

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



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

Agenda

Scrutiny Panel B

Date: **Thursday, 30th January, 2020**

Time: **7.00 pm**

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

For any further information please contact:

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SCRUTINY PANEL B

Membership

Chairman: Councillor Christian Chapman

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Caroline Wilkinson

Councillors:

Tony Brewer
Rachel Madden
David Walters

Dale Grounds
Phil Rostance

FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE

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SUMMONS

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



Carol Cooper-Smith
Chief Executive

AGENDA

Page

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 the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 7th November, 2019. 5 - 8
4. **Scrutiny Review: Community Protection Officer Service.** 9 - 16

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SCRUTINY PANEL B

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

on Thursday, 7th November, 2019 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Christian Chapman in the Chair;

Councillors Tony Brewer, Dale Grounds,
Phil Rostance and David Walters.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Rachel Madden and Caroline Wilkinson.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Theresa Hodgkinson, Mike Joy and
Shane Wright.

SB.7 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

SB.8 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 19th September, 2019, be received and approved as a correct record.

SB.9 Scrutiny Review: Town Centre Regeneration

The Chairman introduced the topic and advised the Panel that 'Town Centre Regeneration' had been added to the Scrutiny Workplan in July 2019 and was further endorsed by the Leader at the Council's State of Ashfield Debate in October 2019.

It had been recognised that economic growth was a key priority for the Council and the report, as presented, set out some of the funding opportunities available to Ashfield including the partners the Council currently worked with in relation to its growth and regeneration ambitions for the District.

The Director of Place and Communities took the opportunity to address the Panel and circulated a briefing note regarding the Towns Fund Prospectus.

The objective of the Towns Fund was to drive the economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth. Thirty places within the Midlands had been selected for investment with both Kirkby in Ashfield and Sutton in Ashfield being chosen to develop Town Deals with up to £25m being made available for each town.

The timeframe and requirements for accessing the funding were as follows:

1. To establish a Board led by a representative from the local business community;
2. Capacity funding to be received in November 2019 (£324,038 for both towns);
3. Readiness checklist to be submitted by 19th November 2019 to gauge how quickly the Council can prepare for a Town Deal;
4. Town Deal Board to be convened (including publication of town boundary) by end of January 2020;
5. Further guidance published early 2020;
6. Town Investment Plan produced by end of Summer 2020;
7. Town Deal agreed for 2020-21.

It was envisaged that a Member of Scrutiny Panel B would be invited to sit on the Town Deal Board, once established, comprising various other representatives including 'Discover Ashfield' ambassadors from the local business community.

Once the financial framework was in place, it was anticipated that 'project visioning' would commence through workshops with the scrutiny review running alongside and contributing towards the business and public sector consultation processes. It was acknowledged that the Sutton Town Centre Masterplan would also be an effective tool to help inform the planning and decision-making processes.

The other funding opportunity had been made available through the Future High Streets Fund, which had been set up by Government to support the renewal and reshaping of high streets and town centres. Following the selection of Sutton in Ashfield following completion of phase 1, the Council had recently received some funding from Government to support the phase 2 development of high street strategies and business cases for the proposed projects. It was a competitive funding process and the Council were hoping to secure funding for heritage and renewal projects around the Market Place area of Sutton.

At this point Members considered the scope for the review and discussed, amongst other things:-

- the likeliness of the Council securing the Future High Street funding and acknowledging that the submitted bids would be aimed at securing between a £5 to £10 million investment, if successful;
- the progress the Council has already made in relation to the Towns Fund initiative and the timeframes for commencement of consultation which would commence once the feasibility study had been completed (with the next few weeks);

- the content of the Sutton Town Centre Masterplan;
- the benefits (and pitfalls) of pedestrianisation within town centres including the success of the Hucknall High Street redevelopment;
- a Member concern that they would not wish to see a town centre modelled around Mansfield Town Centre that had seemingly forced traffic and accessibility for customers too far away from the main area and shopping facilities;
- the importance of retaining some of Kirkby and especially Sutton's historical features within any new designs and ensuring the protection of any buildings of interest through designated conservation areas;
- the requirement for Sutton and Kirkby to find more of an identity and be clear as to what it has to offer its customers acknowledging that provision of a suitable café culture and night-time economy would be a priority;
- the importance of attracting young people into the town centres and offering them facilities that would engage and interest them;
- acknowledgement that shopping habits have changed and that town centres needed to offer alternatives to traditional retail outlets;
- the rise in popularity of unique selling spots i.e. virtually reality cafes and their potential for revitalising a town centre by creating a focal point;
- Members to encourage public involvement in the Towns Fund consultation process through their work with local residents and community groups;
- the benefits of a targeted PR campaign through all social media outlets to ensure that the Council engages with a wide range of local residents and businesses to help shape the future prosperity of its town centres.

RESOLVED that

- a) the information in the report, as presented, be received and noted;
- b) the Service Manager, Democratic & Scrutiny Services, in consultation with the Director of Place and Communities, be requested to compile and agree an appropriate terms of reference for the Town Centre Regeneration review taking into account all the Panel's comments and suggestions as outlined at the meeting.

(During consideration of the report, Councillors Tony Brewer and Dale Grounds left the room at 7.27pm and 7.36pm and returned to the meeting at 7.29pm and 7.39pm respectively.)

The meeting closed at 7.42 pm

Chairman.

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Report To:	SCRUTINY PANEL B	Date:	30 JANUARY 2020
Heading:	SCRUTINY REVIEW: COMMUNITY PROTECTION SERVICE		
Portfolio Holder:	NOT APPLICABLE		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

This purpose of this report is to introduce the Scrutiny Review: Community Protection Service to Scrutiny Panel B. This report will set out details of how the service was originally established, and the current operational structures and methods used.

Scrutiny Panel B will be undertaking a review of the service with the following objectives in mind:

- Gain an understanding of the current Community Protection Service, and how it operates within the wider Community Safety section
- Establish the objectives and requirements of the service
- Examine outcomes and achievements
- Review procedures in place to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of the service
- Understand public and stakeholders expectation of the service

Recommendation(s)

Scrutiny Panel B Members are recommended to:

- a. Note the information contained in this report.
- b. Decide on further evidence and information required to progress the review.
- c. Approve review terms of reference including review rationale, objectives, indicators of success, methodology, and involvement.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The Council's Community Protection Service was added to the Scrutiny Workplan 2019/20 by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2019.

Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered at this stage of the review.

Detailed Information

Ashfield District Council's Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023

Ashfield District Council's vision for a safer and stronger Ashfield by 2023 is set out within the new Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023. This includes ensuring the foundations for a good quality of life are in place and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

This will be achieved through prioritising both an effective response to issues but also working on prevention and behavioural change. To achieve this, the Council will continue working with our partners to ensure people feel safe and are safe by reducing levels of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour.

Origins of the Community Protection Service in Ashfield

The Council's current Community Protection Service originated as the Ashfield Neighbourhood Warden Service. The Ashfield Neighbourhood Warden Service began operation in December 2002, established with a mission statement to: "assist to improve the quality of life for residents, reduce crime, the fear of crime, and help businesses thrive in Ashfield".

Up until March 2009, the Neighbourhood Warden Service was coordinated by Ashfield Homes (the Council's former Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO)). When funding from Nottinghamshire County Council and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund reduced, Ashfield Homes chose to cease operation of the service.

In anticipation of the contracted service coordinated by Ashfield Homes ceasing, in December 2008 Ashfield District Council unveiled a new scheme introducing £1.7 million of investment in community safety. The scheme, titled "Eyes for Ashfield", involved establishing a new team of 16 full-time Community Safety Wardens set to tackle anti-social behaviour in Ashfield.

What is a Community Protection Officer?

