

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 7 September 2023 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.00 pm
Concluded 5.50 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN
Azam Alipoor Robinson D Green Mohammed	Loy F Ahmed	Love

Observer: Councillor Hinchcliffe

Apologies: Councillor Karen Regan and Councillor Brendan Stubbs

Councillor Azam in the Chair

19. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under discussion were made.

20. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2023 be signed as a correct record.

21. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

22. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no referrals made to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

23. RESPONSE TO THE HATE CRIME SCRUTINY REVIEW

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “I”**) which provided a detailed multi-agency response to the recommendations and findings to the Hate Crime Scrutiny Review.

The Assistant Director, Place gave a comprehensive overview of the report setting out the progress made on each of the recommendations and findings relating to the Hate Crime Scrutiny Review, which were detailed in Document “I”. The Assistant Director in particular drew Member’s attention to the excellent partnership working that was taking place, which formed part of a multi-agency approach which had led to an increase in the number of incidents being reported; however, more work was required in raising awareness around hate crime, as there was still an aspect of underreporting. To this end further training and raising awareness sessions were envisaged, which would enable victims to come forward and ensure that they were being listened to and supported, as well as feel that appropriate action was being taken against perpetrators.

The Chair thanked officers and the excellent partnership working in supporting this vital piece of work and he acknowledged that good progress had been made since the review was undertaken.

In response to a question regarding the work with Morley Street Resource Centre, it was explained that although three meetings had been held over this year, more work was required with the centre as the lead officer was no longer in post and there had been a six-month hiatus, however reengagement since the pandemic was bearing fruit and this work will continue.

In response to a question regarding the reporting centres and their impact, it was stressed that there was a need to reduce the number of reporting centres, as much of the reporting was done via the hate crime reporting app.

A Member queried how hate incidents and hate crime were recorded as not all incidents would necessarily meet the threshold whereby they would lead to a prosecution. He gave the example of misogyny as an example of a hate incident and suggested that there should be a way of recording these type of incidents as well as receiving outcomes from the Police on the wider issues relating to Hate Crime. In response, the Assistant Director Place acknowledged that a statistical recording mechanism should be in place and she went onto explain that misogyny was an area of work that was being progressed, in particular around behaviours etc, with the College and University and their efforts to tackle harassment in and around the campus.

In response, a Member stated that the issue of harassment around the College/University had been prevalent over many years and it was good to see that the College/University were now taking a proactive approach in tackling this issue. He added that tracking hate incidents was important going forward and that it would enable better monitoring to take place.

In response to a further question regarding misogyny, it was suggested that work should also be done with 6th forms across the district. The Assistant Director acknowledged that more work was required and youth workers and ward officers

could be utilised to provide some training in this area.

The Director of the Hate Crime Alliance was also present at the meeting and in response to a number of questions, he stated that raising awareness around hate crime was key, as many victims were worried, that once reported, how a particular incident would be addressed and what questions would be asked of them, and therefore supporting the victims and giving them the confidence was crucial to achieving successful outcomes.

Resolved –

That a progress report be presented to this committee in 12 months which also specifically includes:

- **The findings of the comprehensive review of all 24 Hate Crime Reporting Centres;**
- **Detailed statistics in relation to Hate Crime incidents, Hate Crime and Hate Crime progressed to criminal investigations with outcomes.**

ACTION: Assistant Director Place

24. ANNUAL REPORT FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY 2022-23

The Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (**Document “J”**) which set out in Appendix 1 the Draft Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report for 2022-23.

The Overview and Scrutiny Lead drew Members’ attention to a minor amendment in the recommendations set out in Document “J”, and subject to those changes, it was therefore:

Resolved -

- (1) That the Committee considered the Annual Report for Overview and Scrutiny 2022-23.**
- (2) That the Annual Report for Overview and Scrutiny 2022-23, be referred to Council to be adopted.**

ACTION: Director of Legal and Governance (Recommendation 2

25. CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

The Chair of the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (**Document “K”**) which included the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2023/24, which was attached as appendix 1 to Document “H”. Also attached as appendix 2, was a list of unscheduled topics for 2023-24.

The Overview and Scrutiny Lead stated that a number of sessions had been arranged around the Call for Action relating to Anti-Social Behaviour, with a session planned on 18 Sept at Grange Interlink Centre and a session on 28 Sept in Ilkley. A further session was also planned and Members will be resent invitations for all the planned sessions, which will be held in person.

Resolved –

That the committee discussed and amended the work programme.

ACTION: Overview & Scrutiny Lead

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER