

Notice of Meeting

Safer Select Committee

Monday, 6th December, 2010 at 6.30 pm
in Committee Room 1 Council Offices
Market Street Newbury

Date of despatch of Agenda: Friday, 26 November 2010

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Elaine Walker on (01635) 519441
e-mail: ewalker@westberks.gov.uk

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www.westberks.gov.uk



Agenda - Safer Select Committee to be held on Monday, 6 December 2010 (continued)

To: Councillors Jeff Beck, George Chandler, Adrian Edwards, Roger Hunneman (Vice-Chairman), Quentin Webb (Chairman) and Keith Woodhams

Substitutes: Councillors Lee Dillon, Geoff Findlay, Tony Linden and Gwen Mason

Officers and other Invitees: Alex O'Connor (Assistant Community Safety Officer), Bryan Lyttle (Planning and Transport Policy Manager), Andy Day (Head of Policy and Communication), Elaine Walker (Principal Policy Officer)

Agenda

Part I	Page No.
1 Apologies To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any),	
2 Minutes To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 th September 2010.	1 - 6
3 Declarations of Interest To receive any Declarations of Interest from Members.	
4 Matters Arising <i>Purpose: To receive an update on activity identified at previous meetings.</i>	7 - 8
5 Review of Gating Orders Protocol <i>Purpose: To consider the current situation with regard to the West Berkshire Gating Order protocol established in October 2008, and to review how successful this protocol has been.</i>	Verbal Report
6 Community Empowerment <i>Purpose: To receive a briefing considering the local approach to empowering communities to deal with intimidating situations.</i>	Verbal Report
7 Integrated Offender Management Scheme <i>Purpose: To discuss the Integrated Offender Management scheme and consider issues to be raised at the Safer Communities Partnership meeting.</i>	
8 Designing Out Crime from New Developments	9 - 14



Agenda - Safer Select Committee to be held on Monday, 6 December 2010 (continued)

Purpose: To receive a briefing on the current approach to designing out crime from new developments.

9 Work Programme

15 - 16

Purpose: To review the work programme for 2010/11.

Andy Day
Head of Policy and Communication

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

SAFER SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2010

Councillors Present: Jeff Beck, George Chandler, Roger Hunneman (Vice-Chairman), Robert Morgan (Substitute) (In place of Keith Woodhams) and Quentin Webb (Chairman)

Also Present: Rachel Craggs (Community Safety Manager) and Alex O'Connor (Assistant Community Safety Officer), Councillor Paul Bryant, David Lowe (Scrutiny and Partnerships Manager, in place of Andy Day who sent apologies), Supt Robin Rickard (Thames Valley Police) and Elaine Walker (Principal Policy Officer)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Keith Woodhams

Councillor(s) Absent: Councillor Adrian Edwards

PART I

9. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2010 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bryant declared an interest in Agenda Item 5, but reported that, as his interest was not prejudicial, he determined to remain to take part in the debate.

11. Matters Arising

The Committee reviewed the status of activities identified at previous meetings. The Committee was content with progress but requested that item two remain until resolved.

RESOLVED that item two in Matters Arising remain until resolved.

12. Installation of Fire Sprinklers

(Councillor Bryant declared a personal interest in Agenda item 5 by virtue of the fact that he was the Chairman of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, appointed to represent the Council on this outside body. As his interest was personal and not prejudicial he was permitted to take part in the debate).

(Councillor Chandler joined the meeting at 6:45pm)

The Chairman expressed thanks for two visits made by the Committee to the Kennet Centre and Sainsbury's to view their automatic fire suppression systems (fire sprinkler systems). The members of the Committee agreed that they would still like to visit a school where an automatic fire suppression system had been installed, and requested that this be taken forward.

