

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



Council Offices,
Urban Road,
Kirkby in Ashfield
Nottingham
NG17 8DA

Agenda

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Tuesday, 10th October, 2017**

Time: **6.30 pm**

Venue: **Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield**

For any further information please contact:

Alan Maher

a.maher@ashfield.gov.uk

01623 457318

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Membership

Chairman:

Councillor Lee Anderson

Councillors:

Christian Chapman
John Knight
Lauren Mitchell
Paul Roberts

Helen Hollis
Cathy Mason
Christine Quinn-Wilcox
Phil Rostance

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SUMMONS

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.



R. Mitchell
Chief Executive

AGENDA

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1. **To receive apologies for absence, if any**
2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non-Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests**
3. **To receive and approve as a correct records the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 September 2017** 5 - 8
4. **Reviewing Crime and Disorder in Ashfield - 2016/17** 9 - 18

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting held in the Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,

on Monday, 11th September, 2017 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Lee Anderson in the Chair;

Councillors Christian Chapman, Helen Hollis,
John Knight, Cathy Mason, Christine Quinn-
Wilcox, Paul Roberts and Phil Rostance.

Officers Present: Sam Dennis, Mike Joy and Alan Maher.

OS.07 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non-Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

No Declarations of Interest were received.

OS.08 To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 June 2017 and 26 July 2017

The Minutes of the meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 27 June 2017 and 26 July 2017, were approved as a true record.

OS.09 Introduction to Scrutiny Review of Fly-Tipping

Members were reminded that the Committee had discussed fly tipping at its meeting in June 2017. Members had learned that the number of fly tipping incidents recorded in the District exceeded the performance target set by the Council.

Although the Committee had accepted that fly tipping in Ashfield formed part of a wider, national, problem, Members felt that this should not obscure the need to take action locally. They also felt that Scrutiny could play an important role in helping to identify possible ways forward. Consequently, the Committee agreed that a specific review on fly tipping be included in the 2017-18 work programme, with a focus on how it could be reduced across the District.

The report to Committee set out the draft terms of reference for this review. The Committee discussed these extensively. It was assisted by the Council's Service Lead – Waste and Environment, Mrs Sam Dennis.

The Committee heard from the Service Lead – Waste and Environment that much of the fly tipping in Ashfield consists of old furniture and cookers etc. Household often use people who they find on Facebook, to take the items

away for them. Unfortunately, these people frequently turn out to be unlicensed, rogue, collectors, who simply dump the waste rather than dispose of it properly.

Mrs Dennis told Members that the Council is trying to get across the message to householders that they have a legal responsibility to make sure their bulky and other waste is disposed of in a correct way. In particular, it has launched the 'Crime Not to Care' campaign in conjunction with the environmental charity 'Keep Britain Tidy'.

One of the main goals of the campaign is to make it clear to householders that they too could be at risk of prosecution if they use rogue collectors, who take away their rubbish and then dump it illegally. If found guilty, they could end up with a large fine and a criminal record. Moreover the Committee heard that the Council would soon have new powers to impose larger fines, so that the potential risks to householders found guilty of fly tipping would be even greater.

The Committee supported the 'Crime Not to Care' campaign. Members also welcomed moves to gather evidence from householders about rogue collectors, so that they can be successfully prosecuted. This was seen as a sensible approach.

Members agreed that the review ought to look at the reasons why people fly tip. They also thought that it should identify the physical reasons why locations can become vulnerable to fly tipping; and especially whether it is more likely to occur in those places which are untidy or badly maintained. Members were keen that the problem be should be reduced across the District as a whole; and not to be tackled in certain communities only for it to reappear in less protected or more vulnerable places.

The Committee felt that local people could play an important part in helping to make their areas seem less attractive to fly tippers by getting involved in maintaining them. Members thought that ways of empowering communities to do this ought to be looked at as part of the review.

The Committee discussed whether people are using communal waste disposal facilities improperly to dispose of their domestic waste and whether this is contributing to fly tipping. Members were told of instances of people using public street bins for household rubbish. The Committee agreed that the review should look at the reasons for this and what could be done to prevent it.

There was agreement that in addition to trying to combat fly tipping the review should also look at how people can be positively encouraged to dispose of their waste properly.

The Committee was reminded that the Council has its own large items collection service for bulky waste. The Committee wanted to find out why householders are not using this more and relying instead on rogue collectors? Members heard that rogue collectors advertising on Facebook usually charge more than the Council would have charged to use its large items collection service.

