

CRIME & DISORDER OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Derek Sharp (Chairman), John Bowden (Vice-Chairman), Hashim Bhatti, Jesse Grey and Simon Werner.

Also in attendance: Councillor Carwyn Cox (Lead Member for Environmental Services), Parish Councillor Margaret Lenton (Wraysbury Parish Council) and Parish Councillor Pat McDonald (White Waltham Parish Council).

Officers: Tanya Leftwich, Craig Miller, Mark Lampard and Andy Jeffs.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hari Sharma and John Story.

Apologies for absence were also received from Superintendent Rai (Thames Valley Police) and Parish Councillor Spike Humphrey (his sub, Parish Councillor Margaret Lenton, was in attendance).

It was noted that Councillor Carwyn Cox was running a little late but would join the meeting very shortly.

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

The Chairman also informed everyone present of the fire evacuation procedures.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY; That the Part I minutes of the meeting held on the 14 December 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

BUDGET 2017/18

The Finance Partner - Corporate Services & Operations, Mark Lampard, explained that the report set out the Council budget for 2017/18. Members were informed that the priority in setting the budget had been to ensure the continued delivery of quality services for all residents, especially the most vulnerable, whilst the Royal Borough remained a low tax council. The Finance Partner - Corporate Services & Operations gave Members a brief presentation on the highlights of the proposed budget for 2017/18 which covered the following:

- Local Revenue Investments.
- Revenue recommendations.
- 17/18 Capital investment.
- Business Rates – for business.
- Context.

It was noted that the budget proposed a 0.95% increase in core council tax (£8.62) and a 3% adult social care precept at band D (£27.75) adding to the 2016/17 precept of £18.14.

In the ensuing discussion the following points were noted:

- That the monetary terms increase for Council tax Band F could be found in the report papers.
- That 2019/20 was the proposed date for full retention of Business Rates
- That information about the Nicholson's Centre could be found in the Capital section of the report under the 'Broadway Opportunity Area'.
- That the Parking Provision paper had been before Cabinet this week, including potential capital spend proposals including a proposed additional deck at Riverside Car Park.
- That an explanation about how the reserves were maintained could be found in the report papers.
- That appropriate cost and income budgets were inflated by 2% (based on RPI in September 2016).
- That there were £5.9m savings identified in the budget across three directorates. It was noted that the CCTV proposal could be found in 'Delivering Differently in Operations..
- The Apprentice Levy was primarily about training funded by charge of 0.5% of the Council Payroll. The £180k was a corporate figure that included schools.

Councillor Werner questioned why the budget paper was being put forward before the CCTV proposal had been decided. The Finance Partner - Corporate Services & Operations explained that the majority of savings proposals were included in the paper that had been approved by Cabinet and that the CCTV proposal would be going before Cabinet in January.

Councillor Werner stated his disappointment that the Council was breaking its Manifesto pledge about Council Tax.

The Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel unanimously agreed to recommend to Cabinet that they note the report and approve the:

- i) Detailed recommendations contained in Appendix A which includes a Council Tax at band D of £915.57, including a 0.95% increase of £8.55.**
- ii) Adult Social Care Precept of 3% (an increase of £27.75 on the £18.14 precept included in the 2016/17 budget) to be included in the Council's budget proposals, making this levy the equivalent of £45.89 at band D.**
- iii) Fees and Charges contained in Appendix D are approved.**
- iv) Capital Programme, shown in appendices F and G, for the financial year commencing April 2017.**
- v) Prudential borrowing limits set out in Appendix L.**
- vi) Business rate tax base calculation, detailed in Appendix O, and its use in the calculation of the Council Tax Requirement in Appendix A.**
- vii) Head of Finance in consultation with the Lead Members for Finance and Children's Services is authorised to amend the total schools budget to reflect actual Dedicated School Grant levels.**

- viii) **Head of Finance in consultation with the Lead Member for Finance is authorised to make appropriate changes to the budget to reflect the impact of the transfer of services to Achieving for Children and Optalis.**
- ix) **Responsibility to include the precept from the Berkshire Fire and Rescue Authority in the overall Council Tax charges is delegated to the Lead Member for Finance and Head of Finance once the precept is announced.**

DELIVERING DIFFERENTLY IN OPERATIONS & CUSTOMER SERVICES - CCTV

The Head of Community Protection & Enforcement, Craig Miller, explained that Cabinet, at its meeting of 30 June 2016, had considered a proposal to undertake an initial review of the CCTV function. Members were informed that this report set out the findings of the initial review of the Council's CCTV system and proposed a further full technological review be undertaken, to be reported to Cabinet in August 2017, to investigate how modern digital CCTV technology could enhance service provision.

The Head of Community Protection & Enforcement added that the Council had shared the report with the Thames Valley Police (TVP) and that as a result they had made recommendations as to how the TVP and Council could make enhancements to the service. It was noted that the Area Commander for the TVP had stated that it would not provide a detriment to the Royal Borough if some of the CCTV cameras were removed. Members were informed that the report also looked at alternative operating models.

The Lead Member for Environmental Services including Parking, Councillor Cox, stated that he had nothing further to add to what the Head of Community Protection & Enforcement had already said.

In the ensuing discussion the following points were noted:

- That the Head of Community Protection & Enforcement and Lead Member for Environmental Services including Parking were fully committed to meeting with all the Ward Members where the proposed 30 cameras for decommissioning were located to discuss their values. It was noted that this was being done in line with the full technical review and that decisions made with regard to individual cameras would not simply be made on statistics alone.
- That the term 'under used camera' related to the amount of time a camera was used for its primary and secondary use. It was noted that some of the 30 cameras identified were in areas where a private asset could be used, where there were multiple cameras in some of the areas and where other cameras could be used to cover the area in question.
- That the cost of decommissioning a camera was felt to be high as it covered the removal of the full column and making the ground good.
- That if cameras were simply turned off and left at locations to be used as deterrents then the Council would need to add signs to the cameras to state they were no longer in use. It was noted that if cameras were left at locations the Council would still need to maintain them even if they were no longer in use.
- That parts for the current CCTV system were no longer manufactured.
- That Cabinet would ultimately make the decision on this proposal.
- That the number of arrests made by the TVP supported by CCTV footage was not available / recorded.
- It was suggested that Thames House in Victoria Street could have a fixed 270 degree camera installed to monitor the three nearby streets.
- Councillor Bowden and Councillor Werner both mentioned specific cameras in their wards which the Lead Member for Environmental Services including Parking agreed could be discussed outside of the meeting.

The Panel commented that they were in full agreement that the Councils CCTVs were in need of upgrading but were disappointed to see that children's playgrounds were on the list of 30 cameras proposed for decommission.

The Panel commented that they would prefer to see any decommissioned cameras left in place for a set amount of time so they could be reinstated if necessary and so they could act as a deterrent to crime.

The Panel stated that Council would not be able to rely on private cameras as a substitute for Council CCTV cameras.

The Panel suggested that the Council should contact the MOD, Home Office and Ascot Racecourse to see if they might be interested in contributing some funding towards the security of Windsor Castle and towards safety at events such as Royal Ascot, etc.

The Panel also suggested looking into whether the Council could apply for a contribution of the £1m capital funding set aside by the Thames Valley Police for the Thames Valley region.

The Crime & Disorder Overview & Scrutiny Panel unanimously agreed to recommend to Cabinet that they note the report and:

- i. Delegate authority to the Interim Strategic Director of Operations and Customer Services in conjunction with the Lead Member for Environmental Services including Parking to:**
 - a. Implement options A and B, see point 2.28.**
 - b. Commission expert resource to undertake a review of the CCTV network including options for joint/merged services and develop a proposal to reconfigure current CCTV arrangements as set out in option A, and report the findings to Cabinet in August 2017.**

DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

- Thursday 20 April 2017.

It was requested that if the above meeting date in April resulted in any membership clashes then it be changed to an alternative date.

The meeting, which began at 7.00 pm, finished at 8.22 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....