Community Safety Accreditation Scheme

Community Safety Accreditation Schemes enable the Chief Constable of a police force in the United Kingdom to grant a limited range of police powers to employees of non-police organisations, with the aim of strengthening community safety. Community Safety Accreditation Schemes were introduced through the Police Reform Act 2002.

Some of the powers that can be granted include the power to:¹

- Require the name and address of a person who has committed a criminal offence
- Require the name and address of a person acting in an anti-social manner
- Confiscate alcohol from young people
- Confiscate cigarettes and tobacco from young people
- Require the removal of abandoned vehicles

¹ Home Office, *Community Safety Accreditation Scheme Powers*, February 2015.

- Require a person to stop drinking in a designated public place
- Issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling, littering, graffiti and fly posting
- Issue a penalty notice for disorder for:
 - The sale of alcohol to a person under 18
 - Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18
 - Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18
 - Wasting police time or giving a false report
 - Behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress

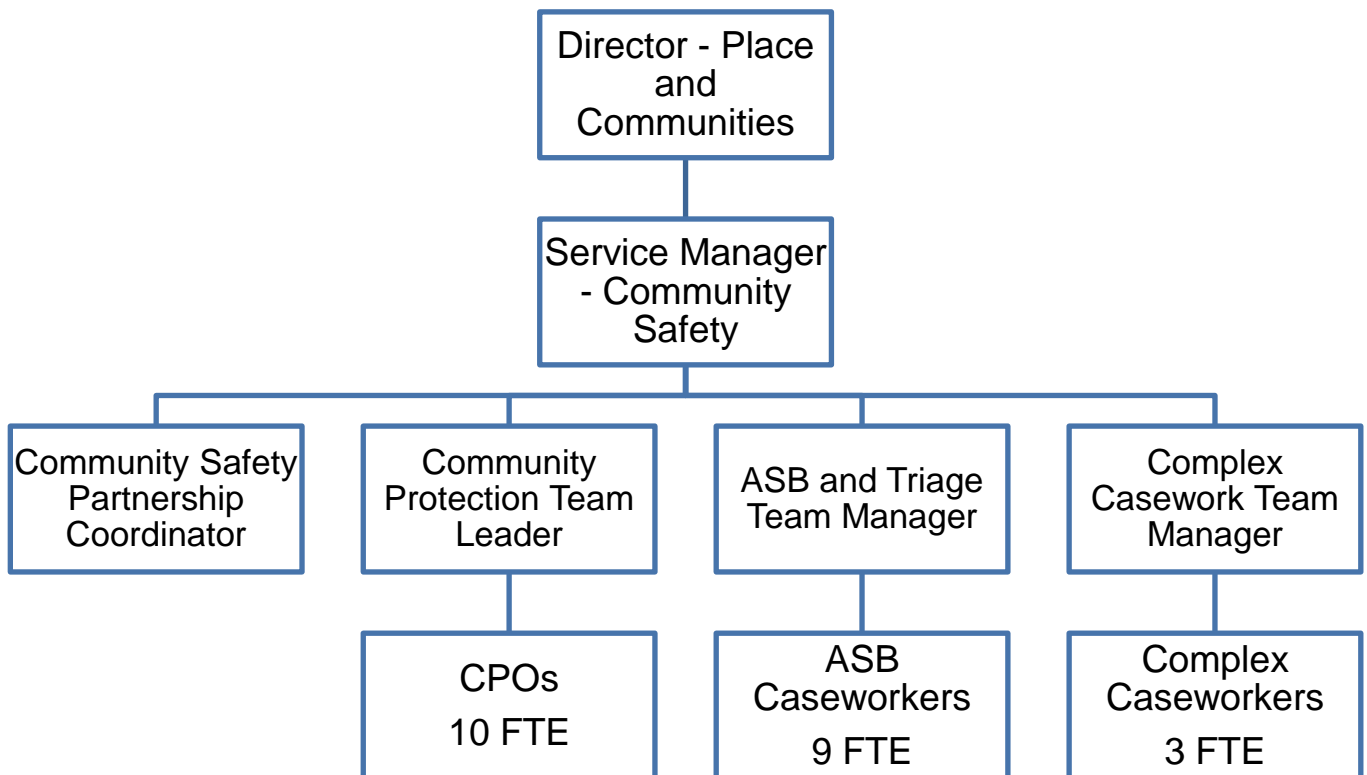
To be accredited through a Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, a person has to be assessed as suitable to exercise any powers granted. Accredited persons are trained and vetted to a national standard. The Police Reform Act 2002 also requires that any organisations employing accredited persons must be fit for purpose and have a satisfactory complaints procedure in place. Examples of accredited persons through Community Safety Accreditation Schemes include:

- Security guards
- Police Community Support Officers
- Community Protection Officers (CPOs)/Wardens
- Parking Attendants
- Environmental Health Officers

One of the main advantages of CPOs is their democratic accountability. Unlike the Police, whose priorities are set by Central Government, CPOs respond to and address priorities set by local communities and residents including anti-social behaviour, environmental crime, and fear of crime. These issues are important to local communities, but often cannot be the focus of police resources. An effective CPO service can prioritise these issues and provide engagement within communities.

Ashfield District Council's CPO Service

Structure and Budget



Ashfield District Council currently has 10 FTE CPO Posts on the Establishment. In 2019/20, the Community Protection Service had a budget of approximately £443,000. For 2020/21, approximately £458,000 is the proposed budget for the service.

Approach and Responsibilities

Ashfield District Council's CPOs undertake a problem solving approach to address on-street anti-social behaviour, environmental and nuisance related issues, which affect the quality of life for residents in Ashfield.

Community Protection Officers provide a uniformed patrol presence within Ashfield's town centres and communities, spending time in communities conducting high visibility patrols, engaging with residents, visitors, and businesses, and proactively challenging perpetrators of anti-social behaviour.

Using both a proactive and reactive approach, CPOs follow patrol plans that include schools, parks, town centres and estates, focusing patrol time on areas that evidence the greatest levels of need at that time.

Key tasks and responsibilities of Community Protection Officers include:

- High visibility foot, bicycle or vehicle patrols across the District
- Dealing with anti-social behaviour complaints
- Supporting victims of anti-social behaviour
- Gathering evidence and preparing statements to proceed with legal action
- Problem solving approach to persistent anti-social behaviour
- Targeted approach to particular geographical areas and locations
- Recognising issues relating to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

Collaborative Working

The Community Protection Service operates within the Council's Integrated Services Hub based at the Council Offices in Kirkby – in – Ashfield. The following agencies work within the Integrated Services Hub:

- Nottinghamshire Police
- Ashfield District Council Community Safety
- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue
- Women's Aid Integrated Service
- The Reducing Re-offending Partnership
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Nottinghamshire Victim Care
- Framework
- Change Grow Live

The Integrated Services Hub facilitates a collaborative approach to community safety. Agencies within the Hub work together towards:

- Delivery of priorities – reducing and deterring crime and anti-social behaviour
- Delivery of transformation
- Engagement
- Achieving value for money

- Commercialism
- Improving services
- Project delivery
- Understanding communities and customers

Patrol Plans

Community Protection Officers undertake high visibility foot patrols in hotspot areas focusing on anti-social behaviour, and issues that present risk, threat, and harm. Patrols also focus on themes including town centres, schools (at drop off and pick up times), parks and open spaces, and housing estates.

The team are also expected to connect with the community and key individuals within it. This includes retailers, elected members, community voices, individuals requesting services, and vulnerable people. Officers should also provide immediate feedback on any high-risk issues identified; ensuring safeguarding referrals are made appropriately.

Community Protection Officers should maximise the impact that their high visibility can have within the District.

Hotspots

The Council's Community Protection Officers have a thorough understanding of the geography and communities within Ashfield, including problematic locations in the district. Hotspots are identified based on this knowledge and experience.

The hotspots could relate to anti-social behaviour or environmental issues in town centres, estates, roads, parks, footpaths, and trails. Historically, CPOs have been assigned specific locations to manage. At present, CPOs are referred to as North or South Officers and do not take on a District-wide role.

