

# DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

## Safer Select Committee

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**Councillors:** Hilary Cole (*Chairman*) (P), Jeff Beck (P), George Chandler (P), Adrian Edwards (AP), Roger Hunneman (*Vice-Chairman*) (P), Keith Woodhams (P)

**Substitutes:** Lee Dillon, Geoff Findlay, Tony Linden(P), Gwen Mason

**Also present:** Andy Day (Head of Policy and Communication), Elaine Vincent (Principal Policy Officer)

#### PART I

#### 4. APOLOGIES.

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received on behalf of Councillor Adrian Edwards. Councillor Tony Linden substituted.

#### 5. MINUTES.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillors Roger Hunneman, Tony Linden, Jeff Beck, George Chandler and Hilary Cole declared an interest in Agenda Item 5, but reported that, as their interest was not personal and prejudicial, they were permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

#### 7. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee considered the proposed work programme for the Committee with a view to prioritising the listed items and considering additional areas for inclusion.

Councillor Cole informed the Committee of the work item 'Implementation of the recommendations arising from the Laming Report, following the 'Baby P' enquiry' that was to be transferred from the Stronger Select Committee. It was noted that this item would be more appropriately placed within the work programme for the Safer Select Committee. The Committee agreed that this item should be added to the work programme.

The Committee agreed to combine items 1 (Public confidence in crime and disorder management) and 6 (Neighbourhood Action Groups) into a single review item of 'Improving Public Confidence'. This would be the first item for review. The Committee further agreed to combine items 2 (Preventing road accidents in West Berkshire) and 3 (Annual road safety work programme) into a single review item of 'Road Safety'. This would be the second item for review.

Councillor Cole suggested that the remaining items on the work plan not be prioritised until further information became available from the Safer Communities Partnership. This would support flexibility in the work plan to allow for unplanned items to be included as required. The Committee accepted this proposal.

It was noted that item 2 – Preventing road accidents in West Berkshire – underwent a significant review recently and that further reviews undertaken by the Committee would take into consideration recommendations and progress since then.

A question was raised as to the requirements for the review around item 5 – mixed parking arrangements. Clarification would be sent to the Committee.

The Committee agreed the following administrative points:

- The Committee would expect to review one item at a time due to resource constraints.
- That task groups would not be formed for reviews as the Committee was suitably sized to negate this need.
- Quarterly meetings were scheduled, however it was noted that further commitment would be required when reviewing certain areas.
- Quarterly meetings would be scheduled for the evenings due to the need for public access. Interim meetings would be scheduled as day time when there was no public attendance required, and evenings meetings requiring public attendance.

**RESOLVED that:**

- The work programme would be amended to reflect the agreed additions, amendments and priorities.
- Clarification of the requirements for item 5 on the work plan would be sent to the Committee.

## **8. PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.**

*(Councillors Roger Hunneman, Tony Linden, Jeff Beck, George Chandler and Hilary Cole declared a personal interest in Agenda item 5 by virtue of the fact that they are members of Neighbourhood Action Groups. As their interest was personal and not prejudicial they were permitted to take part in the debate and vote on the matter).*

Councillor Cole introduced the first item for review, and explained that the subject had changed focus to specifically include the contribution of Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) in increasing public confidence. This reflected the agreement to combine items 1 and 6 of the work plan and would ensure that work undertaken by the Committee would not duplicate work soon to be undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission.

The Committee reviewed the proposed scoping of the project and requested a number of amendments. Councillor Cole expressed a wish to ensure that the scope did not become so wide as to make the review unmanageable. The Committee agreed on the following alterations:

- The title of the review should be altered to read 'Improving Public Confidence'
- The terms of reference should include Member involvement in NAGs.
- There was a link between NI17 (Perceptions of anti-social behaviour), NI21 (Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police) and NI27 (Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police), and this should be recognised in the scoping and review activity.

- There should be a reflection of the external influences that had an effect on the public’s perception of anti-social behaviour such as the media and personal experience.
- A number of witnesses should be added to the scope, including the public and Councillors.

The Committee discussed further activity that could inform this review and agreed the following:

- Consider action to be given to encouraging NAGs to share information and approaches
- Presentations about levels of crime should be balanced and not just reflect the positive.
- Consider action to be given to communications activity when compared to other local authorities.

**RESOLVED that:**

- The scoping would be altered to reflect agreed amendments.
- The Committee would contact the Principal Policy Officer with any further suggestions for witnesses for this project.

*(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.30pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature:** .....