The Committee considered the reasons for this. It was generally felt that householders may simply not know about the Council's service or how to access it.

Members thought that with better publicity more householders might be persuaded to use the service. As part of this, they thought it would be helpful to explore how it was promoted and how it might be delivered in more customer friendly ways - such as easier ways of making and paying for bookings.

The Committee further discussed some of the ways in which the service might be promoted. One of the suggestions, which Members endorsed, would be to simply put stickers on household bins explaining what the service could do, what it would cost to take away specific items and how to make a booking. The Committee also thought that Councillors should use their own networks of contacts in local communities to help promote the service. As a first step, it was agreed to send the relevant information about charges etc. to all Members.

The Committee wanted to ensure that any expansion in the service would be financially viable, rather than run at a loss to the Council. Members asked that the relevant information on this be made available for the review.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Committee agrees the terms of reference for the review into fly tipping as set out in the report;
- b) That the review also considers the impact on the fly tipping problem of the use of public bins for disposing of household waste;
- c) That the review also considers the financial viability of expanding the Council's large item waste service and the ways in which the service could be more effectively promoted and delivered to ensure its greater use.

Reasons

Fly-tipping was identified and approved as a topic in 2017 following consultation on the Scrutiny Work Plan.

OS.10 Scrutiny Workplan 2017-18

The Committee considered the latest position on the Scrutiny Workplan. Members heard that since two new topics for the Workplan had been suggested. The first of these was on the use of Closed Circuit Television in the District. The second was on the operation of the Police '101' contact number for the public to report non-emergency incidents.

The Committee discussed both of these suggestions and agreed to include them as topics the Scrutiny Workplan. Members also agreed to inform the Scrutiny Manager of any additional topics that they wished to include in the plan.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Committee notes the current position on the Scrutiny Workplan for 2017/18;
- b) That a review into Closed Circuit Television be incorporated into the Workplan;
- c) That the Scrutiny Manager be informed on any suggested topics to be included in the Workplan.

Reasons

Consulting, reviewing and agreeing items for the Scrutiny Workplan 2017/18 provides guidance and direction for the work undertaken by Scrutiny in the coming year.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Chairman.

Report To:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY	Date:	10 OCTOBER 2017
Heading:	REVIEWING CRIME AND DISORDER IN ASHFIELD – 2016/17		
Portfolio Holder:	SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose Of Report

This report provides Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on crime and disorder issues in the district during 2016/17, highlighting current performance, challenges and progress.

Members are asked to note the information in the report and consider any areas for debate or improvement.

Recommendation(s)

Members of the Committee are asked to;

1. Consider the information contained in this report;
2. Provide any views/comments/recommendations relating to the information in the report or as a result of the debate.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the powers to scrutinise crime and disorder issues through the Police and Justice Act 2006.

Alternative Options Considered (With Reasons Why Not Adopted)

None considered as yet. Any recommendations or considerations made by the Committee will be provided in due course.

Detailed Information

BACKGROUND

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships have been in existence following the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998. Each local Authority was given the responsibility to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder in their area.

The Act required local authorities to work with a number of other partners known as the statutory partners (Police Authorities, Fire and Rescue services/authority, Probation Services, Health, Social Landlords).

The Ashfield Community Partnership is the multi-agency body responsible for tackling and addressing crime and disorder in Ashfield, made up of:

Nottinghamshire Police
Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Ashfield District Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Nottinghamshire Probationary Trust
The Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company Limited
The business community
Voluntary sector Organisation
Residents/Community

The partnership continues to develop and target resources to maximise the impact of efforts to improve quality of life for residents in Ashfield.

The level of incidents/offences taking place are reviewed regularly by partners to ensure that any issues are identified and activities put in place to suitably address increases in crime.

The Performance table below shows the current performance including volume and % change for the year to date:



Ashfield District Performance:

The tables below show the current performance:

Crime Type	Apr 15 – Mar 16	Apr 16 – Mar 17	Volume Change	% Change
All Crime	7,360	8,594	1,234	16.8%
Victim-Based Crime	6,721	7,754	1,033	15.4%
Violence Against the Person	1,861	2,404	543	29.2%
<i>Domestic Violence against the person</i>	750	829	79	10.5%
Violence with injury	1,003	1,092	89	8.9%
Violence without injury	856	1,311	455	53.2%
<i>Domestic Incidents- All</i>	787	933	146	18.6%
Sexual Offences	199	309	110	55.3%
Robbery	56	56	0	0.8%
Robbery of business property	6	3	-3	-50.0%
Robbery of personal property	50	53	3	6.0%
Dwelling Burglary	288	320	32	11.1%
Public Order Offences	220	445	225	102.3%
Vehicle Offences	768	819	51	6.6%
Theft Offences	1,625	1,800	175	10.8%
Criminal Damage & Arson	1,331	1,319	-12	-0.9%
Drug Offences	210	192	-18	-8.6%
Hate Crimes	87	109	22	25.3%
Racially and/or Religiously Aggravated	51	76	25	49.0%
Disability	10	8	-2	-20.0%
Gender	1	1	0	0.0%
Homophobic	20	20	0	0.0%
Hate Incidents	47	32	-15	-31.9%
ASB	3,582	3,559	-23	-0.6%

CSP	Jan-Mar	Feb-Apr	Mar-May	Apr-Jun	May-Jul	Jun-Aug	Jul-Sep	Aug-Oct	Sept-Nov	Oct-Dec	Nov-Jan	Dec-Feb
All Crime	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	6	4	4	4
Dwelling Burglary	5	4	2	3	2	2	2	5	6	7	5	6
Robbery	4	2	5	11	10	9	4	6	3	5	2	3
Vehicle Crime	6	6	5	7	13	10	8	8	7	5	6	5
VAP with Injury	5	5	3	3	4	4	5	5	8	11	11	11
Criminal Damage	10	5	4	3	3	3	3	5	4	3	3	3
Violent Crime	2	2	1	1	2	2	5	9	12	10	8	5

15 peers in the same MSG including: Chesterfield;Derbyshire, Bridgend;South Wales, Swale;Kent, Stockton on Tees;Cleveland, St Helens;Merseyside, Rotherham;South Yorkshire, Redcar & Cleveland;Cleveland, Barnsley;Sotuh Yorkshire, Great Yarmouth;Norfolk, Wigan;Greater Manchester, Wellingborough; Northamptonshire, Wakefield;West Yorkshire, Mansfield;Nottinghamshire, Doncaster;South Yorkshire.

Recorded Crime and Disorder.

In reviewing levels of reported crime and disorder it is necessary to understand that there have been significant changes to police processes for crime recording. In part this accounts for some of the rise in crime reported both locally and nationally. Similarly whilst it is positive to see a reduction in recorded ASB it may be that some cases are now recorded as crimes.

However the performance position of the Community Safety Partnership has improved when compared to the 15 areas within the 'most similar group'. As most policing areas have experienced a change in crime recording practice this is a reasonable indicator of general performance. Therefore trajectory of the crime types is positive apart from the violence with injury which has experienced the greatest increase and change in recording practice.

Focussing on Priority Areas

Since 2010 across the County, areas which required additional focus from all partner agencies were identified as 'Partnership Plus areas' and Ashfield have 5 identified areas during this time. These were the old ward boundaries designated as; Hucknall East, Sutton North, Sutton Central and Sutton East, Kirkby East

In 2015 a review by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and Police and Crime Commissioner commissioned a review into the effectiveness of the Partnership Plus approach and found that it had been successful in helping to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. We continue to provide the focus within these areas of need and other findings and recommendations have been incorporated into the current partnership methodology

Delivering the required changes

In July 2016, the Cabinet approved a new policy position which aimed to maximise service impact and prioritise resources across multiple portfolios in relation to key people and key places; expanding beyond just issues relating to community safety but incorporate wider quality of life issues too.

Organisational change within Community Partnerships

Throughout 2016 17 ADC and MDC community partnership activity has been locally governed through the transformation group and delivery group. Two key strands of work were achieved;

1. Creation of Integrated Service Hubs located within respective council offices.
2. Delivery of 'Systems Thinking' service reviews across the Neighbourhood Policing and Council Community Safety teams.

Hub Working

ADC opened its integrated service hub in January 2017 co-locating Police and Council staff with other agencies including Nottinghamshire County Council, Probation Service, Catch 22 and Women's Aid operating 'hot desk' working.

The hub working has enabled a move from static, timetabled, multi-agency problem solving to daily dynamic collaboration. Consequently community safety, vulnerability and when necessary enforcement is delivered more efficiently and effectively.

In March 2017 the officers from within the hub developed and led two days of multi-agency work in the New Cross area to conduct inspections of some 350 private sector rental properties and in doing so identified vulnerability, environmental risk and crime. Local residents approached

officers and offered to provide witness statements leading to injunctions and criminal behaviour orders for the handful of youths who had been blighting the area, This form of collaborative action has been further developed and delivered across Ashfield tackling street drinking, anti-social motorcycle riding and driving.

Individuals or groups facing risk and those causing those risks are considered at daily and weekly tasking meetings to inform our patrol plans, investigations and enforcement.

System Thinking.

During 2016 17 Police and council colleagues, supported with Safer Nottinghamshire Board funded consultancy, challenged local working practices with a view to reducing harm and future demand. Findings have informed process and cultural change from transactional work to more holistic problem solving.

One aspect of work we altered was our response to initial calls complaining of anti-social behaviour. Our analysis demonstrated that often the initial call masked the true nature of the problem, many of the calls were easily resolved through advice or early contact with those affected. Instead of 'call takers' allocating investigators to visit each case the caller was spoken to by a more experienced community protection officer. We have seen over 50% of calls now satisfactorily resolved at this first point of contact.

As a result officers have more time to develop solutions with victims or other agencies to tackle those more complex problems. Officers are taking more responsibility for reaching a more permanent solution rather than taking action that may in fact increase the risk and demand for those involved.

For example cases of reported neighbour disputes often led to threats of enforcement and risks to tenancy. We have seen cases where greater examination reveals people in need of financial or mental health support. Or negotiation between neighbours to understand the concerns of one another.

Anti-Social Behaviour Officers have also taken part in community development days within Stanton Hills, Coxmoor and Leamington estates, recognising that establishing positive relationships reduces the number of complaints and supports local people to develop positive, safer, healthier, local communities.

Support Teams

Throughout 2016 17 the multi-agency teams based at New Cross and Broomhill have delivered intensive support to some of those at greatest need, across a range of themes including poverty, mental health, crime, Domestic Violence (DV) and substance misuse. Again, the funding provided by agencies and the Police and Crime Commissioner has delivered tangible benefit as well as significant potential cost savings for the public sector. This work has been subject to a further independent evaluation and is reporting continued benefit in terms of harm reduction and best use of resources.

Vulnerable Persons Panels

Additionally partners have renewed their efforts to develop early intervention programmes and tackle complex families and individuals who have high levels of vulnerability that often requires high demand on many services.

Each month ADC host a meeting of partners to consider referrals concerning people vulnerable to crime and disorder or other high risk harm such as suicidal behaviour.

Once again by ensuring we have a complete understanding of the situation and avoiding action that would increase risk or harm we have supported over 20 of the most complex cases within the district. Many of the cases, for example risky street drinkers , involve people with potential mental health needs and officers feel there is a need to increase both access to services and knowledge of front line staff. This same challenge is reported across Nottinghamshire and a working group is developing county and local improvements.

The work within the hub has moved many of these cases from the monthly meeting to a more timely weekly meeting or partners. When necessary we have been able to act immediately.

Domestic Violence and Vulnerability Officer

ADC have secured a post for a DV and Vulnerability officer to assist with a range of complex issues affecting local people. Whilst the post is currently vacant we have seen the benefit from a recent post holder in developing and supporting a range of programmes.

DV

The successful development of 6 homes for women and children fleeing domestic abuse has attracted continued funding from a national programme. This essential work sees a third sector provider commissioned to work with ADC and partners to protect and enable women to move from violent relationships towards safer healthier futures. In the last year over 40 women and children's have been helped to flee violent relationships.

We await the conclusion of 3 Domestic Homicide Reviews that have occurred within Ashfield. These crimes occurred prior to this reported period and the council is ensuring that and lessons learned for the council or other partners are quickly identified and recommendations implemented. During October 2017 we will take part in the first County wide meeting to capture and consider lessons learned from across the East Midlands in order to try and prevent future tragedies.

We help to manage approximately 18 cases at any one time of people at high risk of domestic abuse, working with partners to support people through court cases or rehousing. We support a range of campaigns and education programmes for women and young people to increase awareness and encourage reporting of DV. We also have worked with the probation service to develop a programme to tackle offending behaviour as part of our preventative work.

New and Emerging Communities

We continue to increase our understanding of the needs of new and emerging communities within Nottinghamshire. Ashfield continues to take a lead role on this issue and is further developing research conducted within the city and county.