The Chairman summarised previous discussions of the Committee in a series of recommendations for the Committee to approve. Following discussion, the Committee agreed the following:

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- The Committee recognised that building regulations were robust and suitable for the evacuation of buildings and protection of occupants;
- The Committee recognised the protection offered to both the fabric of buildings and their occupants by automatic fire suppression systems;
- The Committee accepted that the cost of retrospectively fitting automatic fire suppression systems would be prohibitive except in some cases of substantial refurbishment;
- The Committee concluded that the installation of automatic fire suppression systems in any newly built Council owned or contracted properties should be presumed, and requested that a policy be drafted for approval;
- The Committee was informed of the significant savings in insurance premiums achieved by other local authorities as a result of installing automatic fire suppression systems, and recommended that further discussion be held with the Council's property insurers in order to achieve similar savings.
- The Committee considered that the benefits of installing automatic fire suppression systems included a greater flexibility in building design and a reduction in water damage caused when the fire was being extinguished.
- The Committee was grateful to David Sharp of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service for the information supplied to the meeting of the 5th July 2010.
- The Committee considered that whilst installation and maintenance costs were a prime concern, they had to be considered in relation to savings in other areas including savings achieved through alternative building design.
- The Committee recommended that consideration be given early in the design stages of a project as to where the components of an automatic fire suppression system would be located in order to reduce installation costs.

Councillor Bryant suggested to the Committee that any assessment of the need for automatic fire suppression systems in a building should reflect the specific issues relating to the use of the building. For example, a school would have strong procedures for, and the ability to, evacuate the building; whereas residents of a residential home would be less able to evacuate the area.

The Committee considered a further suggestion that the Council insist on the installation of an automatic fire suppression system in all suitable planning applications submitted to the Council. The Committee considered that without national backing, this could not be implemented and so would not be recommended.

RESOLVED that:

- A visit to a school where an automatic fire suppression system has been installed be arranged.
- The Committee would make the following recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission for endorsement:
 1. That the installation of automatic fire suppression systems in any newly built Council owned or contracted properties should be presumed, and request that a policy to this effect be drafted for approval. The policy should reflect the views of the Committee as noted above.
 2. That further discussion be held with the Council's property insurers with the aim of achieving further savings in premiums.

13. Crime Statistics

The Committee received a presentation by Superintendent Robin Rickard (Thames Valley Police), Rachel Craggs (Community Safety Manager) and Alex O'Connor (Assistant Community Safety Officer) concerning crime statistics and the strategic assessment process.

Following questioning, the following points were clarified:

- The strategic assessment process was an annual assessment of crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse trends which resulted in the identification of annual priorities. Corrective action would be taken between reviews if evidence indicated that it was necessary.
- Superintendent Rickard explained that the introduction of the Partnership Intelligence Monitoring and Mapping System (PIMMS) has increased the speed to which incidents could be responded, allowing the rapid movement of resources to resolve a problem or enable a longer term solution to be implemented quickly.
- The Committee was reminded that responding to crime was not limited to police activity, and that partners played a critical role in reducing crime. For example, neighbourhood wardens were able to provide reassurance through visibility; and tackling anti-social behaviour was led by the local authority and housing with the police playing only a minor role in providing evidence.
- As less focus was placed on National Indicators, the strategic assessment process was expected to become more important in order to identify and react to local problems. It was expected that nationally there would remain priority crime categories.
- It was acknowledged that there had been a recent short term spike in reported burglaries, however crime could be seen to follow a series of peaks and troughs over time and the recent figures reflected this pattern. Some changes could also be explained by the changes to national crime recording standards such as an amendment at the end of 2004 allowing arrests to be made of people committing assault with no injury, where previously this had not been possible. However, all crime had been reduced by more than 16% (951 crimes) compared to the same period in 2009 and this was also less than in 2008.
- The number of priority and prolific offenders (PPOs) was determined locally in relation to the number of people who were able to be managed. There were currently 34 people in the PPO category in West Berkshire. The PPO management scheme aimed to identify, manage and remove the motivation to offend. This might involve ensuring they had somewhere to live on leaving prison, or providing assistance to find work.
- It was confirmed that there was no significant increase in crime levels experienced during the 2010 World Cup. However Superintendent Rickard explained that preventative work had been undertaken in preparation, including licensing officer patrols during each match, and more police resources being made available with greater visibility.
- Activity around anti-social behaviour was being led by the Safer Communities Partnership, and it was likely that the Council along with the police would take the lead on this through the Safer Communities Partnership. However responsibility for reporting and addressing anti-social behaviour could not sit with a single organisation and would remain with individual organisations.

