

## **Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Meeting held on Thursday, 15th November, 2018.**

**Present:-** Councillors Arvind Dhaliwal (Chair), R Sandhu (Vice-Chair), R Bains, Minhas, D Parmar, S Parmar, Rana (until 8.00pm) and Sharif

**Also present under Rule 30:-** Councillor Mann

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor Sarfraz

### **PART I**

#### **33. Declarations of Interest**

None received.

#### **34. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 13th September 2018**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be approved as a correct record.

#### **35. Action Progress Report**

In relation to Minute 5 the Committee were informed that the Voting Task and Finish Group would meet in early 2019, the findings of which would be reported to the meeting in March 2019.

**Resolved** – That details of the Action Progress be noted.

#### **36. Member Questions**

None.

#### **37. Presentation by the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and Thames Valley Chief Constable**

The Chair welcomed Antony Stansfeld, Police and Crime Commissioner and Francis Habgood, Chief Constable to the meeting. Temporary Superintendent Grahame, the local area commander for Slough, was also in attendance.

Thames Valley Police was the fourth largest police force in the country and covered 18 local authorities. Mr Stansfeld informed Members that recorded crime had increased by 8.7% within the Thames Valley area in the past year, compared to a national increase of 13%. There were increases reported in offences such as crime against the person (up 12.5%) and weapons offences (up 12.8%). Funding from central government had fallen significantly in recent years, and TVP received less funding per head than many other forces. The PCC had sought to protect services, however, it was indicated

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that there was a direct correlation between police funding and incidents of crime. The Council Tax precept for TVP had therefore been increased by 12% for a Band D property to partially offset some of the reductions from central government.

The Chief Constable outlined details of the current policing issues in Slough and across the Thames Valley more widely. It had been an exceptionally busy year with two Royal weddings and a visit from the President of the United States. Members noted that there had been an 11.1% increase in the number of 999 calls with an average pick up time of 10 seconds. There had been a reduction in call centre staff due to staff turnover which had contributed to an increase in the pick up time for 101 calls to an average of 6 minutes. The increased call volumes was a national issue and members of the public were being encouraged to report incidents online where appropriate.

The Chief Constable summarised some of the key local issues in the past year which included a significant increase in the number of reported violent crimes, partly due to changes to reporting methodology and the increased number of incidents that the police were being asked to become involved with such as bullying in schools. Residential burglaries had also risen which was a particular concern to the PCC and Chief Constable and was an area the force was actively monitoring. The Committee noted a range of problem solving initiatives including Op Conifer that prioritised young people at risk of exploitation; Browns project which was jointly commissioned by the Safer Slough Partnership and the police to divert people with complex needs away from harm; and joint work with the Council on a Public Spaces Protection Order to tackle anti-social behaviour in Chalvey.

Committee Members raised the following issues in the ensuing discussion:

- *What action was being taken on recruitment and retention.* There were recruitment challenges for many organisations in the South East due to the high cost of living but Slough was an attractive place to work. TVP worked with local schools to promote careers in policing and an apprenticeship scheme was due to be launched in 2019. Training programmes were in place to upskill new recruits in areas of skills shortages such as call handlers. It was suggested that TVP be involved in the Council's emerging parking strategy for its new premises to help address any specific practical barriers facing police staff in this regard.
- *Role of PCC and engagement with Slough.* The PCC stated that the role had more public visibility, better engagement and was more democratic than the previous Police Authorities, and had the ability to make decisions more quickly. The overall costs of PCCs was also said to be lower. The PCC visited Slough to discuss local priorities with Members annually and received a lot of feedback and other engagement. Whilst recognising that Slough had some specific issues as highlighted by Members, the Thames Valley was a very large and

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diverse area with many local challenges that all needed to be considered in developing policing plans.

- *The role of neighbourhood policing.* TVP had committed to neighbourhood policing in Slough and had tried to involve local councillors in sector meetings. Neighbourhood teams mapped priorities for their area and engaged widely with communities.
- *The work being done to address Child Sexual Exploitation.* The Safer Slough Partnership was very effective in tackling such issues with a multi-agency approach and had a range of initiatives in place.
- *The perceived slow police response to 'low level' crimes.* The Chief Constable stated that the police had finite resources and therefore had to prioritise serious offences such crimes with risk of threats to individuals.
- *What was being done to tackle ASB and drugs misuse.* This was a high priority and TVP conducted specific operations and had initiatives in place such as the summer programme working with the Safer Slough Partnership.

Members raised a number of other specific issues including the definition of hate crime; the use of stop and search powers; cyber crime; and the call response rates to 999 and 101 numbers.

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.

*(Councillor Rana left the meeting)*

### 38. Performance and Projects Report Quarter 1 2018/19

The Performance & Information Manager and the Programme Management Lead introduced a report that updated on the latest performance information for the first quarter of 2018/19; updated on the progress of key projects and delivery against manifesto commitments.

Almost two-thirds (64.7%) of the Council's selected performance indicators were achieving the desired results and were rated 'green' with a further 23.5% of other indicators close to target. The key areas of noteworthy concern flagged as 'red' was households in temporary accommodation and there had been a deterioration in the in year collection rate of Business Rates. More than two-thirds (68%) of Council projects were rated 'green' and four-fifths (80.7%) of manifesto pledges were 'green'. The new reporting format was intended to make it easier to track the progress of delivery throughout the year and Members provided feedback to make it more user friendly. The report also incorporated reporting on manifesto pledges which some Members of the Committee did not believe was appropriate. Other Members commented that the policies in the manifesto of the Ruling Group were adopted as Council policy and it was therefore appropriate to measure and report on progress.

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The Committee discussed several specific areas of performance including the number of households in temporary accommodation and the 'red' status of the Grove Academy and Haybrook College Gold Projects. It was reported that further progress had been made since the end of quarter 1 with a planning application for the Grove Academy due to be determined early in the New Year and the refurbishment of Thomas Grey Centre was nearly complete.

At conclusion of the discussion the report was noted.

**Resolved –** That the Council's current performance as measured by the indicators within the balanced scorecard and update on Gold projects and performances as detailed in the report, be noted.

### 39. Adult Social Care Transformation Programme

The Adult Social Care Programme Manager introduced a report that updated on the ASC Transformation Programme. The Health Scrutiny Panel had considered a report on Tranche 2 of the Transformation Programme at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and the main comments from Members were noted.

The Transformation Programme had been established to address the significant pressures on the service arising from increased demand, cost and complexity of clients needs. The programme had delivered £4.814m of the targeted £7.9m of savings between 2015-20 and was on course to achieve the planned savings for the current year. However, the overall ASC budget was showing a £1m overspend in 2018/19 which reflected the pressures on the service. The Government's long term plans to reform adult social care funding had been consistently delayed but were now expected to be published by the end of the year. The Transformation Programme had introduced a more personalised approach to promote individual wellbeing and the service delivery model had changed to one which focused on neighbourhood based support and care.

The Committee welcomed the increased use of direct payments which gave people more control over their own care. Members sought reassurance that adequate systems were in place to monitor the payments to ensure they were not misused and the Officer explained the process that was used. There was a discussion about the plans in place to deal with the winter pressures facing the health and social care system and it was noted that extensive planning and partnership working was in place but that it was expected to be a challenging winter. In response to a question about how client feedback was used, the Committee noted that it was closely monitored via the annual ASC survey that included questions about the levels of satisfaction from service users.

At the conclusion of the discussion the update was noted.

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**Resolved** – That details of the update on the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme be noted.

### **40. Voting Task and Finish Group**

Members were provided with details of the Voting Task and Finish Group, which had been commissioned following approval of a Council motion in April 2018. It was anticipated that the Group would be meeting in early 2019 and focus on two key areas – security of ballot and youth participation. The final report and recommendations would be presented to the Committee at its meeting in March 2019.

**Resolved** – That the terms of reference for the Voting Task and Finish Group be noted.

### **41. Forward Work Programme**

Details of the proposed Work Programme were considered and it was agreed that it be updated as follows:

**Resolved** - That the Forward Work Programme be updated as follows:

- 14 March 2019 - Asset Management Strategy
- 11 April 2019 - Update on Adult Social Care Transformation Programme
- Autumn 2019 - Obesity Task and Finish Group: Progress on recommendations

### **42. Members Attendance Record 2018/19**

**Resolved** – That the Members Attendance Record be noted.

### **43. Date of Next Meeting - 10th January 2019**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 9.09 pm)