



Agenda Item No: 4 (i)

Bristol City Council

Minutes of Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission

Monday 8th December 2014 at 2.00pm

Scrutiny Commission Members Present:-

Councillors Lovell (Chair), Harvey (Vice-Chair), Fodor, Greaves, Hance, Janke, Melias and Tincknell

Officers in Attendance:- Alison Comley – Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), Di Robinson (Service Director – Neighbourhoods and Communities), Tracey Morgan (Service Director – Environment and Leisure), Kate Murray (Head of Libraries), Guy Fishbourne (Commissioning Manager – Environment and Leisure), Clare Blake (Strategic Planning and Performance Manager), Romayne De Fonseca (Policy Adviser – Scrutiny), Jeremy Livitt (Democratic Services Officer)

Also In Attendance: Councillor Gus Hoyt – Assistant Mayor for Neighbourhoods and Councillor Glenise Morgan – Cabinet Adviser to the Assistant Mayor

33. Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Frost.

34. Public Forum (Agenda Item 2)

Members noted that there were no Public Forum statements.

35. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were none.

36. Minutes of the Neighbourhoods and Communities Scrutiny Commission – 27th October 2014 (Agenda Item 6)

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the above meeting be signed and confirmed as a correct record by the Chair.

37. Whipping (Agenda Item 4)

It was noted that no notice had been given concerning use of the party whip for any item.

38. Chair's Business (Agenda Item 5)

The Chair raised no business under this item.

39. Action Sheet (Agenda Item 7)

Members noted progress concerning action arising out of the last meeting.

40 Work Programme (Agenda Item 8)

The Scrutiny Commission noted the Work programme for the remainder of 2014/15. It was noted that consultation was a key emerging theme arising from the Parks and Green Spaces Inquiry Day on 17th November - parks groups needed to be kept advised of any recommendations as soon as possible.

It was agreed that a second Waste Disposal Inquiry day was required – it was proposed that the Neighbourhood Partnership Inquiry Day currently scheduled for 10am on Monday 16th March 2015 should be moved to the following Municipal Year (2014/15) to allow this to take place. **Action: Di Robinson/Romayne De Fonseca**

41 Libraries Update – Presentation (Agenda Item 9)

The Service Director (Neighbourhoods and Communities) and Head of Libraries gave a power point presentation on the above issue during which the following points were made:

- (1) The 12 week consultation period would end on 2nd February 2015;
- (2) The consultation had been very successful with 4,000 respondents, including over 600 hard copy replies. There had been 100 people in meetings which had discussed this issue, with 250 in attendance at neighbourhood Forums. The issue had also been raised in the Youth Parliament;
- (3) Consultation had taken place through social media and via the Citizens Panel Survey which had been distributed to nearly 200 people to the end of December 2014. Consultation had also take place via Facebook, Twitter Feed and the Ideas Bank;
- (4) There would also be discussion at Mayor's Question Time on 9th December;
- (5) Research visits would be taking place to libraries in the South West – ie Weston-Super-Mare and Exeter;
- (6) 80 targeted meetings would be taking place with community and special interest groups;
- (7) A business focused meeting was scheduled at 22nd January 2015 at the central library;
- (8) Work was taking place in 7 Primary schools, 3 secondary schools and the Princes Trust;

- (9) An EQIA assessment was being made to consider city wide needs and neighbourhood needs;
- (10) What will inform what the new library service will offer?
- (11) Other issues being discussed – service outcomes, surveys, verbal feedback, finances, BCC opportunities, partner opportunities and demographic trends;
- (12) Carnegie had worked with libraries throughout the country – income, business or commercial opportunities;
- (13) Scrutiny's role included regular meetings with the two Councillor libraries representatives – Martin Fodor and Estella Tincknell
- (14) An Inquiry Day would take place on 22nd January 2015 – design of the proposals would be drawn up post March 2015 in preparation for the Cabinet meeting;

The Chair noted that the extensive consultation process used in this instance could be used as a model for the future. It was acknowledged that this would be a strong political issue. Councillors were requested to advise Di Robinson if any community had not currently provided input into the process.

42 Update on the Sports Commission (Agenda Item 10)

The Commission received a written report concerning the above. Members noted that:

- (1) The Sports Commission had recommended an Independent Sports Partnership be established to work with organisations for the benefit of sport which the Council supports but it has not been set up as a Community Interest Company (CIC); 10 recommendations were proposed for the first 12 months, which all contribute towards the implementation of the wider Bristol:Sport4Life Strategy, for which there are six themes and where the ultimate goal is to increase overall participation.
- (2) Work on a Playing Pitch Strategy for Bristol is nearing completion as is work on a new Sports Facility Strategy, both of which are important to have in order to secure any future potential funding from Sport England and National Governing Bodies for sport.
- (3) Bristol City Council were working with partners such as Sports England and school providers to encourage greater use and access to existing facilities;
- (4) It was proposed to extend schools sports games across Bristol for the further promotion of sports games;
- (5) BCC would be putting in a bid to host the 2019 Cricket World Cup through Gloucestershire County Cricket Club + one other sport event in Bristol;
- (6) A sports event strategy was recommended and identified as being important to have. One key recommendation was to promote women and girls in support. Bristol contained the only self-sustaining Female Rugby Club in country. There was also a celebration of sport across the city;
- (7) Officers were regularly working with groups such as the LTA, the FA, RFU. Clubs have also been worked with.

- (8) In view of the quality of grass pitches, it was proposed to encourage the greater use of astro turf pitches in the future which eases the pressure on existing grass pitches
- (9) Officers were intending to consider fees for pitch hire in 2015 and acknowledged that fees can sometimes be a barrier to participation;
- (10) Some of the smaller clubs would appreciate support in submitting applications for funding – for example, along the lines of VOSCUR in the community grant process;
- (11) It was important to ensure that the sports partnership represented everyone's interests and all partners have a role in delivering the vision of Bristol:Sport4Life.

Action: Officers to investigate a mechanism for providing support to smaller sports clubs when submitting applications for funding – along the lines used for Community Support Grants via VOSCUR – Claire Blake/Tracey Morgan

43 Update on Sports Development Review (Agenda Item 11)

The Commission received a written report on the above issue. Members noted the following:

- (1) Officers were focusing on what could be done for communities via the Community Sports Activation Fund through the securing of £165,000;
- (2) Sports England targeted those who were totally inactive (ie from a health perspective);
- (3) Avonmouth and Kingsweston + Dundry View + Ashley, Easton are the wards that have been identified for this project;
- (4) A Steering Group involving key stakeholders has been set up seeking local knowledge through various organisations such as colleges and community organisations;
- (5) A football foundation funding bid for improvements at Dame Emily Park to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour through engagement with young people has been submitted and a decision is expected before Christmas;
- (6) A project is being explored in Lawrence Weston to repair the BMX track;
- (7) Engagement with the entire family was important in this area – people growing their own food in allotments and parks, encouraged to cook healthily and be active;
- (8) It was noted that work was taking place across the city in this area – although the Chair raised some concern that the south of the city was poorly represented, it was noted that there was work taking place in Dundry View and Filwood (Learning Partnership West);
- (9) Work was taking place with Avon Mental health to deliver an Active Life Project, including badminton sessions in Kingsdown (cost neutral provision) – in addition, there were GP referrals;

- (10) Whilst it was noted that officers were looking into options for future provision for sport in east Bristol, there was a Doorstep Club at the Rose Green Centre in Whitehall.

44 Bristol Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Strategic Assessment 2013/14 (Agenda Item 12)

The Commission received a written report on this issue. Members noted the following:

- (1) The report set out the current situation and the key trends and patterns;
- (2) There had been a significant amount of change in the city last year. Following a recent change in model by the Police, probation had been restructured and responsibility for the victims of crime now lay with the Police and Crime Commissioner;
- (3) ASB levels were the same as the previous year – good multi-partner agency work was taking place;
- (4) An overview showed that rates of crime were slowing down but that there had been some increase in domestic violence which might partially be due to the fact that people were being given greater encouragement to report it;
- (5) There continued to be a higher than average rate of crime per 1000 residents than BCC's nearest neighbours but the pattern of crime remained inconsistent;
- (6) It was noted that the detection rate was only 32% and needed to be improved – the high levels of deprivation in South Bristol were noted;
- (7) There was discussion concerning a recent incident in Callington Road in which an individual with mental health problems had been held in a prison cell. Whilst it was noted that the Police did everything they could to avoid this situation, this was sometimes unavoidable. However, new custody suites were now in operation, although were not always appropriate in such instances as they required 24 hour monitoring. It was agreed that joint work to reduce such incidents was vital;
- (8) Officers gave information on work being carried out in response to hate crime;
- (9) The success of the restorative approach was acknowledged ie nearly 1300 incidents resolved;
- (10) The importance of increasing ownership of the problem through Neighbourhood Partnerships to get a more proactive approach. The success of schemes in Filwood and in Texas (where community offenders had been turned into protectors) was noted;
- (11) There was an important role for Neighbourhood Watches in this process.

Action: Officers (Alison Comley/Peter Anderson) to

- (1) Examine the potential impact of cuts in mental health services and youth services on policing and the inappropriateness of individuals with mental health problems being held in cells**
- (2) Provide information on Bristol's role as a restorative city**
- (3) Examine suggestions from Councillor Melias concerning increased use of Neighbourhood Partnerships as a mechanism to proactively involve communities in participating in community projects**

45 Progress Report on the Community Safety Projects Funded through the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Safety Grant 2014/15 (Agenda Item 13)

It was noted that the Crime and Substance Misuse Manager was not present.

Resolved – that this item be deferred for discussion to the next formal Scrutiny Commission meeting. Action: Jeremy Livitt

46 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be the Libraries Scrutiny Commission Inquiry Day at 9.30am to 4pm on Thursday 22nd January 2015.

The meeting ended at 3.40pm

CHAIR