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- It was proposed that work be undertaken with schools to address the current issue of robbery committed by youths, where the motivation was bullying rather than the acquisition of particular items. There was a concern that young people were not aware of the implications arising from this (fitting the definition of, and therefore being recorded as, a robbery) and therefore possibly resulting in a sentence of several years in prison for perpetrators.

The Committee enquired whether there were local schemes, as in some other areas, aimed at empowering local people to deal effectively with confrontation or perceived hostile situations such as when faced by large groups. The Committee was informed that no schemes were available in this area, and the Committee agreed that this should be added to the work programme for review.

The Committee was informed that the future of the activities able to be undertaken around crime reduction was uncertain in the current climate. However two areas that should be pursued were the PPO scheme (now known as integrated offender management) and the need for all partners to be aware of the contribution they could make to crime reduction, such as to improving building developments in order to design out crime at the planning stage.

The Committee queried whether it would be appropriate to request comments from the police for planning applications submitted to the Council for larger developments.

It was agreed that the Committee should add to the work programme items to support the integrated offender management programme and designing out crime from the planning stage of a proposed development.

RESOLVED that:

- A review would be undertaken into the possibility of making available activities to empower local communities facing perceived hostile situations.
- The Committee would undertake a review in support of the integrated offender management programme.
- The Committee would undertake a review in support of designing out crime from the planning stage of a proposed development.

14. Work Programme

The Committee reviewed the work programme and agreed to review Gating Orders at their next meeting in December 2010. This review would consider the current position of gating orders and the suitability of the current policy.

The Committee also agreed to add three items to their work programme to review, schemes aimed to empower communities that faced perceived hostile situations; support for the integrated offender management programme; and the planning out crime at the design stage of developments.

RESOLVED that:

- The Committee would undertake a review of gating orders in December 2010.
- The Committee would add the following review items to their work programme:
 - schemes aimed to empower communities that faced perceived hostile situations;
 - support for the integrated offender management programme;
 - planning out crime at the design stage of developments

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(The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.00 pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature

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Agenda Item 4

Safer Select Committee – Matters Arising

20th September 2010

Installation of Fire Sprinklers Review		
<p>Sean Tye would investigate how a decision was reached regarding the installation of sprinklers in the new Thatcham residential care home.</p>	<p>Sean Tye</p>	<p>Automatic fire suppression systems were not fitted in this building for the following reasons.</p> <p>There is no regulatory requirement to fit sprinklers, so we do not fit them in Extra Care. The flats are Independent Living and not a Registered Care Home where one would expect a sprinkler system.</p> <p>We fully comply with all Building Regulations and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order.</p> <p>A fire risk assessment is carried out by a professional fire consultant at handover to ensure the building is compliant and we use the same assessor to comment on the layouts at design stage to ensure that we meet all Regulatory requirements.</p> <p>We have stringent policies in place for the fire management plan on all our buildings with any tenants that will be particularly vulnerable being noted in the fire plan and PEEPS (personal emergency egress plans) can be used if necessary.</p> <p>The scheme is designed with one hour fire resisting structure on all escape routes and dry risers are fitted for the Fire Brigade to attach their appliance to for distributing water across the scheme.</p> <p>We use an L2 enhanced addressable fire detection / alarm system. This provides a hard wired detection system to all communal rooms, cupboards etc and hallway of apartments to a fire panel. We also then provide hard wired smoke and heat detectors in the apartments linked to the warden call system which is also linked to the fire panel.</p> <p>The cost of sprinkler systems at installation stage and the ongoing maintenance, are unfortunately prohibitive for inclusion in a scheme that needed grant funding and a financial contribution from the Local Authority for it to be viable.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
<p>A visit to a school where an automatic fire suppression system has been installed be arranged.</p>	<p>EW</p>	<p>Communications with St Bart's. Visit can only be accommodated on 1st December. Visit arranged.</p>

		Complete
The Committee would make the following recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission for endorsement: That the installation of automatic fire suppression systems in any newly built Council owned or contracted properties should be presumed, and request that a policy to this effect be drafted for approval. The policy should reflect the views of the Committee as noted above.	EW	Report drafted and sent to Committee members prior to submission to OSMC. Complete.
The Committee would make the following recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission for endorsement: That further discussion be held with the Council's property insurers with the aim of achieving further savings in premiums.	EW	Incorporated into above report. Complete
Crime Statistics Review		
A review would be undertaken into the possibility of making available activities to empower local communities facing perceived hostile situations.		All proposed work programme items have been submitted to the OSMC for approval before officially being added to the work programme. Complete.
The Committee would undertake a review in support of the integrated offender management programme.		
The Committee would undertake a review in support of designing out crime from the planning stage of a proposed development.		
The Committee would undertake a review of gating orders in December 2010	EW	Item added to agenda for December meeting. Complete.

Title of Report:	Designing Out Crime from New Developments
Report to be considered by:	Safer Select Committee
Date of Meeting:	06 December 2010
Forward Plan Ref:	

Purpose of Report: To inform the Safer Select Committee of current activities intended to design out crime from new developments.

Recommended Action: To note the report

Reason for decision to be taken:

Other options considered:

Key background documentation:

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Plan Priority(ies):

- CPP1 – Support our communities through the economic downturn** – to alleviate the impact on different communities and individuals who find themselves out of work and/or disadvantaged
- CPP2 – Raise levels of educational achievement** – improving school performance levels
- CPP3 – Reduce crime and the fear of crime**

The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Plan Theme(s):

- CPT1 - Better Roads and Transport**
- CPT2 - Thriving Town Centres**
- CPT3 - Affordable Housing**
- CPT4 - High Quality Planning**
- CPT5 - Cleaner and Greener**
- CPT6 - Vibrant Villages**
- CPT7 - Safer and Stronger Communities**
- CPT8 - A Healthier Life**
- CPT9 - Successful Schools and Learning**
- CPT10 - Promoting Independence**
- CPT11 - Protecting Vulnerable People**
- CPT12 - Including Everyone**
- CPT13 - Value for Money**
- CPT14 - Effective People**
- CPT15 - Putting Customers First**
- CPT16 - Excellent Performance Management**

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The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Plan Priorities and Themes by:

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Alan Law - Tel (01491) 873614
E-mail Address:	alaw@westberks.gov.uk
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Bryan Lyttle
Job Title:	Planning and Transport Policy Manager
Tel. No.:	01635 519638
E-mail Address:	blyttle@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:

Financial:

If there are any financial implications contained within this report this section **must** be signed off by a West Berkshire Group Accountant. Please note that the report cannot be accepted by Policy and Communication unless this action has been undertaken.

Personnel:

Legal/Procurement:

Property:

Risk Management:

Equalities Impact Assessment:

For advice please contact Principal Policy Officer (Equalities) on Ext. 2441.

Corporate Board's

Recommendation:

to be completed after the Corporate Board meeting

NOTE: The section below does not need to be completed if your report will not progress beyond Corporate or Management Board.

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months		<input type="checkbox"/>

Footer to be completed by Policy & Communication

West Berkshire Council

name of decision body

date of meeting

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Item is Urgent Key Decision

Executive Summary and Report

1. Introduction

1.1 The Safer Select Committee requested at their last meeting of 20th September 2010, to receive information regarding the current approach to designing out crime from new developments.

1.2 The following information sets out current information regarding this matter for the Committee's information.

2. Current Approach

2.1 The West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991 - 2006 Saved Policies September 2007 includes Policy OVS.11 which states: "All development schemes within West Berkshire should be designed so as to reduce the potential for criminal activity and anti-social behaviour. In this regard, all new development should:

- (1) Ensure that development is to a high standard of design, thus reconciling the visual quality of development with the need for crime prevention; and
- (2) Be designed to maximise natural surveillance of public spaces from buildings, pedestrians and motorists; and
- (3) be designed to include a limited number of access points, provide secure boundaries around private and public spaces, and provide adequate lighting at meeting places and pedestrian walkways; and
- (4) Be designed to encourage social contact and to support the principles of neighbourhood watch."

