

**Environmental & Community Services Select Committee**

14 October 2016 – At a meeting of the Select Committee held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mr Tyler (Chairman)

Mr Barrett-Miles  
Mrs Brunsdon  
Mr Circus

Mr G Jones  
Mr S Oakley\*  
Mrs Phillips

Mr Rae  
Mr J Rogers  
Mr Whittington

\*Arrived at 11.10am

In attendance by invitation: Ms Goldsmith (Leader) and Mrs Field (Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Dennis and Mr M Jones

**Declarations of Interests**

167. In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the following personal interests were declared:

168. Mr Rae as a finance governor at Leechpool school in relation to the Review of the Your Energy Sussex Programme Contract item.

169. Mr S Oakley a member of Tangmere Parish Council in relation to the Review of the Your Energy Sussex Programme Contract item.

170. Mr Tyler as a member of Rustington Parish Council in relation to the Review of the Your Energy Sussex Programme Contract item.

**Part I Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September**

171. Resolved – that the Part I minutes of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee held on 15 September 2016 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

**Part I Minutes of the joint meeting held on 15 September**

172. Resolved – that the Committee had no comment on the Part I minutes of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee and the Performance and Finance Select Committee joint meeting held on 15 September 2016.

**Part II Matters**

173. The Committee agreed that as they had no comments on the minutes it was not necessary to enter Part II to discuss their content.

**Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September**

174. Resolved – that the Part II minutes of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee held on 15 September 2016 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

### **Part II Minutes of the joint meeting held on 15 September**

175. Resolved – that the Committee had no comment on the Part II minutes of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee and the Performance and Finance Select Committee joint meeting held on 15 September 2016.

### **Hate Incidents and Hate Crime Motivated by Disability**

176. The Committee considered a report by Director of Communities (copy appended to signed minutes).

177. The Cabinet Member for Community and Wellbeing expressed a commitment towards combatting hate crime and noted that while pride was shown towards the achievements of Paralympians, individuals with disabilities were often subjected to a different kind of behaviour by the public. It was important to keep in mind the significant challenges faced in life, their great achievements in overcoming these, and to encourage them to make the most of their lives.

178. Emily King, Principal Manager, Community Safety and Wellbeing, and Beverly Knight, Team Manager, Vulnerable Individuals, introduced the report and gave a presentation (copy of slides appended to the signed minutes) which provided background information on hate incidents and hate crimes, specifically those incidents perpetrated on the basis of a person's actual or perceived disability. Three case examples were also given to the Committee.

179. Superintendent Jane Derrick and Sergeant Peter Allan from Sussex Police gave a presentation (copy of slides appended to the signed minutes) which outlined the efforts made by the police and other public service institutions to combat and reduce hate crime. Key points were:

- In a large amount of disability crime, there is usually a close connection between perpetrator and victim.
- Due to the recent rise in reported incidents, measures put in place by Sussex Police include the deployment of dedicated disability engagement officers and the inclusion of 3 externally designated Citizen Advice centres located in Bognor, Chichester and Littlehampton for the public to use as hate incident reporting centres. Other measures include the training of officers to deal with hidden disabilities such as autism, and the inclusion of a hate crime training pack and case study as part of basic officer training. Mental health triage nurses also work closely alongside the police force.

180. Anne Godley, Hate Crime Senior Service Delivery Manager, Victim Support, gave a presentation (copy of slides appended to the signed minutes) which outlined the multi-agency approach to helping victims and the support given,

including encouraging awareness and self-referral. Deterrents can be provided for victims of crime, such as personal alarms or dummy CCTV installations to help restore victim confidence and safety.

181. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Welcomed the resources put into tackling the issue of disability-related hate crimes by the County Council, Sussex Police and Victim Support but queried how accurate the estimated figures for such incidents were, in view of the small number reported, and whether these figures can be relied upon for prioritising future spending. An officer advised that the estimated figure was reached through the results of the annual UK Independent Crime Survey in an attempt to find out the difference between reported/unreported crimes. Raised awareness and good partnership work with other agencies has meant that more low-level incidents are now being reported. The benefits of further work being done now should also be seen in the longer term.
- Highlighted the role that social media can play in combating the issue and in reporting online abuse, especially amongst younger age groups; and suggested that information leaflets and posters should include good news stories or sponsors and a reporting number to encourage more reports. It would also like more critical input into the production of such materials. An officer advised that it is recognised that more engagement is needed via different social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter and there is currently work being carried out around these. One of the main challenges is that a majority of servers are based in the USA where different "freedom of speech" laws apply.
- Queried if deterrent items offered by Victim Support such as personal alarms are available to those who may feel vulnerable but have not yet been victims of crime, including the elderly. An officer advised that these items can be provided to anyone who may feel unsafe, and further assessments can be carried out, with referrals to other support agencies as appropriate.

