

Scrutiny Task and Finish Panel Agenda



Crime and Disorder Task and Finish Scrutiny Panel Thursday, 12th October, 2006

Place: Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.00 pm

Democratic Services Officer: A Hendry, Research and Democratic Services
Email: ahendry@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel: 01992 564246

Members:

Councillors M Cohen (Chairman), M Woollard (Vice-Chairman), D Bateman, P Gode, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs A Haigh, D Jacobs, R Law, R Morgan, Mrs C Pond, P Spencer, D Stallan and J Wyatt

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. SUBSITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

4. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 6)

To note the minutes from the last meeting – 27 June 2006.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE/ WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 7 - 10)

The draft Terms of Reference which were discussed at the last meeting are attached. These have been formally approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Also attached is a draft work programme for information.

6. CONSULTATION WITH THE POLICE ON THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

The Panel at their last meeting requested that representatives from the Police be invited to this meeting. To this end the Panel is to receive Chief Superintendent Andy Adams, Superintendent Graham Carey and Chief Inspector John Hill who will attend the meeting as representatives of the Police as a responsible authority under the Crime and Disorder Act, to seek their views on what the Council could or should do to help it achieve its objectives and understand the interaction between the partners now and what, if anything, we could do to make things better in the future.

7. CONSULTATION WITH THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ON THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT

The Panel is to receive representatives from the Fire and Rescue Services who will attend the meeting as a responsible authority under the Crime and Disorder Act, to seek their views on what the Council could or should do to help it achieve its objectives and understand the interaction between the partners now and what, if anything, we could do to make things better in the future.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be agreed.

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF CRIME AND DISORDER TASK AND FINISH SCRUTINY
PANEL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 27 JUNE 2006
IN COMMITTEE 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 9.15 PM

Members Present: M Cohen (Chairman), M Woollard (Vice-Chairman), D Bateman, R Law, R Morgan, Mrs C Pond, P Spencer and J Wyatt

Other members present: (none)

Apologies for Absence: P Gode, Mrs A Haigh and D Jacobs

Officers Present J Scott (Joint Chief Executive), S Ford (Safer Communities Coordinator) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)

Also in attendance: (none)

1. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillor M Cohen declared a general personal interest by virtue of being Criminal Defence Solicitor. He declared that his interest was not prejudicial and he would remain in the meeting.

3. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

The meeting debated the issues involved in reviewing the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It was noted that the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) was to be made up of statutory authorities, including the District Council, the Primary Care Trust, the local Police Authority and the Fire Brigade. Currently consultation meetings are under way and the meeting will get feed back from these meetings by officers.

The review of the Crime and Disorder Act indicated that there would be an increased role for Scrutiny with a form of 'Scrutiny Plus' – involving the partner agencies to better reflect the multi-agency nature of community safety work. The meeting noted that the CDRP is organised into strata, at the top layer being a Strategy Panel made up of senior officers, with member level participation. Below this is a Co-ordinating Group and below that are about seven Crime Action Groups targeting specific areas of crime. There are also sub-groups called 'Problem Solving Groups' that look at crime hot-spots.

The Panel agreed that they would like to:

- a) interview the Police and establish areas where they can help and what are the real crime figures and the reasons for it;

- b) talk to the Probation Service – about restorative justice amongst other things;
- c) talk to the PCT about mental health and criminality;
- d) talk to Transport for London about crime in the South of the district, is it caused by people coming from the Metropolitan area via bus or tube;
- e) find out about the provision of Youth Services by talking to someone from 'The Box' in Epping.

The panel would also need to consider the proposal of a "Community Call for Action" as outlined in the draft. Examples need to be put to the Police to ask them what they would do if they got a community call for action.

The Panel would like to develop Neighbourhood Management Teams (NMT) that would consist of local people, the beat policeman, the ward councillor(s) and a Parish or Town clerk or representative. This would be the first port of call for people with problems, if could not solve it then they could refer it up to the CDRP. The NMT would act as a filter system.

