASB week in November 2024	David Lipscombe - Community Safety Manager	November 2024
Share any information relating to treats against public officials with Members	Gillian Cox, Chief Inspector	November 2024
Extend invitation to Gillian Cox to attend the meeting of the Community Engagement T&F Group	Adele Taylor, Committee Admin Ian Harrison, Executive Director	10 October 2024
Provide a list of the schools who have engaged in the "Choices" Programme	David Lipscombe - Community Safety Manager	October 2024
Provision of cost data analysis on the CCTV Unit	David Lipscombe - Community Safety Manager	October 2024

The Chairman thanked Chief Inspector Cox and Mr Lipscombe for their presentations.

15. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee noted the current Work Plan and the addition of speeding and road safety issues to the Hampshire Highways item, these would be picked up at the next Progress Group meeting. It was also noted that the work was being progressed on the Action Tracker and an update would be provided at the Progress Group.

The meeting closed at 9.17 pm.

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POLICY AND PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD

Report of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24th September, 2024 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cllr M.J. Roberts (Chairman)

Cllr A.H. Gani
Cllr Lisa Greenway
Cllr Steve Harden
Cllr Rhian Jones
Cllr Halleh Koohestani
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr T.W. Mitchell

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Vice-Chairman (Cllr Julie Hall) and Cllrs Sue Carter and Ivan Whitmee.

Cllrs Thomas Day and C.P. Grattan attended the meeting as Standing Deputies.

10. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July, 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

11. APPOINTMENTS

The Committee **NOTED** the appointment of Cllr S.J. Masterson as a member of the Board in place of Cllr Peace Essien Igodifo for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

12. YOUNG PEOPLES' PLAN

The Chairman welcomed Ms Emma Lamb and Ms Lynette Lawson-Tyers from the Council's Community and Partnerships team, who introduced the Council's Young People's Plan. Also present was Cllr Sophie Porter, Community & Residents Portfolio Holder, who had been invited to attend for this item.

The Board was advised that the Young People's Plan outlined a proposed approach for the Council to coordinate and improve opportunities for children and young people and support them to live a happy and rewarding life. Report No. ACE2410 had been attached to the agenda and this set out the process by which the Young People's Plan had been prepared. The draft Young People's Plan was attached to the Report as an appendix. It was explained that the Plan was based on three objectives:

- Realising aspirations through opportunities and education

- Supporting young people by creating safe environments
- Fostering meaningful communication and engagement

The Plan identified a range of projects and activities, some of which were specifically targeted at disadvantaged young people or those from deprived areas. It had been developed following the Board's meeting on 23rd July, 2024, when Members took part in a workshop to discuss and inform the future Plan.

Ms Lamb explained that the Plan was considered to be ambitious but realistic and mindful of the resources available. It was felt that the Plan demonstrated that there was already a lot going on within the Borough.

In considering the Report and draft Young People's Plan, Members made the following comments and observations:

- Important that we map current provision / providers to ensure that any gaps are filled
- Essential that we engage when the schools are closed as this gives a better outlook of real position at these times
- Plan should make reference to healthy lifestyles / choices
- More detail needed on the 'how' aspect of the objectives – currently at strategic level
- Confirmed definition of young person – up to age 25
- Important to look at age ranges when identifying current provision – might show gaps at certain age groups
- Must ensure that 'struggling' schools included
- How to engage with asylum seekers? Should be included in scope of Plan
- Would be interesting to understand partners' future plans so that Council might support and not duplicate
- It was discussed whether Council could set up a grants scheme – agreed that funds not available to provide grants directly but Council would be keen to support in other ways. There were many funding opportunities available from other bodies and Step-by Step was a good example of an organisation accessing such funds
- Some Members keen to assist with mock interviews with young people – also suggested that external companies might assist with this

- Rushmoor Youth Influence – good example of direct intervention by Council and credit to Cllr Sue Carter who had founded this body
- Confirmed that scope of school collaboration would include all schools, including Rowhill School in Aldershot
- Confirmed that apprenticeships very much part of the approach and that the Council had offered apprenticeships to many local young people
- Good to target LGBTQ+ and neuro-diversity
- Work required to measure whether Plan was having a positive effect – what performance measures?

Ms Lamb encouraged Members to provide any further comments or questions by email. It was confirmed that the Board would be kept informed of future progress.

The Board ENDORSED the Plan and associated approach to supporting all young people, with a concerted effort to reach young people who experienced disadvantage. Further, the Board expressed support that further consultation be carried out with Rushmoor Youth Influence and partners prior to seeking Cabinet approval of the Plan.

The Chairman thanked Ms Emma Lamb and Ms Lynette Lawson-Tyers for their contributions to the meeting.

13. **WORK PLAN**

The Board noted the current Work Plan.

It was agreed that the agenda for the November Board meeting would be discussed at the next Progress Group meeting on 22nd October, 2024.

The meeting closed at 7.53 pm.
