

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PLACES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 4 September 2013.

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs K D Lauro (in the Chair)

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

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor T Southerd.

**14/13** **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 July 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**15/13** **DISCUSSION WITH CABINET MEMBER** Councillor D Allen, Cabinet member for Health and Communities and his Deputy, Councillor P J Smith, attended the meeting to give an update on current work on domestic violence in the County. Reference was made to the Council's Domestic Abuse Policy which would be subject to review in order to ensure that it met current needs.

**16/13** **REVIEW OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRESS REPORT**

A report was presented on progress made in the review of services and support for victims of domestic violence. The Committee's Crime and Disorder working group oversaw the Council's and its partner organisations' activities and was concentrating on reducing domestic violence.

There was a current Department of Health initiative which encouraged large organisations to provide support to any of their employees who were victims of domestic abuse. It was decided that this was an area which the working group should investigate further and a meeting was held with officers from the Human Resources Division and the Community Safety team to discuss the ways in which the County Council can offer support to its employees. The outcome of this initial meeting included agreement to consult with employees to ascertain their needs in respect of work-based assistance. The results of this would help develop future support mechanisms.

**RESOLVED** (1) to note the recent work undertaken on the review of support for domestic violence and the proposals for consulting with employees; and

(2) that outcomes from the consultation exercise be used to develop recommendations for a final report to the Committee and Cabinet to provide a formal council-wide process to support employees who are subjected to domestic violence.

**17/13**      **FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN**      Mr P Handford, Director of Finance, attended the meeting and gave a short presentation on the Five Year Financial Plan. The Five Year Financial Plan was a medium term financial plan which set out the overall shape of the Authority's budget by establishing how resources would be allocated reflecting the authority's and the community's priorities. The Comprehensive Spending Review had originally indicated that the Authority had to make £127m savings over the next 5 years. This in itself was a challenging target but recent changes indicated by Government had shown that the Authority had to make an additional saving of £30m, making a total of £157m.

The Director of Finance explained that the Council annually prepared forward financial plans for the 4 years after the current budget year. The plan took account of funding, known pressures, inflation and reserves projections and details of these were given in the presentation.

Discussion also took place surrounding the risks and challenges and a table showing projected cuts that may need to be made was presented to Members.

Members were afforded the opportunity to raise any observations and ask questions, which were duly noted or answered by the Director of Finance. A further presentation would be made to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED** to note the report and the Five Year Financial Plan.

**18/13**      **MANAGING FLOOD RISK**      Mr S Mead, Environmental Services and Mr N Elliott, Emergency Planning Team, attended to make a presentation on the Council's roles and responsibilities in relation to flood risk within the statutory framework. Local information would be presented to future meetings of Local Area Committees.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**19/13**      **WORK PROGRAMME**      **RESOLVED** to noted progress on the Committee's work programme.