

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Bi-annual Scrutiny Report
Committee: Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Date: 12 March 2012
Cabinet Member: -
CMT Member: Director for People
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Ref: CCOSP 2011/12
Key Decision: No.
Part: 1

Executive Summary:

This report sets out a review of the Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the period November 2011 – March 2012.

Corporate Plan 2012 – 2015:

The Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel provides strategic scrutiny for the following City and Council priorities –

- reduce inequalities
 - value for communities
-

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

None.

Other Implications: e.g. Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management and Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion:

None.

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

To note the report.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

Not applicable.

Background papers:

Customers and Communities OSP Terms of Reference
Reports submitted to panel meetings
Minutes

Sign off: Not applicable.

1.0 Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Bi-annual Report

1.1 Introduction

This report sets out the progress of the Customers and Communities OSP for the period of November 2011 – March 2012 which includes the following meetings –

21 November 2011
28 November 2011 (Task and Finish Group)
23 January 2012

2.0 Scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel

2.1 The Customers and Communities OSP is primarily concerned with the strategic scrutiny of the following city and Council Priorities, the key areas are as follows –

- reduce inequalities
- value for communities

2.2 The detailed terms of reference for the panel are contained in appendix I.

2.3 Through effective strategic and operational scrutiny, the panel aims to support the following Cabinet Members and Council Management Team member –

Title	Name
Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and People	Councillor Bowyer
Cabinet Member for Community Services (Safer Communities and Leisure, Culture and Sport)	Councillor Jordan
Cabinet Member for Community Services (Street Scene, Waste and Sustainability)	Councillor Michael Leaves
Cabinet Member for Customer Services	Councillor Ball
Director for People	Carole Burgoyne
Director for Corporate Services	Adam Broome

2.4 The panel consists of the following Councillors and officers –

Name	Attendance (2 meetings)
Councillor Thompson (Chair)	2
Councillor Peter Smith (Vice Chair)	1
Councillor Mrs Beer	1
Councillor Mrs Bowyer*	0
Councillor Browne*	1
Councillor Churchill	2
Councillor Davey	2
Councillor Delbridge	1
Councillor Martin Leaves	1
Councillor Reynolds	0
Councillor Penberthy	2
Councillor John Smith	2
Councillor Vincent	2
Pete Aley Lead Officer	2
Helen Wright – Democratic Support Officer	2

* following confirmation at full council on 5 December 2011 Councillor Browne replaced Councillor Mrs Bowyer.

3. Key Achievements during the period of November 2011 – March 2012

3.1 The panel believes it has made a positive and constructive contribution to support the strategic and operational overview, in particular the following achievements have been made

- the panel continued to monitor the Plymouth Life Centre and related leisure projects. As construction of the building was nearing its completion, the panel had moved its focus to monitoring the progress of the leisure contract. Representatives from Everyone Active (the leisure contractor) were present at the meeting held on 21 November 2011. Councillors had the opportunity to question the representatives.

the panel recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that other scrutiny panels and the Health and Wellbeing Board consider the wider benefits to the community of the Plymouth Life Centre in delivering the city's priorities.

the panel agreed to invite representatives from Everyone Active to attend its meeting in March to provide a further update (at this stage, the building would have been handed over to the council and Everyone Active in preparation for its opening over the weekend Friday 23 March to Sunday 25 March 2012).

- the panel undertook a task and finish group which looked at anti social behaviour in Compton Vale (Carlton Close and Channel Park Avenue). The members of the task and finish group (Councillor Thompson (Chair), Casey, Churchill and Penberthy) carried out a site visit of the area with the anti social behaviour manager, in order to gain a better understanding of the issues (fly tipping, throwing stones/objects and abusive language) and the topography of the area.

a wide range of witnesses attended the meeting including representatives from the police, Plymouth Community Homes, youth service, anti social behaviour service, ward councillors and residents from Carlton Close.

the task and finish group agreed to recommend to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that the following matters are recommended to Cabinet –

- ▶ the installation of lockable bollards at either end of the lane to prevent general vehicle access;
- ▶ a general clean up of the area is undertaken, working in partnership with Plymouth Community Homes and residents;
- ▶ that Plymouth Community Homes are asked to work together with Plymouth City Council and community groups to identify a way forward for the use of the derelict garage site in Channel Park Avenue;
- ▶ to establish the boundaries of the properties in Carlton Close and to notify the land owners and outline their legal duties.

the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed the recommendations for submission to Cabinet for its approval.

4. Future Issues for the Panel

- 4.1 The panel agreed to bring back to its meeting on 12 March 2012 for an update on the serious acquisitive crime statistics focusing on the Police's experience of crimes, particularly burglary over the Christmas period.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That the progress of the Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel is noted by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Appendix I

Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference

- To review new and existing policies and consider how they may be improved and developed;
- To monitor the budget and performance of the Cabinet Member, Department and partners to ensure that the priorities for the area are being delivered upon;
- To monitor performance against the relevant Corporate Improvement Priorities;
- To review Policies within the Budget and Policy Framework;
- To consider Equality Impact Assessments against new and existing policies;
- To investigate local issues to find out how the council and its partners can improve to meet the needs of local people;
- To make recommendations about service delivery to the Cabinet (via the Board)
- To review and scrutinise the performance of partner organisations
- To set up Ad-Hoc Working Groups as and when required;
- To produce quarterly progress reports to go to the management board

Policy areas

- Customer Services
- Environmental Services
- Safer Communities
- Leisure, Culture and Sport
- Environmental regulation
- Crime and Disorder (This Panel will take on the role of the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

Cabinet Members

- Community Services (Street Scene, Waste and Sustainability) formerly Street Scene, Waste and Sustainability
- Customer Services formerly Customer Services, Performance and Partnerships
- Community Services (Safer and Stronger Communities and Leisure, Culture and Sport) formerly Safer and Stronger Communities

Directorates

- Community Services
- Corporate Support

Corporate Priorities

- monitor performance against the relevant corporate priorities

LSP Link

- Safe and Strong

Membership

The Chair of the Panel shall serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be chaired by a Member of the majority political group with the vice-chair from the opposition political group. All Members of the panel will adhere to the general rules of Overview and Scrutiny.