2.2 The Crime prevention Liaison officer at Thames Valley Police is routinely consulted on all application involving development of 10 or more residential units or 1,000 sq meters of non residential development.

2.3 Since the above Policy was introduced the government has also introduced National Planning Policy Statement 1 which establishes the general approach for delivering sustainable development through development plans and local authorities are required to "promote communities which are inclusive, healthy, safe, and crime free". (para 27)

2.4 Finally in the preparation of the West Berkshire Core Strategy both the Thames Valley Police Authority and the Hampshire Police Authority were consulted and commented on the new policies as they emerged through the planning process.

2.5 New policy CS 15 Design Principles is intended to replace OVS11 and states: "New development must demonstrate high quality and sustainable design that respects and enhances the character and appearance of the area and makes a positive contribution to the quality of life in West Berkshire. Good design relates not only to the appearance of a development but the way in which it functions. Considerations of design and layout must be informed by the wider context, having regard not just

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to the immediate area but to the wider locality. Development shall contribute positively to local distinctiveness and sense of place.

- 2.6 Development proposals will be expected to: Create safe environments, addressing crime prevention and community safety,..."
- 2.7 Paragraph 5.73 of the West Berkshire Core Strategy goes on to say; " Design and Access Statements are required to be submitted with most planning applications and these should demonstrate how a proposal addresses the design considerations set out in this policy, in the SPD Quality Design - West Berkshire and other relevant documents such as Town and Village Design Statements.
- 2.8 The criteria in "Building for Life" published by CABE will be incorporated wherever possible and will be used to monitor the quality of new residential development. Developments should incorporate "Secured by Design" principles to reduce opportunities for crime and fear of crime."
- 2.9 At the recent examination in to the West Berkshire Core Strategy Policy CS15 the Inspector did not wish to examine the proposed policy any further.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The Committee are asked to note this information.

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

Consultees

Local Stakeholders: *

Officers Consulted: *

Trade Union: *

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SAFER SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Reference (a)	Subject/purpose (b)	Methodology (c)	Expected outcome (d)	Review Body (e)	Dates (f)	Lead Officer(s)/ Service Area (g)	Portfolio Holder(s) (h)	Comments (h)
OSMC/09/34	Gating orders To review protocol for gating orders adopted in October 2008.			SSC	Start: 12/6/2010 End:	Alex O'Connor - 264608 Policy & Communication	Councillor Anthony Stansfeld	Specified in original review of 2008 to be reviewed after one year.
OSMC/10/74	Policy for the installation of fire sprinklers in Council buildings To review the requirement for a policy for the implementation of fire sprinklers in Council buildings.	Interview with relevant officers and review of available research information.	To identify whether there is a need for a policy regarding fire sprinkler systems in Council buildings (including schools).	SSC	Start: 4/6/2010 End: 9/20/2010	Steve Broughton - 2837 Health and Safety/Property and Public Protection	Councillor Anthony Stansfeld	Investigations to include whether a return on the investment of installing sprinklers could bring a reduction in insurance costs
OSMC/10/91	Community Empowerment To consider whether to implement a local scheme to support communities to deal with anti-social and intimidating behaviour.			SSC	Start: 12/6/2010 End:	Susan Powell - 264703 Policy and Communication	Councillor Anthony Stansfeld	
OSMC/10/92	Integrated Offender Management Programme To review how the Council can support the Integrated Offender Management Programme in the future.			SSC	Start: 12/6/2010 End:	Susan Powell - 264703 Policy and Communication	Councillor Anthony Stansfeld	
OSMC/10/93	Designing out Crime To consider how to support the process of designing out crime in new building developments.			SSC	Start: 12/6/2010 End:	Gary Lugg - 2617 Planning and Countryside	Councillor Alan Law	

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