

**MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON**

13 October 2020

7.30 - 8.05 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Tony Edwards (Chair)
Councillor David Carter (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Joel Charles
Councillor Bob Davis
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop
Councillor Shannon Jezzard
Councillor Shona Johnson
Councillor Emma Toal
Councillor Nancy Watson

Officers

Simon Hill, Head of Governance
Adam Rees, Governance Support Officer

22. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Simon Carter.

23. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

24. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2020 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25. **MATTERS ARISING**

a) Minute 14 - Matters Arising

The Committee noted that more information on paddling pools costs had been circulated.

b) Minute 19 - Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2020/21

Councillor Hulcoop explained that she and Councillor Edwards had met Officers to discuss work carried out on domestic abuse within the Community Impact Officer work stream for Covid-19 recovery. She updated the Committee on the work which was being carried

out and said that she would continue to have discussions on the matter with Officers.

26. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None.

27. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None.

28. **RESPONSES OF THE CABINET TO REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

None.

29. **POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REVIEW**

- a) Topic Submission Form

RESOLVED that the topic submission form be agreed.

- b) Agreement of Scope and Questions

The Committee considered a list of questions for potential submission to the Police for a presentation, and question and answer session at a subsequent meeting.

The Committee agreed that the question on county lines would be amended to look at reinforcement of work going forwards following the recent raids earlier in the month.

It was also agreed the questions on the prevalence of shoplifting, and bicycle use in the town centre, would be added.

RESOLVED that the questions appended to the minutes would be submitted to the Police.

30. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee received a report summarising its work plan for 2020/21. The Committee noted that a quote had been received from a consultant to carry out the Delivery of Council House Building Programme and Housing and Accommodation Requirements for Adults with a Moderate/Severe Learning Disability reviews.

The Committee agreed that for each review, a Councillor from both of the Political Groups would be nominated to engage with the consultant.

RESOLVED that the work plan be noted.

31. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

32. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

| Police priority | Questions |
|---|--|
| More local, visible and accessible policing | What progress has been made regarding Policing in the Town Centre and neighbourhood areas? |
| Cracking down on antisocial behaviour | <p>What preventative methods are you using to combat issues such as anti-social behaviour?</p> <p>In cracking down on ASB, have there been any multi agency case conferences on ASB in Harlow?</p> <p>Is the use of AirBNB or similar an emerging crime in Harlow? What steps have been taken to close down these venues, referring to party 100+ Nicholls Field or similar music event in warehouse areas</p> <p>What additional resources are being used to address issue of unlawful Traveller Encampments in the absence of current injunction?</p> <p>Because of the enforcement ruling now on face masks and no more than 6 meeting. Do the Police have enough numbers to deal with those residents who disobey these rules under COVID situation?</p> <p>Has there been an increase or decrease in shoplifting following the Covid restrictions?</p> <p>Has there been an increase or decrease in cyclists within the town centre following the Covid lockdown?</p> |
| Breaking the cycle of domestic abuse | |
| Tackling gangs and serious violence | <p>Modern Slavery questions: Is it an issue in Harlow? Have there been any charges brought over the past three years? What was the nature of the slavery – domestic service/prostitution/massage parlours/nail bars/car washing/agriculture/other? Is it something about which we should be aware? How can we be aware? To whom should we report an suspicions?</p> <p>In tackling gangs and serious violence, how successful has Harlow Divn been and where is there a need for improvement?</p> |

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|---|--|
| | <p>What prevention work is taking place in Harlow Divn to discourage young people from joining gangs?</p> <p>County lines? Following on from the recent raids which saw 19 people arrested on 8 October, what is being done to reinforce this work going forwards?</p> |
| Disrupting and preventing organised crime | |
| Protecting children and vulnerable people from harm | With the high number of Permitted Developments in Harlow and families being transferred from London Boroughs, is information being shared around violence & vulnerability and potential victims? |
| Improving safety on our roads | In improving road crime are there any Community Speedwatch groups in the Harlow area? |
| Other Questions | |
| | Overall what are the current issues for your service in Harlow ? |
| | Are there any ways that you feel we could/ should improve joint working? |