

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, 7th April, 2010
at 9.30 am in the Marion Attwood Room, Council Offices**

Present: Councillor A Perkins (Chairman)

Councillor Calvert-Mindell
Councillor MacCaul
Councillor Reuby
Councillor Samper
Councillor Thomas
Councillor Windsor

Officers: Dan Hamlin - Improvement Manager
Charlotte Hammersley - Senior Scrutiny and Improvement Officer
Douglas Rattrey - Community Safety Manager
Graham Finch - Senior Democratic Services Officer
(Executive & Council)

1 **APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Parry.

2 **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

There were no substitute Members in attendance at the meeting.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS**

There were no declarations for the meeting.

4 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS**

There had been no requests from members of the public to speak on any items on the agenda for the meeting.

5 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2010**

The minutes of the above meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6 **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2010**

There were no actions which required further discussion at the meeting.

7 **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY**

The Sub-Committee received a report by the Head of Policy and Improvement, which provided an update on the work on the Safer Canterbury District Partnership.

The report provided details of the Partnership Plan for the period 2010 to 2013. The Plan included in the priorities for action planning that had been established through an analysis of the strategic assessment and views of the local communities expressed through the PACT process and the involvement of the council's partners.

The report also included details of an analysis of the crime figures for the Canterbury District. The Community Safety Manager drew attention to some of the findings and mentioned that the Plan was monitored on a quarterly basis.

Members commented on some of the findings and related issues.

The Sub-Committee noted the report and requested that a breakdown of the crime figures for individual areas be reported to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

The Chairman requested that a report be made to a future meeting, which provided information about some of the actions by the city council on the key activities listed in the report that affected the environment. The Sub-Committee was also interested to receive information about the legislation that was available to deal with the range of issues.

8 ANNUAL SCRUTINY PROGRAMME 2010/11

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Policy and Improvement that advised that as part of the ongoing development of the scrutiny programme, there had been consultation on potential topics for scrutiny that would be carried out later this year.

The report indicated that the short topic reviews in the current programme related to the following

Litter, fly-tipping and bulky waste collection (The Improvement Manager mentioned that a scoping report for the review would be made to the next meeting on the Sub-Committee)

Public Safety Unit
Graffiti

The Executive sponsored scrutiny would cover

The identification of traveller sites
Responding to the Equalities Act

The report outlined the process for developing the future scrutiny programme, which included consultation with key stakeholder groups and members of the public, who usually made suggestions for reviews through a form in District Life magazine. This was due to be published in June.

The report also drew attention to a resource issue, which affected the amount and timing of the reviews and also the shared services project that needed officer support.

It had been previously agreed that there should be a scrutiny review of council-run leisure facilities. However, there had been discussions between the Chief Executive, the Leader and the Chairman of the Sub-Committee about the process for this review

as the Executive Member, whose portfolio area of responsibility covered the issue, wished to be involved, but he could not serve on the Scrutiny Review Panel.

There was alternative approach, which involved an Executive Working Group looking at the way in which council-run leisure facilities were provided. The process for the review had not yet been decided.

The Sub-Committee discussed the matter and felt

- (a) that there should be a scrutiny review of the council-run leisure facilities.;
- (b) that an independent Lead Officer should be appointed for the review;
- (c) that the scrutiny review should start as soon as possible and a programme of meetings arranged for the review. The Chairman of the Scrutiny Review, Councillor Reuby, indicated that she would discuss the situation with the Chief Executive.

In view of the urgency in commencing the Scrutiny Review as quickly as possible, the Sub-Committee

RESOLVED - That the Head of Policy and Improvement, in consultation with the Chairman of the Scrutiny Review, be delegated power to agree the scope for the Scrutiny Review and that a further report should be made to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.

9 TIMETABLE FOR MONITORING SCRUTINY REVIEWS

RESOLVED – That the update, now reported, on the current scrutiny review programme be noted.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Sub-Committee noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 5 May 2010 at 9.30am, but this meeting might be cancelled unless it is required to consider any urgent issues relating to the scrutiny review for council-run leisure facilities. If the meeting was still required for that purpose, the Sub-Committee requested that the Chief Executive attend the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.35 am