

## **SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2008**

Present: Councillors Mrs W Metherell, Chairman; Mrs E Eastwood; G Scurrah; G Garrity; J Jackson; Mrs J Williams; F Heathcote and J Park.;

Also present: Councillor G Clements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors; A Carrol; P Watson; M Woodburn; W Southward; F Gleaves;

Officers: T Magean, Open Spaces Manager; Stephen Benn, Bereavement Services Superintendent; N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Office.

**SSC 23/07** Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**SSC 24/07** **Arrangement of the Agenda**

**RESOLVED:** that items 5 and 7 on the Agenda be taken first due to the appropriate Officers being present.

**SSC 25/07** **Bereavement Strategy**

The Committee received a presentation from the Bereavement Services Superintendent and the Open Spaces Manager on the Council's Bereavement Strategy.

Following the presentation, Members thanked the Officers and staff in their area for their work.

It was noted that under the Charter for the Bereaved of the Institute of Burial and Cremation Administration, burials for some ethnic groups need to take place within 24 hours. The Bereavement Services Superintendent advised that the department tries to meet individual needs, whenever possible, irrespective of religion, nationality, social background.

It was noted that a tour of the Crematorium had not taken place for some time, and in response to a request from Members it was agreed to arrange a site visit.

**RESOLVED:** that

(a) the presentation be received; and

(b) a site visit to the Crematorium be arranged.

**SSC 26/07**     **Enforcement Services Performance Sub Group**

The Committee received the notes of the Enforcement Services Performance Sub Group meeting of 30 January 2008.

Members agreed the Enforcement Services Performance Sub Group's recommendations with the addition that the two hour limit for disabled parking was not sufficient and that a three hour limit was more appropriate.

It was noted that following a recent Whitehaven News article on Dog Fouling, further enforcement notices had been issued.

The Sub Group were thanked for their work and also the Enforcement Team

**RESOLVED:** that the recommendations be submitted to the Executive, that:

- a) the performance of the Enforcement Unit in meeting its financial targets during this financial year be welcomed;
- b) the confidence in the ability of the unit to perform satisfactorily be restored and in the light of this, the in house team should be considered alongside the market testing exercise for the Council's off street parking and markets service;
- c) careful consideration be given to keeping the enforcement unit in house bearing in mind the control it gives the Council in running this important service and the comprehensive nature of the services that are covered by the unit;
- d) the Enforcement Performance Sub Group be wound up; and
- e) the two hour limit for off-street disabled parking be increased to three hours and a request be made to Cumbria County Council for a similar limit regarding on-street parking.

**SSC 27/07**     **Drug and Alcohol Abuse**

Members received a presentation from Peter Rooney, the General Manager of Cumbria Drug and Alcohol Action Team on the work of DAAT, the strategic partnership responsible for the delivery of the national drug strategy in Cumbria.

Members were given an overview of how big a problem Drug and Alcohol abuse is in Cumbria, what work is done in Copeland and the plans for the future.

The Committee Members were provided with a copy of the draft document "A Strategy for Tackling Alcohol Problems in Cumbria 2008-11" and invited to submit by 7 March 2008.

**RESOLVED:** that

a) the presentation be received and

b) the comments in respect of the draft "A Strategy for Tackling Alcohol Problems in Cumbria 2008-11" document by Committee Members be submitted as Council's response.

**SSC 28/07**     **Work Plan**

The Committee considered its current work plan.

The Committee was informed that:

- Haverigg Prison was proposing to become a Community Prison. Members felt that instead of having a formal meeting in April, they would benefit from a site visit to discuss the proposal;
- the new CCTV cameras in the Whitehaven area were operational. Members requested a visit to the CCTV Monitoring Centre in Workington to look at the effectiveness of the cameras.

**RESOLVED:** that

a) the Work Plan be noted;

b) a site visit to Haverigg Prison be arranged in April; and

c) a site visit to the CCTV Monitoring Centre in Workington be arranged.

The Meeting Closed at 1:25pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....