

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

**Monday, 3 June, 2013 at 6.00 pm in a Conference Room at the Council House**

**Panel Members Present:** Councillor V. Woodruff (Chair)  
Councillor I. Azam  
Councillor K. Hussain  
Councillor G. Illmann-Walker  
Councillor L. Rattigan

**Officers in Attendance:** Jamie Morris - Executive Director (Neighbourhoods)  
Keith Stone - Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)  
Craig Goodall - Committee Business and Governance Manager

### **87/13 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Creaney and Councillor B. Douglas-Maul

### **88/13 Substitutions**

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting.

### **89/13 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

### **90/13 Minutes**

#### **Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2013, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.**

### **91/13 Work Programme 2013/2014 and Forward Plan**

The Panel considered their work programme for 2013/14.

The Executive Director (Neighbourhoods) gave a presentation to the Panel (annexed) He highlighted the following key issues for his directorate:-

- Responding to legislation;
- Strategic options;
- Redesigning services;
- Forward planning;

- Major projects

The Executive Director explained the Council would be required to make substantial financial savings over the next few years. It is likely that these savings could only be made through a reduction of staff and making fundamental changes to the way services were delivered. Innovative solutions were being sought including new ways of working and greater collaboration with neighbouring local authorities and partners.

The Chair suggested items for the work programme which had arose from the scrutiny survey of Members (tabled) as well as the items which are still ongoing from last year's work programme.

The following are the principal points from the ensuing discussion:-

- Interest in crime and antisocial behaviour was apparent from the scrutiny survey items. Members agreed to take an item forward around the different roles and responsibilities of community safety partners including the Police, Police Community Support Officers, Council and others. It was requested that the report included statistics of incidents and reports to allow Members to understand the demands on services.
- Probation – Members agreed to invite new Head of Probation to a future meeting.
- Coroner Services – Members were aware of some concerns amongst the Muslim community regarding delays with the release of bodies. The Panel was informed that the Council is aware of the issues and discussions were due to take place. It was noted that the Coroner had previously stated that he was receiving reduced support from the Police.
- Libraries – Members asked to be kept informed if proposals for changes to the Library Service were proposed.
- Scrap metal – Members were keen to consider developments following the publication of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.
- Willenhall Lawn Cemetery extension feasibility study – A report on this issue was requested. Once the study was complete it was confirmed that the item was included in the Capital Programme for 2013/14.
- Flood Risk Management – Members requested a broad update on how this area was developing specifically with a focus on preparing water infrastructure to be able to withstand the impact of climate change.
- New Road Development and Sustainable Transport – A Member was keen to understand how sustainable transport methods such as cycling could be integrated into new road developments. A briefing note was requested for all Panel Members.

- Members discussed a survey regarding Muslim graves at Streetly Cemetery.

## **Resolved**

**That:**

- 1. For an item to be included on the Panel work plan for 2013/14**
  - a) Crime and Antisocial Behaviour;**
  - b) Devolution through Area Partnerships;**
  - c) Local Area Coordinators Pilot;**
  - d) Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013;**
  - e) Budget monitoring and setting;**
  - f) Probation;**
  - g) Low Emissions Town and Cities;**
  - h) Brownhills Common Petition;**
  - i) Play strategy;**
  - j) Recycling and Contamination;**
  - k) Willenhall Lawn Cemetery extension feasibility study;**
  - l) School Catering Group working recommendation monitoring;**
  - m) Flood Risk Management;**
  - n) Coroner Services.**
- 2. The Panel be consulted on any proposals to changes to the Library Service;**
- 3. Members be provided with a briefing note on how sustainable transport, including cycling, is considered in the development of new roads;**
- 4. The following items be considered at the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013 meeting of the Panel;**
  - a) Community Safety – Roles, Responsibilities and Statistics;**
  - b) Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013;**
  - c) Low Emissions, Towns and Cities;**
  - d) Devolution through Area Partnerships including Local Area Coordinators update.**
- 5. That the forward plan be noted.**

92/13 **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of next meeting was 6.00 p.m. on 9 July 2013.

*The meeting terminated at 6.53 p.m.*

Chairman: .....

Date: .....