

Minutes of a meeting of the Keighley Area Committee held on Thursday, 1 February 2024 at 6.00 pm in Council Chamber - Keighley Town Hall

Commenced 6.00 pm
Concluded 7.00 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN	ILKLEY INDEPENDENTS	INDEPENDENT
Firth M Hussain Lintern	Brown Loy	Whitaker		Nazam

Councillor Brown in the Chair

34. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interest of transparency Councillor Brown disclosed that he worked closely with the Stronger Communities Teams, (Minute 39) Safer Bradford Partnership and Keighley Neighbourhood Policing Team, and that he was a member of the Grants Advisor Group, (Minute 40) Allocation of West Yorkshire Mayor’s Climate Community Grant Scheme. He remained in the meeting during consideration and voting on those items.

To be actioned by Director of Legal & Governance

35. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 be signed as a correct record.

36. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

37. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

38. SAFER BRADFORD PARTNERSHIP AND KEIGHLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD

POLICING TEAM

The Strategic Director, Place, presented a report, (Document “J”) which described key areas of policing and partnership work that contributed to improving community safety in the Keighley constituency.

The report revealed that the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act required statutory agencies, including local authorities, police authorities, fire and rescue services and health authorities to set up a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to work with partners, the community and voluntary sector to tackle issues including crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reduce re-offending in its area.

It was reported that ‘Safer Bradford’ was the Bradford District’s CSP and produced a Community Safety Plan for the district identifying priority issues for attention. The CSP had produced a ‘Plan on a Page’ a copy of which was appended to Document “J”. The West Yorkshire Mayor had published the regional Police and Crime Plan which set the strategic direction for community safety as a regional level and that plan, and the Safer Bradford Plan were strategically aligned.

Key priorities in the Community Safety Plan included the reduction of anti-social behaviour, reoffending and serious organised crime. Hate crime and support for the work of the Youth Justice Service to tackle drugs was also reported. Measures to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence, which had often been overlooked, were being addressed and details were outlined in the report. The significant impact of 50 to 60 incidents per day and the tragic consequences on the victims and long-term damage from children witnesses those incidents was reported.

West Yorkshire Police’s Neighbourhood Police Inspector addressed the meeting and provided assurances that Keighley Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPF) worked closely with Bradford Council’s Neighbourhoods and Community Services Team across the constituency. There were named Police and Council Ward Officers aligned to each ward across the area and the operational boundaries of Police and Council were co-terminus and enabled effective co-ordination, tasking and problem solving. He reported that the police’s work mirrored the work of the Community Safety Plan and that during the last 18 months the prevention of domestic abuse had been included in that plan. He explained the value of the Domestic Violence Protection Orders, as a tool for tackling domestic abuse. Statistics had revealed that 35 incidents had taken place before reports were made to the police. Victims were often reluctant to prosecute the perpetrators and the orders took that out of their hands and allowed the police to do so.

The work of the Keighley Neighbourhood Policing Team over the past 12 months was detailed in Appendix C to Document “J”.

Issues reported by residents to be prioritised included dangerous driving, litter, drugs, neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour.

Other priorities and considerations outlined in the report included Reducing Crime and Re-offending; the creation of the Multi-Agency Reducing Re-offending

Service (MARRS); the Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP) and West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP).

Following questions about gender of victims of domestic violence it was explained that there were some variances, however, the majority of incidents were against women. The details of a successful pilot project focusing on intensive support for standard to medium-risk domestic violence perpetrators were reported. It was confirmed that the pilot had been successful in meeting unmet needs for drugs help and accommodation needs and helped to navigate people towards support. Because of this successful investment efforts would be attempted to extend the pilot scheme.

Members assumed that the respondents to a survey outlined in the report confirming that 49% of respondents had witnessed women being harassed in public by men and 91% agreeing that the safety of women and girls should be a top priority for Bradford Council and its' partners had been women. It was confirmed that many, but not all respondents, had been women.

In response to questions about unlit parks and changes needed to make women feel safer when alone Members were advised that the Community Safety Partnership had invested in a worker to conduct a survey on measures required to reduce abuse and violence in the future. Work had been undertaken with the police on the harassment of female joggers and a communication campaign aimed to change the behaviours that some people felt were acceptable. A lot of resources were utilised to support victims and work was also being undertaken to change perpetrator behaviour. The availability of the safer streets portal for people to report places they felt were unsafe was promoted and enabled resources to be targeted where residents felt they were needed.

Members acknowledged the benefits of the use of surveys to ascertain information and gain valuable feedback but stressed the need to take action about women feeling unsafe. Measures such as the Safer Street Fund's provision of a van travelling around Bradford City Centre at night were discussed and it was believed that a number of small initiatives could make a change.

The multi-agency approach to reduced firework related anti-social behaviour in the District was discussed and Members compared figures in the report with previous years' statistics. It was questioned if the results from Operation Steerside in current and previous years could be provided and it was agreed to forward that information to Members.

Details of a localities model of intervention focusing on one ward in each locality for twelve weeks was discussed and it was agreed to advise Members when the initiative would be operating in their wards.

