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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 12th March 2018

Present: Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner (Chair)
Councillor Gulfam Asif
Councillor Cahal Burke
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Rob Walker

147 Membership of Committee

All members of the Committee were present.

148 Interests

No interests were declared.

149 Admission of the Public

It was agreed that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

150 The work of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Scrutiny Function

Cllr Robert Light, Chair of Scrutiny at the West Yorkshire Combined Authority attended the committee meeting to provide an overview to the approach of the work of Scrutiny at the Combined Authority.

In introduction Cllr Light explained the history of the development of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority which had brought together a number of existing bodies including the Association of West Yorkshire Authorities and the Leeds City Region into one body. In 2014 the Combined Authority was established providing a more cohesive body at regional level. Initially it started as a shadow board and was fully established in 2015, focusing on the areas of transport and investment, skills and jobs. The Local Economic Partnership sits alongside the Combined Authority. The Combined Authority also has an investment committee with final decisions being made by the Leaders Board.

The Combined Authority had not reached agreement concerning an elected Mayor, however it had been successful in securing a growth deal with time limited funding for about 3 years. The challenge would be how to sustain ongoing work when the growth deal funding had run out.

Cllr Light continued to explain in more detail the different constituent parts of governance structures within the Combined Authority.

Cllr Light explained that the Scrutiny Committee membership was based on proportionality and had a total of 18 members. This included a range of experienced members at both Leader and Cabinet Level as well as some long term Scrutiny members. The work of the Scrutiny Committee focused on 2 areas, firstly, key agenda items and priorities and secondly, future issues. The Combined Authority Chair attended the meeting with the Investment Committee Chair at least once a

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year. The Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership also attended on a separate occasion.

Recent work had seen scrutiny of the assurance framework which saw the Committee shape proposals and establish small working groups to progress scrutiny of the issue. The Scrutiny Committee had also tried to look at investment including grant approval criteria and midterm reviews to ensure that investment had delivered the predicted outcomes.

The Scrutiny Committee had looked at risk and whether the approach of the Combined Authority was appropriate. Devolution was also a standing item on the Scrutiny Committee agenda to enable regular updates to understand progress and any risks. The Scrutiny Committee regularly reviewed the forward plan of the Combined Authority and had the opportunity to influence proposals.

In looking to the future Cllr Light indicated that the work of Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panels would continue to look at investment and assurance and how the Combined Authority delivers jobs and business growth. Scrutiny of the work of the Transport Committee would also continue.

The Management Committee thanked Cllr Light for providing the comprehensive update on the history of the development of the Combined Authority and the current work of the Scrutiny function. The committee then discussed with Cllr Light the funding challenges facing the Combined Authority given no devolution deal had yet been agreed. Cllr Asif also recognised the benefits to the Leeds City Region but wanted to understand how we were able to ensure that the Kirklees district also benefited in a proportionate way. Cllr Light recognised that some projects for example, the clean air zone started in the Leeds area however, analysis had been undertaken concerning the geographical allocation of funding over the last 3-4 years and Kirklees Council had received slightly more proportionally than some other authorities within the region.

The Committee continued to discuss the Economic and Inclusive Growth Policy of the Combined Authority and how it was being developed and whether it linked to the skills agenda. Cllr Light pointed to some examples of work on the skills agenda including apprenticeship hubs but recognised that there was more to do and the opportunity for Kirklees Council to have greater influence in these areas. The Committee discussed how the work of the Leeds Economic Partnership linked to the strategic direction of the Combined Authority. Cllr Light reported that progress had been made as a result of the Combined Authority Strategic Framework which had been influenced by Kirklees. So previous decisions made in isolation were no longer the case. The point was raised that Kirklees could be more proactive in coming forward for schemes when funding was available. Leeds City Council always had a number of schemes ready to go and were therefore very successful in securing the available funding for their area.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That Cllr Robert Light be thanked for his informative briefing on the governance structures and work of Scrutiny in the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

2) That the Scrutiny Committee consider a further update in about a year's time.

151 Statutory Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder

The Management Committee considered a report which provided an update on the Kirklees Community Safety Plan particularly related to crime reduction and preventing violent extremism.

Chris Walsh, Safer Kirklees Manager indicated that the Kirklees Community Safety Plan had 4 key outcome themes which were;

- Increasing confidence and satisfaction
- Reducing crime
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Protecting people from serious harm

Attached is appendix 1 to the report was a summary of the strategic intelligent assessment findings which had been used to inform the Community Safety Partnership Plan. Headlines indicated that over the past 3 years the total number of crimes recorded by the police have increased by 70%. It was stated that the vast majority of this increase was associated with recording changes to improve quality and consistency. The level of crime within the Kirklees district was below the average for other similar areas. It was estimated that the actual increase in risk was around 5%.

Residential burglary had increased by 41% over 3 years and one of the changes in recording meant that burglary of sheds and garages was included within statistics. Vehicle crime had also increased by 27% although figures were stabilising. Changes in technology had continued to influence the nature of vehicle crime, although the main volume was associated with items being left on display.

The report continued to explain that violent crime had seen the largest impact in recording changes. This had resulted in levels of recorded violent crimes having increased over 200%. Violent offences tended to be most concentrated within town centres with the highest risks associated with young men aged 18-23. A tiered approach was in place to try to prevent violent crime happening in the first place and where it does, to stop it at the earliest stage.

The report also highlighted the areas of tackling anti-social behaviour, confidence and satisfaction and protecting people from serious harm. It was noted that in respect of confidence and satisfaction, 80% of Kirklees respondents reported feeling safe in their local area.

In considering the information on the findings of the Strategic Intelligence Assessment, the Scrutiny Committee explored demographics within the Kirklees district that might have contributed to the statistics. It was suggested that the Management Committee receive a copy of the full assessment which covers a period of 3 years to gain a fuller understanding of contributing factors.

There followed a discussion on anti-social behaviour and nuisance and how it is recorded. A chart was circulated which proved a breakdown by ward. The

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Management Committee asked for further details on ASB including fly tipping, noise nuisance, and arson. In respect of the confidence and satisfaction survey, Mr Walsh indicated that the CliK Survey in Kirklees was used. This was a 3,500 representative sample of residents of the district. In addition the Police and Crime Commissioner Survey had informed the intelligence assessment.

The Committee continued to discuss the arrangements for local ward members to be able to discuss ongoing issues of crime and disorder with police representatives. Neighbourhood Management Groups did not meet in every area and Councillors wanted reassurance that issues being reported were being responded to and dealt with. Whilst recognising the impact of reducing resources, the Committee wanted to understand how community safety partners would interact with Councillors moving forward.

The Management Committee was interested to understand how the Community Safety Partnership was reviewed to measure its effectiveness. Carole Gilchrist, Head of Communities indicated that there was performance monitoring information that underpinned the Community Safety Partnership Plan across the 4 themes. As part of a recent service review four Officers had been appointed to oversee all the performance data in respect of the work of the theme groups.

The discussion continued to explore the use of CCTV and the regulations which meant that there had to be necessary authorities in place to utilise evidence gathered through CCTV.

Cllr Walker highlighted issues regarding domestic abuse related to drug and alcohol abuse and the impact on children. Chief Superintendent Cotter stated that where there were repeat incidents of domestic abuse schools were contacted so they were aware and children were appropriately cared for.

The crime and disorder update continued with a progress report on the work of the Kirklees Prevent Hub. The update included a local overview, the position regarding national threat and risk and local threat and risk incidents. Details of individual convictions in Kirklees in 2017 were also listed.

It was noted that the role of social media and online extremism continued to be a predominant risk factor in individuals being referred to Channel in Kirklees. It continued to be critical for preventative work to be undertaken with parents and young people to highlight the dangers of online extremism and ensure young people are given the skills to think critically.

It was noted that the Kirklees Channel Panel continued to meet on a monthly basis and that Kirklees had been in 1 of 9 local authorities to take part in a Channel pilot known as Dovetail. The Home Office had deemed the pilot a success and it was anticipated that regional rollout in 2019 would involve Kirklees providing support to other areas.

Lee Hamilton, Prevent Coordinator, continued to update the Management Committee on work in schools which ranged from full day workshops as part of an alternative curriculum day or sessions that were embedded within the school timetable and curriculum. It was noted that sessions did not always specifically refer

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to radicalisation, extremism or terrorism but covered learning outcomes to build resilience, focusing on;

- Beliefs and values
- Identity
- Developing empathy
- Risk identification and management
- The development of critical thinking skills
- Understanding influence, persuasion and manipulation
- Assessing and evaluating fact from fiction.

Since April 2017, 42 projects have been delivered to over 4,000 students across 29 schools.

The Management Committee welcomed that Cllr Robert Light was leading the development of a Yorkshire and Humber Prevent Elected Members Network. The network which had been in operation since July 2017 brought together elected members and prevent leads from priority and non-priority areas in a regular forum with the Home Office. In recognising the important role that elected members play in the delivery of prevent, the network had recently developed a 2018 Yorkshire and Humber Briefing Pack for elected members.

The Management Committee thanked Mr Hamilton for the informative update and the progress that had been made since the last report. Cllr Cahal Burke highlighted that the Children's Scrutiny Panel had also looked more specifically at the work in schools and was satisfied with the work being undertaken. The Management Committee welcomed the case studies that had been attached to the report to help to illustrate the issues that were being addressed through prevent work.

The final part of the crime and disorder update was provided by Chief Superintendent Steve Cotter who explained changes to Community Neighbourhood Policing teams and how increased resources were being allocated. It was noted that additional sergeants were being employed with an increase from 25 to 50 constables and 85 PCSO's to work across the Kirklees area. The Policing structure was aligned closely with early help and community safety in taking an early intervention and prevention approach.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That Chief Superintendent Steve Cotter, Carol Gilchrist, Lee Hamilton and Chris Walsh be thanked for attending the meeting.
- 2) That a full copy of the Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment be circulated to committee members.
- 3) That the discussion on cohesion be postponed and picked up as part of next year's work programme with Scrutiny being given an early opportunity to influence any proposals.

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- 4) That the Scrutiny Committee supports the intention to have discussions with ward councillors on working arrangements at ward level. The Committee to receive feedback on the outcomes following the discussions.
- 5) That the Committee supports the development of guidance so councillors can understand the different options for using CCTV as part of crime and disorder work.
- 6) That the Prevent briefing pack be recirculated to councillors.
- 7) That the update on policing changes in neighbourhood teams, including additional sergeants and an increase in PCSOs, be welcomed and noted.

152 The Corporate Approach to Performance Management

The Management Committee received a progress report on work to revise the council's approach to performance management. Rachel Spencer Henshall, Service Director, Policy, Intelligence and Public Health and Mike Henry, Head of Intelligence and Performance, attended the meeting to discuss the issue with the Committee.

The Committee noted that Mr Henry was new to the post and was tasked with creating an intelligence framework to work alongside the rollout of outcome based accountability. Performance would be underpinned by effective business critical indicators to be overseen by both Cabinet and senior officers. It was recognised that there needs to be an understanding of how the Council was going to reintroduce meaningful challenge into performance monitoring work.

The Management Committee continued to discuss the role of Scrutiny in considering performance information and how it can provide an informed challenge and add value. It was emphasised that Scrutiny needed to understand when things were underperforming at an early stage to be able to provide a timely challenge. It was also suggested that Scrutiny might use the intelligence function to commission work to inform issues on the work programme. In this way Scrutiny would have access to information outside of the information provided by the service area. The Management Committee welcomed this idea and recognised that there had to be sufficient forward planning to enable this independent research to be taken. The Management Committee also shared concerns that by the time they received performance information it was at least 3 months out of date. It was agreed by all parties that timeliness was critical to providing a constructive and meaningful challenge.

Cllr Julie Stewart-Turner was keen to develop a workshop for Scrutiny members to understand the revised approach and the role of Scrutiny in Scrutinising performance moving forward. Cllr Julie Stewart-Turner, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny agreed to meet with Ms Spencer-Henshall to develop the proposal for a workshop at the beginning of the new municipal year.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That Rachel Spencer Henshall and Mike Henry be thanked for attending the meeting

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- 2) That the Chair of Scrutiny meet with Ms Spencer Henshall, Service Director, Policy, Intelligence and Public Health to agree the approach to a Scrutiny workshop on the future scrutiny of performance information.
- 3) That the opportunity for Scrutiny to commission additional intelligence reports for future pieces of Scrutiny work be welcomed and noted.

153 Agenda Plan 2017/18 / Date of next meeting

The Management Committee noted that the next meeting will be held on Friday 13 April 2018 at 10.00am. Agenda items for discussion would include an overview of the Transformation Programme. It was noted that Cllr Asif was unable to attend the meeting on the 13th and his apologies were noted.

RESOLVED - The Committee noted the arrangements for the next meeting on 13 April at 10am.