The Panel also agreed to consider the following:

- Last year Cabinet Members agreed to support a joint Police / Council Community Safety Team – based within the District Council Offices. Since that time, due to difficulties around office space, the project has been slow to progress. Is suitable space able to be found in order to house such a team?
- Secondly, if a joint team does not come to fruition, it is vital that the Council's Crime Reduction Team are moved to suitable accommodation where the risk of sensitive data, and the day to day activities of the team can be conducted in a more secure environment.
- Graffiti is costing the Council more and more each year. It would be far more cost effective to employ personnel to remove graffiti than to continue to pay the increasing cost of external contractors. A report is due to go before cabinet shortly
- Resources. If the Council takes part in an active leading role in respect of the forthcoming agendas, consideration must be given to the current resources and staff available to deliver the proposals.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel agreed that:

- The next meeting of the panel would be set aside to question the Police, where using the National Intelligence Model they would hope to pinpoint areas causing concerns;
- A meeting should be devoted to the PCT with a view to questioning about the link between mental health and crime;
- A joint meeting should be held with the Probation Service and the Fire Brigade and Transport for London;
- A separate meeting should also be devoted to EFDC specialist officers such as the Anti Social Behaviour Officer and the officer responsible for CCTV coverage and the Youth Services Officer.

Following these meeting the Panel will need to collate the information gathered and relate it to the CDRP and how EFDC could help improve on it.

The Panel agreed that:

- All panel meeting will start at 7pm with a half hour briefing session to plan the questions to be asked. The question session with the invited organization to begin at 7:30pm;
- Question sessions to last up to 9pm and then an officer/members 'post meeting' session to take place;
- A time limit of six months for the duration of the Task and Finish Panel to be set with a final report to be written and agreed by end of December 2006 or beginning January 2007.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting set for Tuesday, 1 August 2006 starting at 7pm. Representatives from the Police to be invited to this meeting.

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Term of Reference:

1. To consider the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and its effect on Scrutiny in EFDC and how it could be improved.
2. To consider the involvement of Overview and Scrutiny in the new 'Scrutiny Plus' arrangements to be conducted with other partner agencies.
3. To consider the proposal for a 'Community Call for Action' and its implications for EFDC Scrutiny.
4. To consider the role of EFDCs Crime Reduction Team and the resources available to it.

Aims and Objectives of Review:

- 1) A meeting of the panel would be set aside to question the Police, where using the National Intelligence Model they would hope to pinpoint areas causing concerns;
- 2) A meeting should be devoted to the PCT with a view to questioning about the link between mental health and crime;
- 3) A joint meeting should be held with the Probation Service and the Fire Brigade and Transport for London;
- 4) A separate meeting should also be devoted to EFDC specialist officers such as the Anti Social Behaviour Officer and the officer responsible for CCTV coverage and the Youth Services Officer.
- 5) The Task and Finish Panel will also consider the role of EFDC Crime Reduction Team and the resources available to it.

Following these meeting the Panel will need to collate the information gathered and relate it to the CDRP and how EFDC could help improve on it.

Key Issues:

TIMESCALE	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL
Commencement		27 June 2006
Finish	December 2006	
Report	January 2007	

CRIME AND DISORDER TASK AND FINISH PANEL: WORK PROGRAMME

Proposed Date	Item	Current Position
Tuesday, 27 June 2006	Scoping and Terms of Reference setting.	A draft terms of reference was considered by the panel.
Thursday, 12 October 2006	The Panel to question the Police, where using the National Intelligence Model they would hope to pinpoint areas causing concerns.	
	The Panel should devoted a meeting to the PCT with a view to questioning about the link between mental health and crime.	
	The Panel to host a joint meeting with the Probation Service and the Fire Brigade and Transport for London	
	A separate meeting should also be devoted to EFDC specialist officers such as the Anti Social Behaviour Officer and the officer responsible for CCTV coverage and the Youth Services Officer.	
	The Task and Finish Panel will also consider the role of EFDC Crime Reduction Team and the resources available to it.	

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