

BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILS

Minutes of the meeting of the **JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Sir Bobby Robson Suite, Portman Road, Ipswich, IP1 2DA on Monday, 24 July 2023

PRESENT:

Chair: James Caston

Councillors:	Leigh Jamieson	Elisabeth Malvisi
	Mary McLaren (Co-Chair)	Janet Pearson
	Miles Row	Keith Scarff
	Laura Smith	Rowland Warboys
	John Whyman	

In attendance:

Councillor(s): Derek Davis – Chair of the WSCSP
Sarah Mansel – Vice-Chair of the WSCSP

Witness(es): Janine Wratten – Suffolk Constabulary Superintendent
Richard Baldwin – Suffolk County Council Head of Community Safety

Officers: Corporate Manager for Communities (VM)
Assistant Manager for Communities Safety and Resilience (RY)
Community Safety Officer (IR / PW)
Corporate Manager for Governance and Civic Office (JR)
Lead Officer for Overview and Scrutiny (AN)

Apologies:

Councillors: Terence Carter
Kathryn Grandon

1 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Kathryn Grandon and Councillor Terence Carter.
- 1.2 Councillor Elisabeth Malvisi substituted for Councillor Grandon.
- 1.3 Councillor Rowland Warboys substituted for Councillor Carter.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 2.1 None declared.

3 JOS/23/01 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2023

By a vote of 2 For and 8 Abstentions

It was RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2023 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

4 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME

4.1 None received.

5 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

5.1 None received.

6 QUESTIONS BY COUNCILLORS

6.1 None received.

7 JOS/23/02 WESTERN SUFFOLK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

7.1 Councillor Derek Davis, Chair of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership, introduced the report to the Committee outlining before Members the purpose of the Partnership, the priorities of the Partnership, how issues in our communities are identified, the teams and organisations that work collaboratively to form the Partnership, and commended the Officers involved in running the Partnership for their work.

7.2 Councillor Whyman queried if a more effective strategic approach could be taken to provide new Councillors with a better understanding of the Partnership's work. The Corporate Manager for Communities responded that a schedule of training on the work of the Partnership would be organised and circulated to Members.

7.3 Councillor Jamieson questioned if the main purposes of the Partnership were to deliver training and to raise awareness of issues that the Partnership deals with. The Corporate Manager for Communities responded that this was a key aspect of the Partnership's work in order to ensure that incidents that happen within the Districts are quickly identified and resolved.

7.4 Councillor Malvisi questioned if members of the Partnership liaised with local housing associations. The Corporate Manager for Communities responded that Babergh and Mid Suffolk hosted monthly Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Panel meetings, which included representatives from Suffolk Police and local housing associations, which discussed incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Districts.

- 7.5 Councillor McLaren queried the costs of running the Partnership. The Corporate Manager for Communities responded that the Partnership did not have a formal budget, that there was access to a small funding pot which community groups could bid for, and that there was currently no data on how much Officer time, and its associated financial worth, is dedicated to working on the Partnership.
- 7.6 Councillor McLaren further questioned if there was an order of priority for how certain incidents of hate crime are dealt with. The Superintendent responded that there was not an order of priority but that a new national delivery plan for dealing with hate crime had been launched two weeks prior.
- 7.7 Councillor Row questioned what mitigation measures were in place to prevent radicalisation occurring in Ipswich from reaching Babergh and Mid Suffolk. The SCC Head of Community Safety responded that every local authority had a PREVENT delivery group dedicated to identifying and stopping radicalisation in their areas.
- 7.8 Councillor Warboys queried if there were lines of communication between the Partnership and different grassroots community groups. The Superintendent responded that each locality had a designated Community Engagement Officer dedicated to communicating with different community groups and identifying issues for the Partnership to resolve.
- 7.9 Councillor Caston questioned how proactively the Partnership could work to resolve issues concerning violence against women and girls (VAWG), particularly within schools. The SCC Head of Community Safety responded that secondary schools had a statutory obligation to provide “healthy relationship” sessions for students. The Corporate Manager for Communities further responded that there was a co-opted education member on the Partnership.
- 7.10 Councillor Malvisi queried if there were lines of communication between the Partnership and the Parish Councils in our Districts. The SCC Head of Community Safety responded that communication with Parish Councils happened through the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC).
- 7.11 Councillor Caston questioned if “return home” interviews were conducted in resolved missing children cases. The Superintendent responded that these interviews did take place and that Multi-Agency Criminal Exploitation (MACE) panels had been set up to support young people where appropriate.
- 7.12 Councillor Whyman queried the risks and costs of Officers undertaking further statutory duties in connection to their work on the Partnership. The SCC Head of Community Safety responded that further responsibilities would result in increased financial costs for recruiting external officers to undertake duties and that there would be risks regarding the capacity of Officers to fulfil their standard responsibilities within their organisations.

- 7.13 The Assistant Manager for Communities and Resilience presented part two of the report concerning anti-social behaviour (ASB) to the Committee and introduced Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Community Safety Officers.
- 7.14 Councillor Scarff questioned about the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Board's five identified principles and whether these have aided the Partnership. The Community Safety Officers responded that the principles existed to ensure a uniform approach across each local authority and that these principles had aided the Partnership in providing support.
- 7.15 Councillor McLaren queried if a review could be conducted into the anti-social behaviour reporting system. The Community Safety Officers detailed the current reporting process and responded that the system for reporting could be reviewed if requested.
- 7.16 Councillor Smith questioned about what the case review process entailed. The Community Safety Officers provided an overview of the case review process for Members.

A short break was taken between 11:20am and 11:35am.

- 7.17 Members debated the item on the following issues:

- The Partnership's link to the Significant Business Risk Register
- Further training for Councillors on issues covered by the Partnership
- The risk of further statutory items being assigned to Officers
- The cost and time input of BMSDC Officers into the Partnership
- Communication with District and Parish Councillors

- 7.18 The Lead Officer for Overview and Scrutiny put forward the following recommendations based on questions and debate from Members:

- That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the report and commends the Officers involved for their work within the Partnership.
- That an All Member Briefing and further training be delivered for all Councillors regarding the topics covered by the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership, including how to report anti-social behaviour and an updated contact list.
- That a review of the current costs of Babergh and Mid Suffolk resources, and the potential impact of further statutory responsibilities, is undertaken and reported back to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- That the level of engagement with community groups within the Districts is incorporated into the next review of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and is reported to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- That a review is undertaken of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership's position within the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Significant

Business Risk Register.

- That more formal communication procedures are put in place between the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and our parish / town Councils.

7.19 Councillor Row proposed the recommendations as read out by the Lead Officer.

7.20 Councillor Whyman seconded the proposal.

By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:

- 1.1. That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the report and commends the Officers involved for their work within the Partnership.**
- 1.2. That an All Member Briefing and further training be delivered for all Councillors regarding the topics covered by the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership, including how to report anti-social behaviour and an updated contact list.**
- 1.3. That a review of the current costs of Babergh and Mid Suffolk resources, and the potential impact of further statutory responsibilities, is undertaken and reported back to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- 1.4. That the level of engagement with community groups within the Districts is incorporated into the next review of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and is reported to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- 1.5. That a review is undertaken of the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership's position within the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Significant Business Risk Register.**
- 1.6. That more formal communication procedures are put in place between the Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership and our parish / town Councils.**

8 JOS/23/03 FORTHCOMING DECISIONS LIST

8.1 The Forthcoming Decisions List was noted.

9 JOS/23/04 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTION TRACKER

9.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Action Tracker was noted.

10 JOS/23/05 BABERGH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

10.1 The Babergh Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan was noted.

11 JOS/23/06 MID SUFFOLK OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

11.1 The Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Work Plan was noted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 12:15pm.

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Chair