

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Meeting held on Thursday, 16th November, 2017.

Present:- Councillors Sadiq (Chair), Chahal (Vice-Chair from 6.36pm), N Holledge, Parmar, Rana, Sarfraz, A Sandhu and R Sandhu.

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillors Arvind Dhaliwal, Munawar, Smith and Wright.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Chaudhry.

PART I

34. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

35. Minutes of the Meetings held on 14th September and 30th October 2017

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 14th September and 30th October 2017 be approved as a correct record.

36. Member Questions

None received.

37. Presentation by the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, Mr Anthony Stansfeld was welcomed to the meeting. Also in attendance were Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, Mr Frances Habgood and Deputy Commander, Mr Mark Spencer.

Mr Stansfeld informed Members that recorded crime had increased by 7.2% within the Thames Valley area, compared to a national increase of 11%. The increase was largely attributed to improvements in compliance with National Crime Recording Standards, following recommendations made by HMIC in 2014. Victim satisfaction remained high at 88% compared with the national average of 84%. It was highlighted that the recent assessment of Thames Valley Police force had rated the service as outstanding across all areas of policing – effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy.

Details of the Adult and Youth Surveys were outlined, the findings of which would inform the PCC's strategic priorities for 2017-2021. It was noted that there had been a 28% reduction in the PCC's budget, which equated to a loss of £100 million in real terms.

The Chief Constable outlined details of the current policing issues in Slough. Although there had been a reduction in the number of residential burglaries, concerns regarding an increase in young people linked to gang related

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violence and carrying knives was raised. A number of initiatives had been implemented to address this issue, including the establishment of a multi agency problem solving Organised Crime Group. Working together to build stronger, more resilient communities was key to ensuring early intervention partnership working.

The operational priorities for 2017/18 were highlighted as reducing crimes of most concern – burglaries, violence, serious and organised crime; protecting vulnerable people – domestic abuse, hate crime, child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation; bringing offenders to justice and a reduction in repeat demand.

Committee Members raised the following issues in the ensuing discussion:

- *What the Council could do to assist the police force.* It was noted that a strong partnership existed between the Council and TVP and the Slough Safer partnership was an excellent forum in development and implementation of initiatives. However, Councillors had a significant role to play regarding engagement with their respective communities. It was noted that individuals from an ethnic minority group were under represented on TVP work force and Members could encourage individuals to volunteer or join the police force.
- *Measures taken to address anti-social behaviour.* Members were informed that in known areas of anti social behaviour, Neighbourhood Area teams carried out a more proactive role in dispersing congregating groups of individuals. It was noted that the PCC had allocated funds to the Community Safety Partnership specifically to target issues relating to youth crime. The Committee acknowledged that in order to successfully address anti social behaviour the causes of why this type of behaviour was occurring needed to be identified. The Community Safety Partnership Manager, Garry Tallett informed Members that a Multi Agency Strategy was being developed to identify the possible causes.
- *Concerns relating to online bullying.* The importance of engaging young children in a discussion regarding the importance of staying safe online was recognised and steps were being implemented to engage schools in this discussion offering advice and security tips. It was noted that a pilot Healthy Relationships Programme was currently available for pupils in the last two years at primary and first two years at secondary school, which would be offered to all schools in Slough.
- *Closure of police stations and potential impact in Slough.* The Chief Constable stated that despite financial pressures there had been an increase in the number of officers working in the Slough area. Although a number of Neighbourhood Police Offices had closed, this was due to developments in technology which meant that Officers were provided with hand held devices.

Councillor Arvind Dhaliwal, Cabinet Member for Regulation and Consumer Protection, addressed the Committee, informing Members that he held regular meetings with both the PCC and TVP where local issues had been raised. It

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was noted that the Slough Safety Partnership Board also met on a quarterly basis and was currently focussing on cyber crime and identity fraud.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Mr Stansfeld and Mr Habgood for their presentations and attending the meeting.

Resolved – That details of the presentation be noted.

38. Call In: Arbour Park Community Stadium Slough Town Football Club Agreement with Slough Borough Council

The Committee considered details of a Member Call In that had been received following a Cabinet decision on 16th October regarding the terms of the agreement between Slough Town Football Club (STFC) and Slough Borough Council.

Councillor Smith, a signatory to the Call In, addressed the Committee and summarised details of the Call In. It was submitted that the proposed agreement meant that SBC would be subsidising STFC with no attempt to recover the capital costs of building the stadium to STFC's specifications and only a nominal rent and profit share with STFC on other income to partly cover operating costs falling to the Council. Councillor Smith stated that this conflicted with an undertaking made by the then Leader of the Council, Councillor Anderson, in July 2015 at full Council meeting, that no commitment was being made to subsidise STFC. It was requested that the Council explore putting in place a more realistic business plan which meant that it would receive the market rate for rental of the stadium.