The Community Protection Service maintains flexibility, ensuring a high level of responsiveness to any new or emerging issues generating a short-term hotspot are supported and addressed. CPOs attend the Partnership Operational Tasking meeting every three weeks, which incorporate victim, location and, offender briefings, as well as weekly team and geographical problem solving meetings. The Team Manager provides the police with updates and collaborates regarding the weekly briefings and patrol plans.

Operational Tasking and CCTV

Community Protection Officers are linked to police radio airwaves and the CCTV control room. This ensures that, in addition to planned activity in hotspot areas, they can also be reactively tasked following either visual reports of an incident through the control room or through the police for low-level reported incidents.

Furthermore, all Community Protection Officers are also equipped with body cameras, allowing visual recordings to be used as evidence if required.

Case Referrals

Community Protection Officers attend many kinds of issues and when appropriate, some of these issues will be referred to the Anti-Social Behaviour Caseworkers or Complex Case Team. Such

cases can often include dealing with vulnerable people with needs that will need a multi-agency approach.

Scrutiny Review Process and Terms of Reference

Members should discuss and approve a review terms of reference, setting out the scope and limitations of the review.

Review Rationale

The Council's Community Protection Service was added to the Scrutiny Workplan 2019/20 in July 2019 by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members wished to consider the objectives and remit of this discretionary service, and how it works with partners to achieve these objectives and to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and provides value for money.

Review Objectives

The objectives of this review will be to:

- Gain an understanding of the current Community Protection Service, and how it operates within the wider Community Safety section
- Establish the objectives and requirements of the service
- Examine outcomes and achievements
- Review procedures in place to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of the service
- Understand public and stakeholder expectation of the service

Indicators of Success

- Establishing clear service objectives that are fit for purpose
- Identifying effective mechanisms to monitor performance and outcomes
- Clear evidence of effective collaborative working within the Integrated Services Hub
- Understanding public expectations and current perspectives of the service
- Ensuring the service provides value for money
- Ensuring adequate resources are in place for the service to operate efficiently

Methodology

This review will be carried out through consideration of both qualitative and quantitative research.

- Interviewing Community Protection Officers, Police representatives and Council Officers
- Public consultation
- Statistical information regarding the service
- Consultation with partner agencies
- Best practice from other authorities, systems used, powers given etc.

Review Involvement

It is important for a scrutiny review to be a collaborative process, inviting involvement from experts both within the Council and externally. Members could seek involvement from the following over the course of this review:

- Director – Place and Communities

- Service Manager – Community Safety
- Community Protection Team Leader
- Community Protection Officers
- Representatives from partner agencies and stakeholders

Next Steps

Members should consider the information required to progress this review. This could include performance and tasking data, work patterns, measures of success, community perceptions and best practice.

In addition, Members are asked to consider which expert witnesses, in addition to those already involved, could add value to the review. This could include Community Protection Officers, partner agencies or local businesses/community members.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Details of how the Scrutiny Review: Community Safety Officer Service aligns with Ashfield District Council’s Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023 are included within the detailed information section of this report.

Legal:

There are no direct legal implications resulting from this report. Any legal implications identified over the course of this review will be explored and addressed appropriately.

Finance:

There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report. Any financial implications identified over the course of this review will be explored and addressed appropriately.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None at this stage.
General Fund – Capital Programme	None at this stage.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None at this stage.
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None at this stage.

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
None at this stage.	None at this stage.

Human Resources:

There are no direct HR implications resulting from this report. Any HR implications identified over the course of this review will be explored and addressed appropriately.

Equalities:

There are no direct equality implications resulting from this report. Any equality implications identified over the course of this review will be explored and addressed appropriately.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications resulting from this report. Any other implications identified over the course of the review will be explored and addressed appropriately.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

- Home Office, *Community Safety Accreditation Scheme Powers*, February 2015.

Report Author and Contact Officer

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