

## **Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee**

**9 January 2018**

Present: Councillor S Graham (Chair),  
Councillors J Allan, S Day, P Earley, Janet Hunter,  
A McMullen, T Mulvenna, P Oliver, M Rankin,  
M Thirlaway and J Wallace

Church Representative  
Rev M Vine

Parent Governor Representative  
Mrs M Ord

### **OV32/01/18 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Austin, N Craven and C Johnson

### **OV33/01/18 Substitute Members**

Pursuant to the Council's constitution the appointment of the following substitute Member was reported: - Councillor D Drummond for Councillor N Craven

### **OV34/01/18 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

### **OV35/01/18 Minutes**

Resolved that minute of the meeting held on 4 December 2017 be confirmed;

### **OV36/01/18 Initial proposals for the development of the safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy 2019/2024**

The Committee received a report that provided details of Cabinets initial proposals in respect of the development of a new Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy 2019-2024.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on responsible authorities to work together to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending within the community.

To oversee this statutory responsibility the Community Safety Partnership, Safer North Tyneside (SNT) was established and a key requirement of the Partnership, was the production of a Community Safety Strategy and the current Community Safety Strategy covered the period April 2014 to 31 March 2019.

The multi agency Safer North Tyneside Partnership Board (SNTPB) had developed the new draft Strategy and its membership currently included the following organisations:

- North Tyneside Council
- Northumbria Police
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service
- Community Rehabilitation Company
- North Tyneside NHS Clinical Commissioning Group
- Director of Public Health
- VODA

The SNTPB had considered the latest available strategic assessment that aided the identification of crime trends and national legislation in determining the priorities set out within the new draft Strategy. The draft Strategy had links to the Police and Crime Plan, developed by the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the SNT Board also attends the Police and Crime Panel at a strategic level.

The Strategy had also been written to take account of the key priorities in the Our North Tyneside Plan and supports the many strategic plans and projects that the Authority and its partners were delivering. This would include making links to the scoping work underway on the Drugs and Alcohol Strategy and the Transport Strategy, having regard to creating safe and sustainable travel options in the Borough.

The Committee was informed that some priorities were the responsibility of partners and formed pieces of work and strategies already in place across several other forums and partnerships. Child sexual exploitation and modern day slavery were examples of this type of cross cutting work. A reporting structure would be established across the various partnerships to capture this work and ensure that effective coordination was in place.

The partnership had identified four key priorities for North Tyneside, with the understanding of current service provision, data sets and intelligence, the level of resource available and what awareness/communication strategies were in place:

- Safeguarding
- Public Protection
- Alcohol and drugs
- Crime and Disorder

The timetable for the consultation process was provided detailing key dates and the identified groups that were expected to provide specific views.

A Member questioned how successful the current Safer North Tyneside Strategy had been and made particular reference to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

It was stated that the belief was that the strategy had been successful, however ASB was complex and to successfully tackle requires work between a number of services that are flexible and have a proactive approach.

To gain a clear understanding it was asked how success was measured and in response it was stated that police data was used and this had demonstrated that there was a reduction in ASB.

It was asked how the strategy would eradicate hotspot areas where ASB was currently a great concern. It was stated that by the joining up of services, collating the right information, understanding the seasonal effects (Summer, bonfire night etc) and using data that had been collected over previous years would help target and tackle areas of concern in advance.

A Member raised that local councillors are continually approached by residents that raise issues around ASB and have a good knowledge of concerns in each electoral ward. It was stated that local councillors should be utilised more and invited to meetings that take place in the Wards they represent.

A Member stated that the Council internal reporting systems were too slow, with officers not responding/not providing update responses to members when raising enquiries. Members were often the last to be notified of any action being taken. It was also stated that a key area the strategy should focus was dealing with hotspot areas.

It was acknowledged that a streamlined process was needed and that Members concerns would be reported back to the Partnership Board.

A Member stated that greater partnership was needed with Nexus to combat traveling groups using the transport system and causing ASB across the Borough. Members were informed that links with Nexus and Street Pastors were in place and that access to Nexus CCTV would help identify perpetrators of ASB.

It was raised that as many cases of ASB are perpetrated by young people and that Head teachers and Education centres should also be approached to work to develop the strategy.

Members raised concern to the amount of information available publicly on the Council website with regards to Safer North Tyneside with the opinion that there were no assurance that work had been undertaken referencing the most recent meeting notes available were from January 2014.

Reassurance was given that the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership received quarterly reports.

Members raised that the perception could be that the current strategy had failed as no new information was available for the public to view.

The officer stated that the Committee's concerns would be brought to the attention of the board.

The Committee requested a written explanation be given to the reasons why the meeting notes on the Safer North Tyneside web page had not been updated since January 2014 thus 4 years.

It was questioned how the consultation would be promoted and which groups would be involved. It was stated that the consultation would be undertaken through social media and a number of listed groups.

Concerns were raised to the ability for all groups to take an active part in the consultation process and that only known individuals/groups would be approached for their involvement. It was requested that the list of all the groups being approached in the consultation process be provided.

It was suggested that a press release could be made promoting the consultation and involvement from individual/groups that had not been involved previously.

Officers assured the Committee that their concerns and views would be given consideration as part of the consultation.

**Agreed** that (1) a written explanation be given to the reasons why the meeting notes on the Safer North Tyneside web page had not been updated for 4 years; and (2) A full list of all groups approached/involved in the consultation of the Initial proposals for the Safer North Tyneside Community Safety Strategy 2019/2024 be provided.

### **OV37/01/18 Budget sub-group report**

The Committee received the report of the Budget Sub-group that detailed the scrutiny into the initial 2018/20 Financial Planning and Budget proposals.

The group met on three separate occasions and commented its frustration with the content and delays in the provision of some of the business cases and further requested information.

It was stated in the report and reiterated at the meeting that delays only hampered the scrutiny process and that it was completely unsatisfactory and not conducive to good scrutiny.

It was requested that recommendation 7 therefore be reworded to further emphasise the feeling of the Committee;

**Recommendation 7: That following the decision to implement the 2018/19 Council Budget. A review be undertaken to investigate and determine what information should be supplied to enable good comprehensive scrutiny of future Council Budgets and therefore reduce delays to the budget process.**

It was **Agreed** that (1) the Budget Sub-Group report detailing comments and recommendations (listed) be referred to Cabinet:-

**R1:** That consideration be taken to increase all Fees and Charges in line with inflation.

**R2:** That a review of all charges for events carried out in the borough be reviewed to ascertain if the Authority is receiving value for money for the use of its resources to facilitate these events.

**R3:** That a review of the impact to Alternative Weekly collections be undertaken to provide assurance that this method of collection is the most appropriate, where communal waste storage in place.

**R4:** That all residents be provided clear information to how Alternative Weekly Collection of their waste will have an overall benefit to the community.

**R5:** That the scheduling of opening hours of Customer Service Centres and Library Services be in place to ensure that the service are available when residents most need them.

**R6:** That the use of Customer First Centre & Library buildings be promoted for the use by community groups to ensure that these facilities continue to be used in the most cost effective way for the local community.

**R7:** That following the decision to implement the 2018/19 Council Budget. A review be undertaken to investigate and determine what information should be supplied to enable good comprehensive scrutiny of future Council Budgets and therefore reduce delays to the budget process.

**R8:** That greater emphasis be given to increase the commercial opportunities of the North Tyneside Trading Company to increase revenue.