

## CRIME & DISORDER OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 27 JUNE 2016

PRESENT: Councillors Derek Sharp (Chairman), John Bowden (Vice-Chair), John Story, Hashim Bhatti, Hari Sharma and Simon Werner.

Also in attendance: Parish Councillor Pat McDonald (White Waltham Parish Council), Parish Councillor Margaret Lenton (Wraysbury Parish Council) and Jason Veradaguer.

Officers: Tanya Leftwich, Craig Miller and Simon Fletcher.

### ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Derek Sharp (proposed by Councillor Hari Dev Sharma and seconded by Councillor John Story) and Councillor John Bowden (proposed by Councillor Hari Dev Sharma and seconded by Councillor John Story) were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, for the ensuing municipal year.

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Derek Sharp be elected Chairman and Councillor John Bowden be elected Vice-Chairman, for the ensuing municipal year.**

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jesse Grey, Superintendent Bhupinder Rai (Thames Valley Police) and Chief Inspector Grahame (Thames Valley Police).

The Chairman announced that the meeting was being recorded and that the audio would be available shortly on the RBWM website.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor John Story declared an interest in the Part II item as his wife is a Council employee. It was agreed that Councillor Story would leave the room for the Part II item.

### MINUTES

The Part I minutes of the meeting held on the 19 May 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

### PROPERTIES FOR HOMELESS RESIDENTS

The Strategic Director of Operations, Simon Fletcher, informed the Panel that the Managing Director & Strategic Director of Adults, Children and Health Services, Alison Alexander, had given her apologies.

The Strategic Director of Operations informed the Panel that the report sought the approval for the use of two Council owned properties by a voluntary organisation to provide services for homeless residents in Maidenhead on a pilot basis. It was noted that both properties were currently vacant and were part of the council's commercial property portfolio.

Members were informed that the first property would be used to provide day services for homeless residents, including access to washing facilities, clean clothes and food with the potential for limited emergency overnight accommodation. The other property would be used to provide time limited accommodation for a small number of residents as a halfway house before moving into suitable accommodation. It was explained that the residents in the halfway house would be accessing the standard therapeutic rehabilitation services delivered through the Drug and Alcohol Action Team to enable them to make the transition.

Members were informed that this provision would work in partnership with the other services already working with homeless residents in the Borough and which were supported by the Royal Borough through support contracts.

In the ensuing discussion the following points were noted:

- That one of the buildings had primarily been used for storage whilst the other was currently vacant.
- Members were referred to the timetable for implementation on page 9 of the report. It was noted that the aim was to have the properties operational, subject to planning approval and completion of conversion works, by the 1 November 2016.
- Jason Veradaguer who was living in the tent in front of the Town Hall questioned why there were eighteen new builds in Woodlands Park that were about to be demolished when they could be used by the homeless in the Royal Borough.
- Jason Veradaguer informed the Panel that he had lived in the Royal Borough all his life and was a homeless builder. It was noted that Jason simply wanted somewhere to live so he could return to working as a builder.
- The Strategic Director of Operations agreed to look into whether any aid that could be given by the Council to help resolve the issue between Millgate Homes and Housing Solutions.
- That assessing the need was part of an ongoing process.

**The Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel unanimously agreed to recommend to Cabinet the following:**

- i) Approves the use of two Council-owned properties for a day service and emergency housing for homeless residents.**
- ii) Delegates authority to the Managing Director/Strategic Director Adult, Children and Health Services and Strategic Director Corporate and Community Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to apply for all necessary consents and permissions to enable the recommendation i) and to finalise the details of the Service Level Agreement.**

The Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel asked how many people the two buildings could accommodate, the size of the units (square footage) and whether there was any gagging clause because it was a charity organisation?

DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chairman informed Members that the dates of the next meetings were as follows:

- Thursday 15 September 2016.
- Monday 14 November 2016.
- Monday 30 January 2017.
- Thursday 20 April 2017.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

**RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting whilst discussion took place on items 7&8 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

The meeting, which began at 6.15pm, finished at 7.45 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....