182. Resolved – That the Committee has considered the ongoing work in the context of the government's Hate Crime Action Plan, but recognises that there is a very long way to go, and would welcome a report in the future regarding the outcome of the ongoing work.

### **Review of the Your Energy Sussex Programme Contract**

183. The Committee considered a report by Executive Director of Residents' Services and Strategic Planning Manager (copy appended to signed minutes).

184. Siobhan Walker, Partnership Manager, Your Energy Sussex (YES) and Chris Hall, Carillion Account Director, introduced the report and gave a presentation (copy of slides appended to the signed minutes); which outlined the YES programme and the contract with its delivery partner Carillion. The contract is up for review, with a break clause available to be triggered to take effect on 31 March 2017. The contract requires any decision whether to terminate or

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continue the existing arrangement to be made by 31 October 2016. There is no exclusivity in the contract and no fee to continue with the current delivery partner.

185. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Welcomed the County Council's obligation to reduce its energy bill and supports Carillion's expertise in keeping in-house costs down along with the good benefits of continuity that contract renewal would bring; but queried what other benefits the partnership offers. An officer advised that the relationship with Carillion is very honest and open and along with market expertise they also offer value for money as they operate an "open book" approach with the Council in respect to their costs, enabling the County Council to cross-check against the wider market. They are also well known for their health and safety standards and allow a strong relationship to be brokered with larger energy companies such as SSE. As part of the review, market frameworks were looked at and, after checking with the procurement team to see if any other companies could provide a complete package (including project management), none were found.
- Queried if activating the break clause but continuing the YES programme with a different delivery partner (Option B) or activating the break clause and stopping all work on the YES programme (Option C) would provide opportunities for savings and if so what these might be. Also whether losses in Option B would be offset by new savings brought about by a new contract. An officer advised that Option B is likely to cost more in the future as officer time, including procurement and legal costs, would be involved and Option C would save around £106,000, that being the cost of the YES officer team. Regarding Option B losses being offset by new savings, this information can be provided to the Committee at a later date.
- Questioned the financial cost benefit of community engagement events and if any lessons had been learned from the failure of the Green Deal project. An officer advised that costs were marginal for community engagement events and only included staff time as venues and volunteer work were free. There are currently no plans for more events. Likely factors contributing to the non-success of the Green Deal were poor marketing and high loan interest rates.
- Raised concerns that a comparative assessment or financial value for money had not been included in the report.

186. Mr Tyler made the following proposal, seconded by Mr Rae which the Committee considered: -

That the Committee recommends to the Leader, Option A: renew the contract with Carillion for three or seven years.

187. A vote was held and the proposal was carried.

188. Resolved – That the Committee recommends to the Leader, Option A: renew the contract with Carillion for three or seven years.

**Cabinet Member's Response to the Committee's Recommendations on the Response to the Highways England Consultation on options for the A27 at Chichester**

189. The Committee noted the Cabinet Member's response to the Committee's recommendations on the Response to the Highways England Consultation on options for the A27 at Chichester (copy appended to signed minutes).

190. The Committee thanked the Cabinet Member and officers involved for encapsulating the Committee's comments in the final Response.

**Business Planning Group Report**

191. The Committee considered a report by the Chairman of the Business Planning Group (copy appended to the signed minutes).

192. Resolved – That the Committee endorses the contents of the report and particularly the Committee's Work Programme for 2016/17, revised to reflect the Business Planning Group's (BPG's) discussions.

**Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

193. The Committee considered the Forward Plan November to February 2017 (copy appended to signed minutes).

194. Resolved – That the Forward Plan be noted.

**Date of the Next Meeting**

195. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting will take place on 16 November 2016 at 10.30am at County Hall, Chichester.

The meeting ended at 1.25pm

Chairman