The Director of Finance and Resources informed the meeting that it was proposed that the Council enter an 18 month agreement with STFC, with a break clause enabling either party to terminate the agreement with a minimum three months notice. The contract would be subject to an annual review. Members were reminded that since 2009, STFC had promoted a proposal submitted to the Council for permission to build a new stadium within the Borough. In July 2014, Cabinet had approved that a new Community Sports Facility be developed on the Arbour Park site. The site was now fully operational and being managed by the Council's Facilities Management Team and was STFC ground since the beginning of the 2016/17 football season.

Referring to specific points raised in the Call In, the Director explained that STFC were a hirer of the stadium and had no ownership in the land or asset. The social return on investment sufficiently covered rental costs in a non-monetary value. It was confirmed that there was no record of a Council or Cabinet decision stating that a commitment had been given, by the then Leader of the Council, Councillor Anderson that no subsidies would be made to STFC.

It was explained that multiple users were making use of the community stadium which represented value for money. In response to who kept the proceeds from gate receipts, Members were informed that although all

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proceeds from gate receipts would go to STFC, SBC would receive 50% of income received from the bar. The Director of Finance and Resources assured the Committee that the income generated from gate receipts would be subject to review should STFC get promoted. It was noted that users of other venues were not expected to contribute towards capital costs and reference was made specifically to Slough Jets and the current refurbishment of the Ice Rink.

A number of issues were raised in the ensuing discussion, including what arrangements had been put in place to monitor the terms of the agreement. It was outlined that the contract would be reviewed on an annual basis and a number of Key Performance Indicators would measure the effectiveness of the agreement. It was agreed that a report would be considered by the Committee in twelve months time.

Resolved –

- (a) That no further action be taken in respect of the Call In request of the Cabinet Decision of 16th October 2017 on the Arbour Park Community Stadium Slough Town Football Club Agreement with Slough Borough Council.
- (b) That a progress report, monitoring the Key Performance Indicators within the agreement, be considered by the Committee in twelve months time.

39. Revenue Financial Report 2017/18 - Quarter 2

The Committee were provided with an update on the Council's financial position for Quarter 2 2017/18. The Director of Finance and Resources stated that the financial position had improved by £1.617m which was attributed to investment returns of £500k, budget adjustments of £530k, street lighting maintenance £160k and capitalisation of staff costs of £100k.

It was explained that the main causes for the budget pressures related to the Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness budget due to a sustained increase in demand for temporary housing; a lower than budgeted income expected for Cemeteries and Crematorium, Registrars and Parks and Open Spaces, an overspend on the arvato (Phase 1) Contract in Transactional Services and slippage in delivering the agreed savings on the legal services budget. Management actions and initiatives to address the budget pressures were outlined.

A Member raised the possibility of introducing incentives for individuals to encourage them to pay their council tax by Direct Debit and it was noted that officers would explore this further.

Referring to the current overall financial position for Quarter 2 it was confirmed that this was much better than anticipated, which was mainly due to income generated from Slough Urban Renewal.

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Resolved -

- (a) That the latest financial position be noted.
- (b) That the proposal to delegate the decision for agreeing the formula for schools funding for 18-19 as outlined in paragraph 6.3.4 of the report be noted.
- (c) That the budget virements as listed in paragraph 8 of the report be noted.
- (d) That the write offs as detailed in paragraph 9 of the report be noted.

40. Obesity Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference

Members were reminded that the possibility of a Task and Finish Group was raised at meeting in June 2017. The Group's remit was to undertake work on making Slough an 'exemplar Council' establishing a working environment where the health and wellbeing of staff was central to policy making. It was outlined that particular areas of focus would relate to ensuring that catering at the Council promoted healthy eating and staff were encouraged to undertake physical activity.

The Terms of Reference were outlined for Members information. It was anticipated that the Task and Finish Group was aiming to conclude its work during January 2018.

Resolved – That the Obesity Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be noted.

41. Forward Work Programme

The Scrutiny Officer outlined details of the Forward Work Programme for the Committee 2017/18.

Resolved – That the Forward Work Programme be updated as follows:

March 2018

- Slough Urban Renewal
- Slough Five Year Plan: Outcome 5, Key Action 6 (Cultivate a vibrant town centre)
- Adult Social Care Transformation Programme - Annual Update

42. Members Attendance Record 2017/18

The Committee noted that Councillor R Sandhu had missed three consecutive meetings. Councillor Sandhu stated that the meeting of 30th October 2017 was an Extraordinary meeting and that he was away during this period on planned leave. Having considered all the information and the fact that

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Councillor Sandhu had only missed two scheduled meetings, the Committee agreed that no further action be taken.

Resolved – That details of the Members Attendance Record 2017/18 be noted.

43. Date of Next Meeting - 11th January 2018

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 11th January 2018.

44. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved – That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the items to be considered contain exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (amended).

45. Part II Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 30th October 2017

Resolved – That the Part II minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 30th October 2017 be approved.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.50 pm)