Hate Crime Project

We continue to support the Restorative justice project to deal with offenders and/or suspected offenders of hate crime in Mansfield/Ashfield in partnership with Police, Youth Justice and the National Holocaust Centre. Agencies refer young people identified as being at risk of offending or are offenders of hate crime into the project.

Modern Slavery

This aspect of abuse and crime has increased in prominence and national awareness. Successful prosecutions by Nottinghamshire Police reinforce the fact that such abuse can occur within our communities. Officers have undertaken awareness training and gone on to conduct

multi agency operations to safeguard vulnerable people within some of our most deprived communities.

Preventing Extremism

Recent events across the world remind us of the risks faced by local people and their families, as they travel abroad or to major events. Together with other districts and the police, we continue to review the best practice in preventing extremism and protecting people attending large events across the county.

In addition, this year's **Dragons Den** programme will provide an opportunity for young people in local schools to raise their awareness and consider this complex issue.

Child Sexual Exploitation

This serious and emotive issue is a key part of our work with partners. Through proper information sharing, we have been able to better understand the risks across Ashfield and have successfully protected children and families. Our most recent development sees the Children's Society attending our joint tasking meetings and cases conferences.

We continue to work closely with the County Council and local schools to ensure our children are safe and informed of the dangers.

CCTV

ADC have 26 public space CCTV cameras, mainly within our three town centres. In addition, we have 2 cameras that are movable to new or emerging hot spots. This year we have made a significant improvement to the service. The images for the cameras are monitored at a control facility jointly paid for by ADC, Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC) and Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC). This was at NSDC's Kelham Hall site but has now relocated to the Police HQ. At the same time, we have improved the monitoring systems that will enable more focused tasking of the monitoring staff and the ability to share images with the police. We have also reduced costs and may in future be able to gain revenue from contracts to monitor other public services or businesses.

Addressing alcohol and substance misuse related anti-social behaviour

Sutton Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) continues to develop and was created to tackle underage drinking and anti-social behaviour associated with it. The CAP brings together alcohol retailers, licensees and local service-providers such as the district council, health providers and the police. Advice, guidance and materials are produced to deliver a tailored response to underage alcohol misuse in the area. A local supermarket hosts meetings in Sutton, incorporating private sector involvement in the partnership.

Recent work to reduce the impact from street drinkers and drug users have proven to have a positive effect. However it is recognised that more needs to be done and we will in the next 6 months access county council grant funding to commission intensive work with street drinkers in Sutton to both reduce the harm they cause and the risks to their own health.

Enforcement and Regulation

The Police and Council continue to work well together and undertake regular joint proactive hotspot patrols between CPOs and PCSOs particularly focussing upon key times and places. Where necessary we will use the most appropriate power to tackle and bring to justice those who cause harm and distress to others. Examples of some of the powers utilised.

Criminal Behaviour Orders

We continue to use this tool to tackle persistent disorder. Orders have been used to tackle ASB in New Cross, to tackle an alcoholic DV perpetrator and more recently street drinking in Sutton.

Injunctions

Civil injunctions have been used to control individuals and collective nuisance including the so called 'boy racer' behaviour witnessed near to junction 27 of the M1.

Community Protection Notices

Community Protection Notices (CPN) and the warnings (CPW) are be used to tackle a wide range of issues negatively affecting the community e.g. litter, graffiti, noise. We continue to use this tool but have attempted to influence changes in behaviour and at times identify better support for those perceived as offenders.

Implications

Corporate Plan: Communities and Environment

- Ensure the foundations for a good quality of life are in place; reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and facilitating cleaner and more attractive neighbourhoods.
- Supporting young people to be optimistic and ambitious about their futures.
- Work with our partners to ensure we deliver services centred on the needs of people and places, rather than existing teams, agencies or institutions.

Legal:

Legal implications are addressed in the details of this report.

Finance:

There are no financial implications relating to this report.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
There are no additional risks resulting from this report	Progress against tackling crime and disorder is detailed within the report

Human Resources:

There are no human resource impacts identified in this report.

Equalities

The community safety partners recognise that some crimes affecting minority communities, such as BAME and LGBT, are often under reported. ADC is working with Nottinghamshire Police and representative groups to increase confidence and reporting of Hate Crimes.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications identified at this stage.

Report Author and Contact Officer

Mike Manley
Community Protection Manager
M.Manley@ashfield.gov.uk
01623 457349

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