

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday 24 March 2003

PRESENT:

Councillor LACEY O.B.E (Chairman), and Councillors BELSEY (Deputy Chairman), MARSH (as substitute for Slater), SKILTON, STANLEY, Mrs TESO and WILLIAMS.

43. MINUTES. The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2003 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

44. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – 3rd QUARTER. Members were advised that following the submission of the Performance Indicator report to Members on 20 February 2003, no questions had been put forward for response. The Committee was informed that the next quarterly report for Performance Indicators would be in 9 June 2003.

45. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY. The Committee considered the report of the Community Safety Best Value Review Team advising Members of the outcomes of the Best Value Review of Community Safety.

Members were advised that the review of Community Safety was originally scheduled for 2001/02 and was timed to align with similar reviews at other East Sussex Authorities, this had not been possible as the timetables had changed and this therefore meant the review was conducted on an Eastbourne only basis.

Following a scoping exercise by Cabinet and Corporate Management Team the key challenges were set by Cabinet on 6 March 2003, and were detailed within the report.

Members were advised that the Review Team had made a number of recommendations, which were detailed in the Improvement Plan, they were summarised as follows:

- For the Police Authority, Primary Care Trust and Fire Authority to be represented on the main partnership Board
- To progress closer working arrangements between the Drug and Alcohol Action Team and the Crime Reduction Partnership (CRP) following outcomes of the Home Office consultation on the two partnerships
- To ensure that there are clear linkages between the Eastbourne Strategic Partnership and the Crime Reduction Partnership with particular reference to community and youth engagement
- To establish a common press and public relations strategy that educates and portrays a realistic awareness of actual crime levels and the actions the Crime Reduction Partnership are undertaking to reduce crime and the fear of crime
- To achieve long-term funding of partnership support at an appropriate level that is not reliant on uncertain grant funding
- To ensure that the management information systems and data management across the partnership are effective. Look at establishing a common database for analysing data
- To establish on going training of Councillors on Crime and Disorder and the CRP

- To include ESCC service actions in the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (a priority following the County Council Best Value Audit and to be addressed in planning for 2003/04)
- To ensure systems for appointment of key managers and staff reflect the need to understand crime and disorder reduction
- Six monthly briefings by EBC Chief Executive to judiciary to be reintroduced
- To utilise EBC GIS database to enable targeted crime prevention information and feedback on actions
- Eastbourne Borough Council Intranet to be used to disseminate best practice information
- To establish a mobile CCTV facility for use in the Borough
- To integrate specific targets from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy into the Council's regular performance monitoring reports
- To develop the structure of the Crime Reduction Partnership to maximise efficiency and effectiveness
- To improve Council liquor licensing policy through improved co-ordination between Eastbourne Borough Council Commercial Services, Police and Licensing Authority (completed – policy approved March 2002).

Members discussed various aspects of the review including the Enforcement budget and how it was allocated, how to reduce the fear of crime and efforts made to reduce fear of crime, possibility of redeployment of the Street Wardens, how actions and the work of the Partnership were being monitored, Member representation on the Partnership, sharing of information in accordance with the Data Protection Act, the development of an 'Exit Strategy', in the event that the government withdraws funding for Community Safety initiatives and the consideration of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act when making planning decisions.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet be recommended to approve the Improvement Plan as set at Section 9 of the report.

46. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC.

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as otherwise there was a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972. The relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A are shown beneath the item.

47. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2003. The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2003 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

NOTED.

(Exempt information reason - Para 7, Personal, Financial or Business Information).

The meeting closed at 6.53 p.m.

R M LACEY O.B.E

Chairman