

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PLACES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 19 March 2014.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs K D Lauro (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs E Atkins, Mrs Janet Hill, Mrs C A Hart, R L Hosker, T Southerd, S A Spencer and D Williams.

In attendance – Councillors D Allen and P Smith.

06/14 MINUTES RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 January 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

07/14 DISCUSSION WITH CABINET MEMBER Councillor Allen commented that the first consultation on the proposed changes to the Mobile Library Service had ended and comments received were being analysed. A meeting was planned with community transport operators and other groups regarding taking on the service, but funding would be an issue. Other suggested options included an increase of the home delivery service and lifts to static libraries. The Improvement and Scrutiny Committee would be updated accordingly.

Members commented that the use of community transport in this role would be a welcome provision but a county-wide service would need to be provided. It was reported that a review of community transport was to be undertaken.

Councillor Allen reported on grants to voluntary organisations from the Public Health budget. He commented that 2/3 of the budget was used for the provision of statutory services and any grants given had to meet the required criteria.

The Public Health Locality Plan was being considered by Local Area Committees. There were concerns that Members were unsure of the responsibilities of the CCGs and Public Health. Councillor Lauro suggested that how these were interacted within other local authorities should be investigated.

08/14 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ABUSE – PROGRESS REPORT A report on a review of support for victims of domestic violence/abuse had been circulated. A survey of the Council's employees had been undertaken and 18 responses had been received; the results were attached as appendices to the report. Michelle Collins and Lisa Morris from the Community Safety Team attended the meeting and spoke in more detail of the survey and that a new

policy was being prepared. As a result of the information gathered further work to implement improvements to assist employees were listed.

Discussion on the survey took place and it was noted that a 24-hour help line was available to staff and agreed that its availability needed to be promoted more widely; good practice arising from the survey should be shared with Derby City Council and other District Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner; and the staff questionnaire should be repeated in 18 months' time.

It was noted that support of employees of the County Council who had or were suffering domestic violence/abuse was currently provided by the Community Safety Team, Adult Care, CAYA and the Human Resources Division.

Councillor Smith commented that he was pleased that the survey had incorporated the Christmas period. He asked that respondents be thanked for their comments. He suggested that the Peer Support Group should be set up as soon as possible and hopefully within 2 months to assist with driving the issue forward. He supported the suggestion of a repeat survey and sharing of good practices with other authorities.

One of the recommendations to the Committee was that Cabinet should be informed of the outcome of the staff survey and that this might be an opportunity for a press release and publicity to be issued.

RESOLVED (1) to note the results and outcomes of the staff survey on domestic violence/abuse;

(2) that the information gathered by the survey be used to inform and help develop services by the Council's Community Safety Team, Adult Care, CAYA and the Human Resources Division, specifically aimed at supporting the Council's own employees;

(3) that the Head of Community Safety, the Acting Strategic Director of Adult Care and the Director of Human Resources be requested to report back to this Committee at its meeting in July 2014 on any initiatives they develop to support the Council's employees who suffer domestic violence/abuse;

(4) that a Peer Support Group be set up within 2 months to drive the issue forward; and

(5) that Cabinet be informed of the outcomes of the staff survey and be asked to endorse the recommendations set out above.

**09/14 ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT –
DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REDUCTIONS** Mike Ashworth, Strategic Director for Economy, Transport and Environment, attended the meeting to

explain the departmental budget reductions for the forthcoming year(s). Projected savings to be made by the department in 2014/15 was over £7m. This would be achieved through staff costs, savings from the highway maintenance budget, energy costs, traffic management and road safety schemes, waste disposal costs and general efficiencies; an increase in income from roadworks in the County, countryside parking fees and street parking schemes; changes to street lighting provision/replacement. The Strategic Director was confident that the department would be able to meet the required savings for 2014/15.

Members welcomed savings to be made from waste disposal costs as more waste was being recycled and the proposed introduction of LED lighting for street lighting. There was concern regarding changes to on-street parking charges, and the effects of a reduction in services provided by the district councils for gully emptying and grass cutting.

The Chair thanked Mr Ashworth for his informative presentation.

10/14 WORK PROGRAMME RESOLVED to note progress on the Committee's work programme.