

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

**Tuesday 18 October, 2011 in a Conference Room at the Council House**

**Panel members present:** Councillor L. Harrison (Chair)  
Councillor I. Azam  
Councillor D. Barker  
Councillor S. Coughlan  
Councillor L. Rattigan  
Councillor K. Sears  
Councillor F. Westley  
Councillor A. Young

**Portfolio Holder present** Councillor Z. Ali (Communities and Partnerships)  
Councillor M. Bird (Leader)  
Councillor A. Harris (Leisure and Culture)

**Other members present** Councillor M. Flower

**Officers present:** Jamie Morris - Executive Director (Neighbourhoods)  
Sue Grainger - Head of Libraries, Heritage and Arts  
Kobina Hall - Head of Probation  
Andrea Gabbitas - Policy Manager (Police Authority)  
Ben Percival - Sports and Leisure Manager  
Tracey Evans - Lead Accountant  
Craig Goodall - Scrutiny Officer

### **99/11 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Creaney, Councillor Shires and Mr. Phillip Holmes.

### **100/11 Substitutions**

Councillor D. Barker substituted for Councillor I. Shires.

### **101/11 Declarations of interest and party whip**

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

### **102/11 Minutes**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September, 2011, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

## 103/11 Rehabilitation of Offenders

The Panel considered the approach to managing the rehabilitation of offenders in Walsall and the West Midlands, including the use of approved premises (APs) and the role of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPAs).

The Head of Probation provided the Panel with further details about MAPPAs, including:-

- Who sits on the MAPPAs;
- How MAPPAs completed its work;
- How MAPPAs were held to account;
- How MAPPAs engaged local people and Local Authorities.

He also reported on the role of APs, including:-

- The role and purpose of APs;
- The importance of public protection when placing residents at APs;
- The importance of “house rules” at APs and the implications of rule breaches;
- Staffing shift arrangements in APs;
- The need for APs as part of the offender management system.

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

- The need for APs was recognised but they needed to be placed appropriately. A Member stated they felt Stonnall Road AP was in a poor location;
- The possibility of combining APs with other or near to other offending related premises;
- How the planning process allowed the change of use for certain types of premises without public consultation.

It was agreed that a Working Group be established to consider the role of MAPPAs and APs in detail. Engagement with the public and Local Authorities was a particular concern along with how MAPPAs managed risk. Members wanted to be re-assured that public protection was working.

The Chair explained that the Working Group would be established on the conclusion of the Green Spaces Working Group. Councillor S. Coughlan volunteered to join the Working Group.

### **Resolved**

That upon conclusion of the Green Spaces Working Group, a Working Group be established to consider the rehabilitation of offenders.

## 104/11 **Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, 2011**

The Panel considered the implications of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, 2011 (the Act).

The Policy Manager gave a presentation to Members about the Act (annexed). She highlighted:-

- The current arrangements with Police Authorities and how they worked;
- The role of the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC);
- The role of the new Police and Crime Panels;
- The role of the Chief Constable in the new arrangements.

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

- The supplementary vote system would be used if three or more candidates stood for the role of PCC;
- Concern was expressed about politicising the police and the potential disruptiveness that could be caused by PCCs.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## 105/11 **Financial Plan 2012/13 to 2014/15: Draft revenue and capital budget proposals for consultation**

The Panel considered the Portfolio plans for future service delivery along with the approach being taken to delivering service improvements and cost efficiency over the next three years (2012/13 to 2014/15).

The Portfolio Holder (Communities and Partnerships) introduced his portfolio plan and made commitments to support the voluntary and community sector, community safety and area partnership working.

The Portfolio Holder (Leisure and Culture) introduced his portfolio plan and highlighted savings from his Portfolio and capital expenditure. He explained that investment in “memorial safety” shown in the transport and environment portfolio should be listed in his capital programme.

### **Resolved**

That the financial plan 2012/13 to 2014/15 and draft revenue and capital budget proposals be noted.

## 106/11 **A Vision for the Future of Leisure Centres - Update**

The Panel considered an update on the 18 recommendations made about leisure centres following the Leisure Centres and Libraries Working Group in 2010.

The Sports and Leisure Manager reported progress with the 18 recommendations. He explained that the majority of the recommendations had evolved into proposals in a wider sports and leisure review which proposed an explicit focus on health and wellbeing. It was noted that leisure centre attendances were at a record high.

The Executive Director (Neighbourhoods) emphasised how much had changed since the Working Group had completed its investigation. The end of Building Schools for the Future and the expansion of the School Academy Programme had changed the relationship between schools and the Council. Another important change was the increased role of Local Authorities in public health which meant the context of the Working Group's recommendations had changed considerably.

A Member stated that it was important there was a strategic spread of leisure centres in the Borough. He felt that currently there was a deficiency in the west of the Borough.

A discussion took place on the potential impact of private sector provision on Council services. The Portfolio Holder (Leisure and Culture) re-assured the Panel that the Council would be pro-active in identifying and overcoming future challenges.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## 107/11 **Scrap Metal Working Group**

The Panel considered the appointment of a Member to the Scrap Metal Working Group set to be operated by the Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

The Chair explained that following a Notice of Motion to Council on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2011, the Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel was establishing a Working Group to consider businesses dealing in scrap and other associated activities from their homes. As this was a cross-cutting issue, the Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel would like to invite a member of the Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel to join the Working Group.

### **Resolved**

That Councillor Ann Young be nominated to join the Scrap Metal Working Group.

## 108/11 **Work programme 2011/12 and Forward Plan**

The Panel considered its work programme and the latest version of Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

### **Resolved**

That:-

- (1) Members be provided with further information regarding Forward Plan decision 48/11 - Aldridge Airport site, Airfield Drive, Aldridge;
- (2) the closure of police front desks be added to the Panel's Work Programme;

## 109/11 **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be 6.00 p.m. on 29 November, 2011.

The meeting terminated at 7.17 p.m.

Signed:

Date: