

# minutes



Meeting CRIME REDUCTION SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 23 July 2007 (commencing at 1.30 pm)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

## COUNCILLORS

Councillor John Knight (Chair)  
Councillor Joe Lonergan MBE (Vice-Chair)

	John Carter		Pat Lally
	Jen Cole		Bruce Laughton
A	Alan Davison	A	Mark Spencer
	Stan Heptinstall MBE		

## ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle

## MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting of the Select Committee held on 18 June 2007, having been circulated previously, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alan Davison and Mark Spencer.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bruce Laughton declared a personal interest in the remaining items on the agenda as his wife was employed by the Police Authority.

## PRESENTATION BY ANNE HALLIDAY, GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE EAST MIDLANDS

Anne Halliday updated the Select Committee on the scale of the challenge in Nottinghamshire in reducing crime. She said that it was clear from current figures that the County would not meet PSA targets and in fact figures were going in completely the opposite direction. Faced with this level of challenge the Police Standards and Partnership Review of Nottinghamshire had been established and a programme of support offered to improve delivery of safer communities in the County. Ms Halliday briefly summarised the work undertaken in this connection in

terms of liaison with Countywide agencies and partnerships (as a health check for County structures) and advice given to Districts, either on an individual or merged basis. The findings of this review were expected at the end of 2007 and a comment to this effect had been included in the draft recommendations in the following agenda item.

Members of the Select Committee made the following questions/comments on the presentation as under (with the response/officer comment indicated where appropriate):-

- What were the main drivers of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership District mergers? – Ms Halliday said it was a question of an economy of scale in sharing resources and better working with the Police so that the capacity to deliver was increased
- Gedling's crime statistics seemed to "buck the trend" as they were falling. Why was this? – Ms Halliday commented that Gedling had been able to apply the national standards for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships referred to in her presentation before other areas
- would any additional funding be provided as part of this national programme? – this was unlikely but, in this connection, it had to be remembered that Nottinghamshire was significantly underfunded and that this had an effect on the County's ability to effect crime statistics in a positive manner
- was managerial responsibility clear? – Ms Halliday commented that there were clear lines of accountability in the national standards
- concern was expressed that other reports to the Select Committee had indicated that the level of crime was falling whereas this report said exactly the opposite – Ms Halliday commented that evidence showed that the only successful way of tackling the deep seated issues giving rise to crime was strong partnership working
- Police statistics generally dealt with the more serious crimes which often were not reported as issues to local Councillors in their divisions, but what was reported were the more low level issues (for example, graffiti and gangs of youths) and, therefore, the question was raised as to whether local involvement produced any benefit – the comment was made that it was still important to tackle these more low level issues in order that the general public had faith that their concerns were being taken seriously and that the Police and other agencies were responsive; also if low level crime issues were not tackled fear of crime could grow
- some Members expressed the view that they would have liked the national standards to have included an Inspectorate type body with powers to enforce matters locally instead of the advisory role referred to in the presentation.

Ms Halliday was thanked for attending the meeting and making her presentation.

## **CRIME REDUCTION SELECT COMMITTEE – DRAFT FINAL REPORT**

In considering the content of the draft report, Members made the following additional comments:-

- To aid clarity of understanding they favoured a better explanation of the issues set out in the tables in appendix B to the report
- they noted the confusion over the different basis for the statistics which had been presented to them during the course of this review where the figures could be on a County (including or excluding the City) or on a Force area basis and that, often, this did not allow comparisons to be made or safe conclusions to be reached – in this respect reference was made to the IQuanta data, a Home Office information system, which supplied statistics to Police Forces throughout the Country and Members asked Officers to ascertain whether this information could be made available to them and
- the situation in Gedling was noted and it was agreed that representatives of the Borough should be invited to present to the Select Committee when it was reconvened in either late December 2007 or early January 2008.

The Select Committee agreed that the recommendations set out in the report be made to Cabinet at its September meeting with an additional recommendation concerning the provision of crime statistics as set out above.

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm.

### **CHAIR**

Ref: crime reduction/m\_23july07