

**PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 20 September 2011

Present:

Councillor Douglas Auld (Chairman)
Councillor Kate Lymer (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Harry Stranger, Peter Fortune, Kathy Bance,
John Canvin, Gordon Norrie, Richard Scoates and
Roger Charsley

Katie Chaplin, Judith Cross, Cora Green and Dr Robert
Hadley

Also Present:

Councillor Peter Fookes

**134 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF
ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Beckley and Councillor Charsley
attended as her alternate.

135 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Auld declared a personal interest in Item 10 Bromley Safeguarding
as wife is a Senior Social Worker.

Councillors Roger Charsley and Harry Stranger declared an interest in Item
10 as Members of the Bromley Safeguarding Board.

**136 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING**

There were no questions from Councillors or Members of the Public.

**137 MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PDS
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26TH JULY 2011**

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting of Public Protection
and Safety PDS Committee held on 26th July were considered:

Minute 126

Susie Clark would provide an update on the newsletter at the Policy
Development and Scrutiny Committee in November.

Minute 130

The letter to the DCMS (Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Local MP's had been sent but to date no response had been received.

Minute 131

The resolutions 3 and 4 to be altered as follows:

3. Option 2 to be considered for implementation in March 2012 after a pilot of option 3 has been completed
4. A verbal update to be considered at the January meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2011 be agreed.

138 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Report RES11078

Matters arising were considered under the minutes.

RESOLVED that matters arising from previous meetings be noted.

139 UPDATE FOLLOWING THE RECENT PUBLIC DISORDER IN BROMLEY

Members considered a report that provided an overview of the actions taken by the Council in partnership with the police following the public disorder experienced in Bromley on Monday 8 August, 2011, which took place after similar, though more severe, riots in other areas of London. They also received a presentation from the Borough Commander Charles Griggs.

The Chairman addressed the committee. He reported on how the public disorder had started following the death of a civilian in Tottenham. This caused local rioting which quickly escalated and spread across the outer London boroughs

Rioting and looting took place in Bromley, Beckenham, Orpington, and the impact of the disorder was felt to a lesser extent in wards such as Biggin Hill, Penge and Cator, Hayes and Coney Hall, Petts Wood and Knoll and Plaistow and Sundridge. In total

The Borough Commander showed a DVD of some of the CCTV footage of the incidents. The images were very clear and the control room were able to "follow" certain rioters.

Initially large numbers of Bromley officers had been drafted to cover the disorder in London. On the day that the incidents happened in Bromley the numbers of available officers were severely reduced. However he was able to call upon 12 officers, trained in public disorder control, to support the other officers. A team was assembled to monitor the social network activity, the CCTV control room was put on alert and staff who were not due to be working came in to assist as the service was overstretched monitoring the number of incidents taking place. Messages went to Town Centre Managers and the Glades Shopping Centre was put on "lock down".

The motivation for the police was regain control. Mr Griggs was in contact with the Portfolio Holder and the Director. The following day all floral arrangements were removed; building sites were cleared or secured as was anything that could be used as a missile. Seventy five officers were deployed every day. This put out a strong message that this disorder would not be tolerated.

In circumstances such as this the police forces offer "Mutual Aid". 30 of the 42 Police forces sent officers to the London Area.

After the disturbances the Police and Council officers visited affected businesses that had been targeted to listen to their concerns and discuss what assistance could be given.

The Director of Environmental services then addressed members. He explained that during the disorder himself, members and partner organisation met 2 or 3 times a day to co-ordinate and monitor the situation.

He explained that one of the main problems was the misinformation on the social network sites. Most of the reports were not substantiated.

The department worked with the Town Centre managers ensure businesses knew how to claim compensation.

He highlighted how useful the CCTV coverage had been and the deployment of the police. Ward Security were drafted in to provide another uniformed presence on the streets.

After the disturbances the cleansing operation was swift to minimise the visual impact.

The Portfolio Holder echoed much of the previous comments. The cross team working between the council, Police and members was excellent. The CCTV control staff coped admirably in producing 2500 hours of high quality CCTV footage. He felt this demonstrated that, when suggestions for cutting the number of CCTV officers in the past had been rejected it was the right decision as the service had proved to be invaluable in identifying and subsequently prosecuting offenders.

The Portfolio Holder also thanked Susie Clarke who worked non-stop ensuring communication was passed on between officers the Portfolio Holder and the Leader. She also ensured partnership working by communicating with community groups and residents' associations.

In response to questions members were advised that the disorder was not, in the main, gang related.

The Borough Commander explained that it has been very difficult when looking at the social networking sites to distinguish fact from rumour. He added that the sites had been used to "stir things up".

The public reaction to the violence was incredible and the courts were supported with the harsh stance they took on offenders and the sentences handed out.

As James Cleverly, MPA member was present he was invited to comment on the disturbances. He repeated the problems with initial lack of resources in Bromley at the start of the troubles but that through mutual support from other forces this was soon rectified.

In conclusion the Chairman recorded his thanks to:

- The Communications staff for keeping the Police and the Council informed.
- The Emergency for having the plans in place.
- The CCTV staff who worked tirelessly gathering footage of the disorder.
- The Police Officers for protecting the public
- Ward Security for supporting the Police
- The street cleansing team for the rapid response in returning the borough to normality.
- The managers and staff of the Public Protection department
- And everyone else involved in the operation

HOLDING THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO ACCOUNT

140 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING

There were no questions from Councillors or Members of the Public.

141 PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PORTFOLIO - PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The Committee noted decisions taken by the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder since the Committee's last meeting in July.

Decision reference PPS11011 was signed and circulated on 2nd August and call in expired on 9th August. However the Chairman and Portfolio Holder felt that this decision needed to be amended. A new decision notice would be circulated with the decisions from this meeting.

This amended decision would change the second [art of the decision to:

“That option 2 be implemented at the beginning of March following the trial for of Option 3 prove.

RESOLVED that the decisions be noted.

A) COMMUNITY SAFETY BUDGET 2011/12

The Committee considered a report which gave an updated on the latest Community Safety budget for 2011/12.

Members noted that In 2011/12, the decision was made by the GLA to simply ‘passport’ the grant allocations to each Borough based on previous years’ allocation formula. Each local authority was required to submit a detailed spending plan for 2011/12 to the Mayor’s Office for approval and there is a requirement for quarterly progress reports to be submitted to the GLA. The 2011/12 grant resources were 80% of the 2010/11 SSC fund and it is expected that the 2012/13 CS grant will be reduced by a further 50%, making the resultant grant 40% of the 2010/11 grant level. Members should note that a further report will be brought to the October meeting which will have details of budget saving proposals to meet the reduction in grant expected for 2012/13 in order to set a balanced budget.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the report is noted.**
- 2. a further report will be brought back to the October meeting of the Public Protection and Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee.**

B) REVIEW OF THE FOOD SAFETY TEAM

In May 2011 the findings of an ‘Aligning Policy and Finance’ review carried out by the Organisational Improvement Team was presented to Cabinet which recommended among other things that the Food Safety function be subject to a review with the aim of saving operating costs.

A review was undertaken by Paul Lehane (Head of Food, Safety & Licensing) and Clive Davison (Assistant Director Public Protection) with the assistance of the Team Coordinators.

Members considered the outcomes of the review and the 2 possible options. With Option 2 they were aware that the loss of an Environmental Health Officer would have implications on the service. The Team undertook an average of 4.3 inspections per day and if this is added to the number of reviews undertaken it would take the number of visits per day to 5.6. This workload would not be possible if another team member was lost.

Then team had already been reduced as one team member had retired and had not been replaced due to the recent budget cuts.

Members then considered options 1a and 1b. They recognised that if the Admin posts were both cut this would then mean that qualified staff and divisional administrators would have to carry out these duties. This would not be possible if Option 2 were agreed.

Option 1b would see a reduction in the responses to complaints about food manufactured, prepared or sold in the borough. In the review it was noted that a minimal service could be provided for a budget of £6000 with a minimal risk.

Members discussed the options and concluded that option 2 was not the preferred option but that Option 1a and b should be recommended to the Portfolio Holder.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the review is noted.**
- 2. that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to adopt options 1a and 1b and that no further action be taken on option 2.**

142 UPDATE ON LBB MENTORING SCHEME

At its meeting on 6th April the committee had agreed to the establishment of a Mentoring Scheme. The recommendation was agreed that £45k per annum for 3 years would be approved to support the initiative.

Officers updated members on the current position. Due to the recent public disorder and the school holidays there had not been a large take up for the scheme. However this had increased since the beginning of the new school term and the prediction was that this would continue to increase.

Members noted that all the mentors were volunteers and that each one had more than one case, but this would increase from October as the number of referrals increased.

The recommendation was for a further report would be brought back to the committee at the end of the financial year. It was felt that this should be brought back to the January meeting.

RESOLVED THAT

- 1. the report is noted**
- 2. A further report is brought back to the January meeting of the Public Protection and Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee.**

143 ADULT SAFEGUARDING - IMPACT OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY PUBLIC PROTECTION & SAFETY TEAMS

Members considered a report which contained an overview of the work carried out by Public Protection and the impact it had on older and vulnerable adults.

The Portfolio Holder had made it clear that this area was a priority in the coming year and the meeting of the Committee in October would focus on this topic.

Officers and Members felt that certain partner agencies and officers should be asked to make short presentations at the meeting. This would include: Victim Support, Trading Standards, Bromley Carers, BCEF and the Police.

RESOLVED that the report is noted and the groups listed above are invited to the Public Protection and Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on 25th October.

144 BROMLEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

Members were presented with a report giving an overview of the main issues raised from the 2010/11 annual report of the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB).

Officers explained that the role of the board was to safeguard vulnerable. They highlighted the joint working between the board, health service and the Police.

RESOLVED that the report is noted.

145 SCHEDULE OF VISITS

Councillor Auld gave feedback on the recent visit to SLAM. Unfortunately only 3 of the 9 members who had asked to attend did so. He said the managers of SLAM had made themselves available and put together a very interesting programme. He encouraged others to go.

It was agreed that the clerk would remind members of the 2 forthcoming visits.

In addition there was still an ongoing offer for members to accompany officers on food safety visits and the clerk was arranging a visit to a drug treatment centre.

A full list would be brought back to the next meeting so that future visits could be agreed.

146 WORK PROGRAMME

Report RES11079

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2011/12.

Some changes were made to the programme:

A verbal update on the noise service and an update on the mentoring scheme would be added to the January meeting.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme, including the above additions, for the Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee be approved.

The Meeting ended at 9.40 pm

Chairman