

Ashfield District Council	Bassetlaw District Council	Broxtowe Borough Council	Gedling Borough Council	Mansfield District Council	Newark & Sherwood District Council	Nottinghamshire County Council	Rushcliffe Borough Council
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Meeting JOINT LOCAL AREA SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date 18th March 2009 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Nottinghamshire County Councillors:-

Jen Cole
Edward Llewellyn-Jones
Joe Lonergan MBE
A Andy Stewart
A Chris Winterton
Brian Wombwell
A Yvonne Woodhead

District and Borough Councillors:-

Tom Appleby – Mansfield District Council
Paul Feeny – Gedling Borough Council
Peter Harris – Newark and Sherwood District Council
James Holland – Bassetlaw District Council
Nigel Lawrence – Rushcliffe Borough Council
Brian Taylor – Broxtowe Borough Council
John Wilmott – Ashfield District Council

Also in Attendance:-

Councillor Anne Wright – Gedling Borough Council

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was agreed that Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones be appointed Chair of the Committee.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was agreed that Councillor Nigel Lawrence be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report which set out the current membership of the Joint Scrutiny Committee. This was noted.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Stewart and Chris Winterton.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to a draft protocol for the operation of the Joint Committee.

It was agreed that the protocol be adopted.

LOCAL AREA PRIORITY – OBESITY

Consideration was given to a report on tackling the rising levels of obesity. The Service Manager (Healthier Communities Service), Cathy Harvey from the County Council gave a presentation to the committee.

During the presentation and subsequent discussion the following points were made:-

- The Local Area Agreement is for a 3 year period. The partnership feels there is a need to stabilise the situation first and then look at reducing the levels of obesity particularly among children and adults.
- The numbers are verified by all children in the county being weighed and measured at primary school. Parents can opt out and if they do the information is collected by the Primary Care Trust. Adults are measured when they go to their GP who will do a body mass index measurement. This information is then collected by the Primary Care Trusts. It was queried whether there was a requirement for GPs to undertake this.
- There was a detailed action plan to tackle obesity which covered both adults and children.
- Work was being done to get information at a local level through families of schools.
- There was a need to ensure that the data was robust at a local level.

It was felt that it was premature to look at obesity as we would not know whether the action being taken was working until the results were seen in 2009/10. Members acknowledged that obesity is a major issue with political difficulties but expressed concern about whether the ambitions and actions are sufficient. Obesity is a wide ranging issue and the results will not be seen for a while.

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT: SAFER COMMUNITIESTHEME

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the priorities and targets within the “safer” theme of the Local Area Agreement, how these were selected and how they were being delivered. Chris Walker from the County’s Community Safety team introduced the report. He indicated that new governance arrangements had been introduced and one of the key changes was a focus on performance management. He added that it was too early to say whether the change programme was working.

It was reported that the Home Office were consulting on crime and disorder reduction partnership scrutiny which it was proposed to introduce at the end of April.

It was suggested that NI17 perceptions of anti-social behaviour could be looked at as it involved several agencies. A comparison between CRDPs would be of interest to everyone. It was pointed out that the perceptions of anti-social behaviour ranged from less than 8% in Rushcliffe to 37% in Ashfield. Nottinghamshire had a poor crime record and the best value indicators showed that we were bottom in the country for burglary and crime. Consultants had stated that the targets which had previously been set were not robust enough to improve this position. There was a feeling that youth crime in the city was falling at the expense of the county.

FUTURE WORK

It was thought that the Committee be constituted as a task and finish group to look at community safety and focussing on anti-social behaviour, why there are differences across the county and how it was delivered. It was thought that a comparison with other authorities would be useful. Evidence would be taken from the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the police amongst others.

It was agreed that:-

1. The Committee be reconstituted as a task and finish group to look at in more detail work on anti-social behaviour.
2. The next meeting be held on Monday 20th April 2009 at 2pm
3. The Chair and Vice-Chair agree the scope of the review.

The meeting closed at 4.07 pm.

CHAIR

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