

Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday 20 June 2012

PRESENT:

Councillor Tuffin, in the Chair.

Councillor Michael Leaves, Vice-Chair.

Councillors Casey, Damarell, Philippa Davey, Drean (substituting for Councillor Ball), Haydon, Jarvis, Jordan, Mrs Pengelly (substituting for Councillor Martin Leaves) and Ricketts.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Ball and Martin Leaves.

Also in attendance: Councillors Penberthy, Cabinet Member for Cooperatives and Community Development, and Peter Smith, Deputy Leader, Adam Broome, Director for Corporate Services, Jayne Donovan, Assistant Director for Environmental Services, Stuart Palmer, Assistant Director for Homes and Communities, Darin Halifax, Community Cohesion Officer, Peter Aley, Lead Officer and Katey Johns, Democratic Support Officer.

The meeting started at 4 pm and finished at 5.10 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

1. CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The panel noted the appointment of Councillor Tuffin as Chair and Councillor Michael Leaves as Vice-Chair as agreed at the Annual General Meeting held on 18 May 2012.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the code of conduct, the following declarations of interest were made –

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Councillor Damarell	Overview of Service Priorities	Plymouth Community Homes Employee	Personal
Councillor Haydon	Overview of Service Priorities	Chair of Taxi Licensing Committee	Personal
Councillor Jordan	Overview of Service Priorities	Director on Boards of Routeways, Bobtails and Trading Links	Personal
Councillor Michael Leaves	Overview of Service Priorities	Taxi Company Owner	Personal

3. **MINUTES**

In the absence of any former members, the panel noted the minutes of the last meeting held on 12 March 2012.

4. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

5. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The panel noted its terms of reference.

6. **OVERVIEW OF SERVICE PRIORITIES**

The panel considered the following proposals for scrutiny as presented by the Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Cooperatives and Community Development, Director for Corporate Services and Assistant Director for Environmental Services -

Deputy Leader:

- Library Service Review;
- Completion of the Life Centre – contract monitoring;
- Leisure Management Contract;

Cabinet Member for Cooperatives and Community Development:

- Anti Social Behaviour;
- Police and Community Safety Partnership (monitoring of crime statistics);
- Establishment of Police and Crime Commissioner Panel;
- Community Cohesion and Equalities;
- Community Covenant;
- Localities and Neighbourhood Working;
- Housing (Tenancy Strategy and Homelessness Policy);
- Welfare Reform (estimated between £13m and £27m of benefits will be lost to the City);
- Impact of changes on Council Tax;
- Social Fund Replacement;
- Voluntary and Community Sector Compact;

Director for Corporate Services:

- ICT/Customer Services Improvement (subject to completion and submission of business case);

Assistant Director for Environmental Services:

- Licensing Review – Gambling Act Policy;

- Late Night Levy Legislation;
- Recycling Rates.

Members of the panel put forward a number of questions to which the following responses were provided –

- (a) Plans for the establishment of a history centre were still in place and whilst there was no objection to the issue being considered by scrutiny it would be best left until later in the year;
- (b) demolition of the Mayflower Centre had been delayed and it was understood that this was due to nesting birds;
- (c) the contract completion deadline in respect of the central park site would be reported back to panel members;
- (d) in terms of reported crime statistics, missed targets had been identified in the following four areas –
 - Serious acquisitive crime
 - Criminal damage
 - Violence with injury
 - Closing the gap
- (e) the estimated loss in benefits to the City of between £13m and £27m had been jointly identified by Plymouth City Council officers working with staff from the Department for Work and Pensions. Information on welfare reform had been presented to both political groups in the last municipal year and more work was currently being undertaken on this;
- (f) a review of the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy was due, however, the Government was currently consulting on changes to how the hackney carriage and private hire trades should be regulated and it would therefore be sensible to consolidate the two once the outcome of the consultation was known and then look at it as a whole towards the end of this financial year;
- (g) recycling and waste minimisation targets were regularly monitored through the Performance and Finance Report.

With regard to (g) above, Members stressed the importance of panels' having access to the data within the Performance and Finance Report particularly relating to their terms of reference.

Agreed that the panel's work programme for 2012/13 is recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for approval as follows –

- Library Modernisation - Task and Finish
- Welfare Reform - Task and Finish
- Social Fund replacement - Task and Finish

- Compact - Task and Finish
- Life Centre/Leisure Management Contract - regular updates
- ICT/Customer Services Improvement - regular updates
- Police Crime Panels/Commissioner - regular updates

In addition, the panel would expect to receive performance reports on its sphere of influence to enable them to react accordingly should performance cause concern.

(Councillors Damarell, Haydon, Jordan and Michael Leaves declared personal interests in respect of the above item).

7. **APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES**

Agreed that persons with the relevant knowledge and expertise would be identified prior to commencement of task and finish groups and co-opted as and when appropriate.

8. **DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13**

Minute 6 refers.

9. **FUTURE DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS**

The panel noted the dates of its future meetings as follows –

Wednesday 18 July 2012
 Wednesday 12 September 2012
 Wednesday 7 November 2012
 Wednesday 6 February 2013
 Wednesday 3 April 2013

All meetings to commence at 4 pm.

10. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.