

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

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 22 March 2011

**Present:**

Councillor Tim Stevens J.P. (Chairman)  
Councillor Douglas Auld (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Kate Lymer, Will Harmer, Kathy Bance and  
John Canvin

Cora Green

**Also Present:**

Councillor Peter Fookes, Councillor Peter Morgan,  
Councillor Michael Tickner, Charles Griggs and Sue  
Cooper

**STANDARD ITEMS**

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Peter Fortune and Councillor Roxhannah Fawthrop attended as his alternate. Apologies were also received from Councillors Hastings and Stranger. Judith Cross from Bromley Community Engagement Forum also sent apologies.

**88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

None.

**90 MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PDS  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1st FEBRUARY 2011**

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 be agreed.

**91 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Members considered matters arising from previous meetings.

**92 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES**

That Chairman advised that Elaine Morgan had produced a briefing paper giving an update on the Youth Offending Team. This was supported by a letter from the Courts Service giving positive feedback on the role of YOT in the courts.

The Chairman was pleased to see the improvements in YOT and congratulated officers on “moving forward” and improving the service.

**93 AGENDA FOR THE SAFER BROMLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING - 24TH MARCH 2011**

Members considered the agenda of the meeting of the Safer Bromley Partnership meeting to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

The Portfolio Holder explained that a number of the items were also on this agenda. He was expecting Jill Locket from SLAM to attend.

**94 WITNESS SESSIONS**

The Committee received presentations from Victim Support and Affinity Sutton. Members of the Committee questioned both parties and the presentations are attached as appendices to these minutes.

**HOLDING THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO ACCOUNT**

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

There were no questions to the Portfolio Holder from members of the Public and Councillor attending the meeting.

**96 PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PORTFOLIO - PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

The Committee noted a decision taken by the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio Holder since the Committee’s last meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011.

**RESOLVED that the decision be noted.**

**A) BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2010/11**

The Committee considered a report which gave an update on the latest budget monitoring position for 2010/11 for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio based on expenditure and income to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 which showed a projected overspend of £10,000 due to a reduction in income from licensing. Officers explained that this would be offset against an under spend on the “Smoke free” initiative.

With regard to dogs the Director reported that this was now in hand and that they were now using kennelling in Southwark which was a saving on the previous kennel expenses.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to endorse the latest budget monitoring projection for the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio**

**B) ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION**

The report provided an outline of the Government’s recent consultation process to identify changes to how Anti-Social Behaviour was tackled and what powers would be available to local Council’s and Partners in reducing the harm caused by anti-social behaviour. The consultation was attached to the report.

The Vice-chairman asked, in relation to point 3.3 in the report, how they would make the informal and out-of-court tools for dealing with anti social behaviour more rehabilitative and restorative. The Head of Community Safety explained that there was nothing in the consultation to support this other than citizens’ panels. He added that the mentoring scheme could be crucial in the success of the behaviour strategy.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) the comments of the Committee on the Government’s consultation document “More Effective Response to Anti-Social Behaviour” be noted; and**
- (b) the key elements identified by the Committee be included in the response from the London Borough of Bromley to the Government’s consultation document.**

**97 PREVENT GRANT 2010/2011 AND LAA REWARD MONEY**

The Committee considered proposals for the drawing down and allocating funds to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio. In relation to the Prevent Grant allocation, the proposal built on the previous report to the Public Protection and Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on 14 December 2010. In relation to the Local Area Agreement Reward funding the report included proposals to allocate funds to support the ongoing provision of the Domestic Abuse Advocacy service and also the continuation of funding for the Safer Bromley Van until March 2013.

Members were happy to support all the proposals, in particular the Bromley Van as Cora Green, co-opted member representing Bromley Victim Support had outlined how important this was in delivering their services to their clients. They were also keen to see the mentoring scheme being supported.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. The report is noted.**
- 2. The Portfolio Holder is asked to:**
  - 1.1 Request the Executive to agree the release of the non-ring fenced Prevent monies of £138k held in the 2010/11 Central Contingency Sum for the mentor scheme for the period April 2011 until March 2014 as detailed in 3.5.**
  - 1.2 Request the Executive to agree the release of £315k from the LAA monies to provide £240,000 funding for Domestic Abuse Advocacy scheme between April 2011 and March 2014 and £75,000 for the Safer Bromley Van project between April 2011 and March 2013.**

**A) REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) - PROPOSAL FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGE**

The Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services advised the Committee of the proposed legislative changes to the procedures under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000.

The consultation relating to proposed changes to the Management and reduction of Anti-social behaviour “More Effective Response to Anti-Social Behaviour” was attached to the report for consideration by members.

Members felt that with the proposals protocols would need to be established with the courts. As Ulanta Meseter represented the Courts on the Safer Bromley Partnership it was agreed that this might be the opportunity to discuss a possible approach.

The Committee felt that agreed that the powers should be used “sensibly” but would be useful for issues such as alcohol, underage drinking and use of fireworks.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**98 UPDATE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FORM THE BECKENHAM AND WEST WICKHAM TOWN CENTRE WORKING PARTY**

The Assistant Director of Public Protection submitted a report which gave an update on the actions taken by Public Protection regarding the recommendations of the Member Working Group review of Beckenham and West Wickham town centres as they related to the Public Protection and Safety Portfolio.

Councillor Tickner addressed the committee in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Party. The following issues were raised:

**3.5 Planning and Licensing** - The strengthening of the licensing Policy with effect from January 2011 had been welcomed and Councillor Tickner thanked officers.

**3.8 Public Protection and Safety** -Best Bar none- This was running again in Bromley and Orpington but if it proved successful it may be rolled out borough wide.

**3.9 Control of private alleyways** – Councillor Tickner asked if the council could force alleyways to be locked to stop rough sleeping and fly tipping. Officers explained that they could only impose gating orders on registered alleyways.

**3.11 Policing** – Councillor Tickner commented that Beckenham needed more policing on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays as these days tended to be busy. A police presence was needed until 2am.

**3.13 Street Pastors** - Councillor welcomed the introduction of Street Pastors

**3.14/3.15 Police Shops** – Councillor was concerned that these were not open longer hours. Commander Griggs explained that West Wickham had a limited counter service. When consulted the public had requested more police officers in the local community. The purpose of the Police Shops was for Officers to have a base from which to patrol. This also saved time in that officers went straight to the Police shop rather than go to the Police station at Bromley first.

**3.18 Street Cleaning** – Safer Neighbourhood team members could Issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN). Councillor Tickner asked for statistics on the number of FPN's issued within a certain time frame.

**3.24 Notice Boards** – these were, in some cases, looking neglected and the information displayed was out of date. It was agreed that a list of all the notice boards and the responsible officer would be circulated. Officers reported that there was a map of all the notice boards and officers were working on a system for ensuring all information was up to date.

The Chairman congratulated officers for dealing with the items raised by the Working Party and asked for an update in 12 months.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

## **99 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chairman of the Public Protection and Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee submitted his annual report. He highlighted the achievements of the Committee in the 2010/11 municipal year.

He felt that the Portfolio was truly cross cutting and thanked fellow Councillors, co-opted Committee members for all their hard work and support and for the dedication, commitment and support of officers.

RESOLVED that the report is noted.

## **100 SCHEDULE OF VISITS**

The Chairman reported that he, the Vice-Chairman and the Portfolio Holder would be visiting a bail hostel on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The time was still to be confirmed.

The visit to the Lambeth Control room needed to be set. Officers would liaise with the Police for a suitable date.

South London and Maudsley Trust (SLAM) were going to be making a presentation to a joint meeting of the Public Protection and Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee and the Adult and Community Services Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> April. At this meeting the Chairman would request a visit to SLAM.

## **101 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2010/11. It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee could take place on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011 and would be a joint meeting with the Adult and Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee.

At the time of the meeting the programme of meetings had still not been finalised. The Chairman explained that he would like to continue with the "Thematic" approach and suggested Youth Offending and the Probation Service. When asked for suggestions the members felt the following would

be beneficial either for “themes” or for areas where they would like a report to committee:

- Fire Service (t include a visit)
- Summary of Achievements of the Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee over the last 3 years.
- Put crime data on each meeting as the statistics were available. This would come under Chairman’s updates.
- Ask all presenters to explain in their presentations how they measure success.
- Set up a budget working group to work with officers to identify where further cuts could be made.

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

The Meeting ended at 9.38 pm

Chairman