The production of crime statistics for each ward were queried and it was explained that these could be presented if required. It was cautioned that a habitual offender residing in a certain area could distort the information and that changes in classification, such as 'burglary of houses' now including sheds, could make it difficult to compare different types of crime.

The presentation had revealed the extent of the voluntary sectors involvement in

preventative measures and the impact of the current budgetary situation if those bodies were not around was raised as a concern.

It was questioned if people distributing drugs from their vehicles was classified as 'dealing' and it was confirmed that this was categorised as trafficking. Personal use was dealt with through the early help route to solve addiction but dealing drugs was dealt with separately.

Arrests made from data intelligence were questioned and it was explained that arrests were made from a number of sources. There were particular hotspot areas known to the police where overt or covert resources were deployed. Information was also gained from intelligence received and police intuition was also useful. Details of the police interceptor team utilising non-traditional police vehicles in their investigations were also discussed.

A particular issue of drugs and serious crime in the Keighley Central Ward was raised and it was claimed that residents were afraid to report those problems. In response assurances were provided that the Precision Organised Crime Team were aware of those issues and the people who were involved. The Precision Organised Crime Team had other skills and abilities not available at a local level.

Concern was expressed that people coming into the country were claiming their relationships had broken down as soon as they arrived. It was questioned what work was conducted with the Home Office to ensure those relationships were genuine on entry into the UK. It was confirmed that the Domestic Abuse Team took very seriously, and at face value, all reports received. It was agreed to discuss those concerns with Council officers and the police after the meeting.

The structure of the Police Neighbourhood Team was queried, and it was confirmed that there were 12 police constables each having a designated ward to cover. Some wards also included a ward officer depending on demand.

Reductions in reoffending as a result of the Multi-Agency Reducing Re-Offending Services (MARRS) were discussed. It was confirmed that further investment would be required to provide the service across the District and it was agreed to confirm the actual numbers the percentages quoted in the report equated to.

A Member representing the Worth Valley constituency discussed residents' perceived lack of engagement with the police and agreed to discuss those concerns with his constituents and report back to officers.

Resolved –

That the work undertaken by the Keighley Neighbourhood Policing Team and Community Safety Partnership that contributes toward addressing priorities within the Locality and Ward Plans for the Keighley area be noted.

To be actioned by Director of Legal & Governance

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Area

39. **ALLOCATION OF WEST YORKSHIRE MAYOR'S CLIMATE COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME (BRADFORD)**

The report of the Strategic Director, Place, (Document "K") summarised the allocations recommended by the Grants Advisory Group for the Keighley Constituency part of the West Yorkshire Mayor's Climate Community Grant Scheme (Bradford) for approval by Keighley Area Committee.

The report revealed that City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (CBMDC), via its Constituency Area Offices, jointly working with the Sustainability Service, invited applications from eligible groups to apply for funding available from West Yorkshire Mayor's Climate Community Grant Scheme (Bradford).

The grants from this funding were part of a two-stage process – an expression of interest form and then, after approval, further grant applications were considered by the Keighley Area Committee Grants Advisory Group. The West Yorkshire Mayor's Climate Community Grant Scheme (Bradford) had a total budget of £369,000 allocated equally across the five areas at £73,800.

Document "K" reported that applications were invited for between £5,000 and £50,000 towards projects and services that helped take actions to reduce CO2 across the district through initiatives for:

- Energy – local clean and flexible energy solutions
- Building – healthy, affordable and efficient community buildings
- Transport – walking, cycling and public transport.
- Nature – green and climate ready nature and biodiversity solutions

Projects could include:

- Developing locally generated clean energy schemes, producing onsite energy/renewable energy, for example solar panels and wind turbines.
- Making community buildings resilient to climate change and increased fuel costs through insulation, A-rated appliances, LED lighting or heat pumps – reducing consumption and promoting good practice to local residents.
- Reducing car and fossil fuel usage by making it more appealing to cycle, walk or use public transport or
- Finding ways of working with nature, such as preserving or increasing biodiversity in our green spaces, strengthening the link between residents and nature through access to green space, local food growing, and creating opportunities for people to connect with nature.

It was explained that in the Keighley Area a total of 21 applications were submitted in the first Expression of Interest round. Those were considered by the GAG and seven organisations were asked to submit a full second round application. At that stage, two organisations withdrew their applications, leaving five applications that were considered by the GAG. The allocations being recommended by the GAG for approval by Keighley Area Committee were attached at Appendix B.

A Member queried if details of unsuccessful applications could be provided and it was agreed that information could be provided, in confidence, after the meeting.

Resolved –

That the recommendations of the Keighley Area Committee’s Grants Advisory Group for the funding allocations of the West Yorkshire Mayor’s Climate Change Community Grant Scheme (Bradford), as set out in Appendix B of Document “K”, be approved.

To be actioned by Strategic Director, Place

Overview and Scrutiny Area: Regeneration & Environment

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Keighley Area Committee.

THIS AGENDA AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER