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DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 8TH OCTOBER, 2015

A MEETING of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE was held at the COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICE, DONCASTER on THURSDAY, 8TH OCTOBER, 2015 at 10.00 AM

PRESENT:

Chair - Councillor John Mounsey
Vice-Chair – Councillor Charlie Hogarth
Councillors Richard A Jones, Jane Kidd, Tony Revill and Craig Sahman

Invitee: - Paul O'Brien

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Susan Jordan – Chief Executive of St Leger Homes and Chair of the Anti-Poverty Group
Geraldine Morton - Head of Revenues and Benefits
Sarah Abbotts – Senior Policy and Performance Officer
Matt Cridge - Head Of Stronger Families
Paul Williams – Business Safety and Licensing Manager
Karen Hanson – Head of Service Environmental Protection

		<u>ACTION</u>
17	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.</u>	
	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rachel Hodson, Neil Gethin and John Cooke	
18	<u>TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT, IF ANY, TO WHICH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING.</u> None	
19	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY.</u>	
	Councillor Kevin Rodgers declared an interest in Item 6 Anti-Poverty Strategy as he was a Director of South Yorkshire Credit Union Councillor Jane Kidd declared an interest in Item 6 Anti-Poverty Strategy as she was employed by SYCIL	
20	<u>MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD</u>	

	<u>SEPTEMBER, 2015</u>	
	RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September, 2015 were agreed and signed as a correct record.	
21	<u>PUBLIC STATEMENTS</u>	
	There were no public statements made.	
22	<u>UPDATE REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY GROUP.</u>	
	<p>A report was provided detailing the establishment of the Anti-Poverty Group, the development of the Anti-Poverty Commitment Statement and actions that have been taken. The Committee held a detailed discussion, addressing the following areas:</p> <p><u>Information and Data:</u> Comments were made that the data used was out of date and Members expressed an interest in receiving more up-to-date information. Members were advised that attachments were for background information and had been prepared at the time of the partnerships Anti-Poverty Summits and that up to date information would be provided at the Members workshop. It was explained that the information was compiled from a wide range of sources and that every quarter, information is fed in centrally.</p> <p>A Member of the Committee commented that services needed to be more joined up to feed into the Anti-Poverty Strategy, that teams were working in silos and needed more co-ordination.</p> <p>It was questioned by one Member whether any analysis had been undertaken on when a new company comes into Doncaster, what is the effect on worklessness and apprenticeships within Doncaster communities. Members were advised that information may not be available although it was uncertain whether detailed work had been undertaken to assess this. There was a brief discussion around the business rate incentives in place once jobs had been secured (which was then measured by the provider and verified before funding is released).</p> <p>Members were informed about 'World of Work Academy'. A St Leger initiative where tenants who had been unemployed for 6 months or more were matched with potential employers.</p> <p><u>Welfare Reforms:</u> Members sought advice on inviting a representative from HMRC to a future meeting to report on tax credits. Members felt that it would be useful to understand the implications and effect of changes to welfare reforms and tax credits within the Borough. Information was requested at the meeting, which included; how many individuals were receiving such benefits and how many would be</p>	

effected between now and the year 2020. Members were informed that there had been difficulties in retrieving all the information that was needed to assess the impact of these reforms.

Regarding Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP's) – Members were informed that there was a trend that people were downsizing particularly within the private sector and even some moving back home to family.

In respect of support, Members were informed that information was shared amongst colleagues so that support could be provided to individuals either or both through DHP's and SLHD's Welfare Support Fund. It was explained that short term help in terms of finance was available to those who wanted to stay within their houses as well as help for those who were willing to move. It was noted that this targeted help couldn't be provided long term.

It was reported that 3,000 tenants within SLHD had been affected and that last year 120 had moved. It was acknowledged that there weren't sufficient smaller sized properties available.

A Member stated that they believed jobs were crucial, that in their previous work a lot of individuals had convictions and substance abuse problems but were unable to find work. It was noted that there were initiatives out there such as 'Ban the Box' and that the Probation Service had a Work Coach. It was questioned what the Council was doing to support those individuals. Members were informed that there were a number of schemes such as the 'World of Work Academy' and the work of the Work and Skills Board being undertaken with employers getting into schools. It was recognised that more work still needs to be undertaken.

A Member queried the amount of investment in regeneration and how this had impacted on job creation and levels of poverty.

Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD): Members expressed concern about Doncaster's latest positioning on the IMD. Members were informed that the corporate team was undertaking a lot of work on this including background, local data, health observations and case studies to bring the full picture together (although it was not available by ward).

Debt: In respect of debt, a Member questioned what levels of debt we had, what direction it was going in and how the borough compares to 10 years ago. Members were informed that this information wasn't available but that work was being undertaken, for example by St Leger Homes Doncaster, with individuals with debt. The Head of Service for Stronger Families also commented that there was a lot of anecdotal evidence that had emerged out of the Stronger Families programme.

Review of Advice Services funding – Members were informed that they

would be advised outside of the meeting when this review would be completed. Members were informed the level of advice depended on level of resources although it was accepted that there wasn't enough advice and support available as part of the Welfare Reform and debt agenda.

Impact of Health Issues: Concern was raised that health issues appeared to be a little narrow within the strategy. Members felt that in particular, there was little in the report regarding substance misuse and cancer which they believed presented serious concerns for now and in the future. Members referred to recent information presented at a Licensing Committee meeting in relation to substance misuse, alcohol, unemployment and NEETS that was very informative and felt that this information should be forwarded to Ward Members. Members were informed that key commitments/pledges had been identified and had been signed up to by Members of Team Doncaster. It was clarified that within the Team Doncaster umbrella sat the Health and Wellbeing Board which would address issues such as substance misuse and cancer. Members were informed that further conversations could be held with colleagues from Public Health.

Representation on Anti-Poverty Group: - Members stressed that they felt it was important for there to be an Executive Lead as part of the Anti-Poverty work. It was commented that the Team Doncaster Strategic Partnership Board was responsible for driving it forward and could be viewed that the Mayor was already involved in the Councils role in moving ahead with this work.

Members raised concerns that unions were not involved as a partner with the Anti-Strategy Group nor invited to summits. Following a brief discussion, Members felt that unions should be represented on the group and also participating more with the strands of work that are taking place.

Future Areas of Work – Members were informed that work was being focused in particular on the following areas: -

- Employment, education and skills
- Support mechanisms and funding opportunities
- Bringing in a directory to sit along financial and budgeting welfare support

Action Plan – Members were informed that this was a high level action plan with the purpose of encouraging Team Doncaster to work together. It was further explained that Team Doncaster partners would be then be encouraged to progress certain areas along where required.

RESOLVED that:-

1. A Members Anti-Poverty workshop be organised as soon as

	<p>possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. An update is provided at a future meeting of the Panel to include information including Anti-Poverty Needs Assessment, Action Plan and on the outcome of the Review of Advice Services Funding. 3. A representative is invited from the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to a future OSMC meeting to help Members understand the implications and effects of welfare reforms. 4. Consideration is given as to how health issues (including cancer and substance misuse) and their impact can be included within the work of the Anti-Poverty Strategy group (via Health & Wellbeing Board). 5. Consideration is given for an Executive Member to be appointed as a lead for anti-poverty at a strategic level. 6. Consideration is given to ensure union representation is made within the Anti-Poverty Group through the Trades Council as appropriate, and to encourage union involvement through invitation to future summits and Task and Finish Groups. 	
23	<p><u>UPDATE ON THE STRONGER FAMILIES PROGRAMME.</u></p>	
	<p>Matt Cridge, Head of Stronger Families attended the meeting and gave a presentation giving an update on the Stronger Families Programme, detailing the progress being made to support families in Doncaster. The presentation covered the following areas: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success and measuring success • Phase 1 claims • Case study • Expanded stronger families programme overview • Outcomes plan • Other reporting requirements • Working with members <p>Members were told that in Doncaster, Stronger Families is based within Communities as opposed to within Children Services like most authorities. It was viewed that this was the reason behind the programme's success as it meant that we can look at the impacts on the whole community rather than potentially isolate the family.</p> <p>Members requested that the Phase 1 Graph be circulated.</p> <p><u>Underage Drinking/Test Purchases:</u> A Member raised concern about underage drinking and clarification was sought about whether Police Officers are still able to carry out test purchases.</p> <p>Members were informed that gaps in service have been addressed. Members were told about the M-PACT programme for families affected by substance and alcohol misuse). It was reported that following a pilot last year the reviews had been very positive.</p>	

	<p><u>Early Years:</u> In respect of aligning the programme to the Early Help work currently being implemented, a Member raised concern about the fact that it had been reported in Quarter 1 that we were behind with the Early Help programme. It was explained that the Stronger Families programme was currently aligned to the Early Help programme and that at the right time it would become a functional part of that work. It was clarified that regardless of where Early Help was at, the Stronger Families programme would still progress and therefore any impact of the Early Help work falling behind was minimal.</p> <p><u>Action Plan - Phase 2 Expanded Troubled Families:</u> Members were informed that the Outcomes plan was the action plan which was currently being drafted.</p> <p><u>Future Issues:</u> In reference to the future of the Stronger Families Programme becoming more 'sustained' and 'self-funding', it was confirmed that it was the Government's intention for this to happen. Members were told that there was a lot of work to get to the point where it is sustainable and be achieved through cost-savings across partners.</p> <p>The Chair asked for clarification in relation to 'supporting the range of family levels as determined by the Government; from Complex families either in social care or in the edge of social care, through to 'superlight' families in need to early help and low level support to prevent them escalating into more complex issues'. Members were told that although there were no guarantees, it is likely that this would happen.</p> <p>In respect of running Phase 2 of the programme over the next 5 year, Members raised concern as the current grant was only for 2015/16 only and further funding is yet to be announced in autumn. Members were informed that if taken away the recurring income from the detachment figures would result in a need to re-profile. It was also noted that new initiatives could be pump-primed.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Head of Stronger Families for attending the meeting and congratulated him on the successful outcomes being achieved by the programme.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> that the Panel noted:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The success of the Phase 1 Stronger Families Programme. 2. The current proposals for the Expanded Programme. 	
24	<u>STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2016 - LICENSING ACT 2003.</u>	
	Paul Williams, Business Safety and Licensing Manager attended the meeting to present a report to update the Panel on the adoption of the Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 (Licensing Act 2003) following its	

	<p>quinquennial review.</p> <p>The report explained that Doncaster Council was required by the Licensing Act 2003 to produce a Statement of Licensing Policy and to review its Policy quinquennially. It also outlined that it was the fourth Statement of Policy produced by Doncaster Council, under the Licensing Act 2003, which will set out the basis for all relevant licensing decisions to be taken by the Authority over the next five years.</p> <p>Members held a brief discussion which included the following: -</p> <p><u>Test Purchasing:</u> A Member raised a query about whether the police were still able to carry out test purchases and it was advised that as far as Officers were aware that this was still being undertaken.</p> <p><u>Sex Entertainment Establishments:</u> There was a discussion around the legislation and licensing requirements that applied to sex entertainment establishments. It was suggested that this could be further discussed informally with Officers by the Chair and Vice Chair of Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel as the Panel was the designated Crime and Disorder Panel as well.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee notes and supports the Statement of Policy – Licensing Act 2003 and the responses received during the consultation with a view to the Policy and responses being considered by the Licensing Committee before making a recommendation for its adoption by Council. 	
25	<p><u>STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2016 - GAMBLING ACT 2005</u></p>	
	<p>Paul Williams, Business Safety and Licensing Manager attended the meeting to present a report to update the Panel on the adoption of the Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 (Gambling Act 2005) following its triennial review.</p> <p>The report explained that Doncaster Council was required by the Gambling Act 2005 to produce a Statement of Licensing Policy and to review its Policy triennially. It also outlined that this was the fourth Statement of Policy produced by Doncaster Council under the Gambling Act 2005, which will set out the basis for all relevant licensing decisions to be taken by the Authority over the next three years.</p> <p>Members held a brief discussion which included the following:</p> <p><u>Betting Shops:</u> In respect of Betting Shops, Members were informed that applications forms need to clearly outline what the intentions of the business will be and how they are run bearing in mind community's main change in policy.</p>	

	<p><u>Risk Assessments</u>: It was noted that the Social responsibility code requires all premises licensees to carry out risk assessments. That Council sets out its Policy relevant matters that must be taken into account when undertaking risk assessments. It was added that this only applies to new premises and changes to existing.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> that:-</p> <p>1. The Committee notes and supports the Statement of Policy - Gambling Act 2005 and the consultation responses received with a view to it being considered by the Licensing Committee</p>	
26	<p><u>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2015/16.</u></p>	
	<p>The Senior Governance Officer presented the current Overview and Scrutiny work plan highlighting areas of work undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels since the last meeting.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> that: the 2015/2016 Overview and Scrutiny work plan, be noted.</p>	