

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
30 OCTOBER 2014**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR P J O'CONNOR (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors Mrs A M Newton (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, W J Aron, C J T H Brewis, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, P M Dilks, A G Hagues, C E H Marfleet, Mrs M J Overton MBE, Mrs J M Renshaw, Mrs A E Reynolds, C L Strange and T M Trollope-Bellew.

Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman and Mrs G Wright.

Councillors: R J Hunter-Clarke and B Young (Executive Councillor Crime Reduction, People Management, Legal) attended the meeting as observers.

Officers in attendance:-

Simon Evans (Health Scrutiny Officer), Cheryl Hall (Democratic Services Officer), Alan Hardwick (Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire), Howard Hunt (Deputy Chief Executive Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire), Neil Rhodes (Chief Constable of Lincolnshire Police), Louise Tyers (Scrutiny Officer), Nigel West (Democratic Services Manager) and Richard Wills (Executive Director for Environment and Economy).

22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Bridges, A J Jesson, C E D Mair, R B Parker and Mrs C A Talbot and Added Members Mr C V Miller, Mrs E J Olivier-Townrow and Mr P Thompson.

It was noted that the Chief Executive, having received a notice under Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Committee's and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, had appointed Councillors W J Aron and Mrs J M Renshaw as replacement members of the Committee in place of Councillors Mrs C A Talbot and R B Parker, respectively, for this meeting only.

23 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

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RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

25 CONSIDERATION OF CALL-INS

No Call-Ins had been received.

26 PROPOSAL FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS

No proposals for Scrutiny Reviews had been received.

27 PRESENTATION BY LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Alan Hardwick (Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire), Howard Hunt (Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire) and Neil Rhodes (Chief Constable of Lincolnshire Police).

In a presentation to the Committee, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable outlined the main issues affecting policing in Lincolnshire, which included:-

- Lincolnshire Police was one of the champions of change, if it was required to do so;
- The force was well positioned to embrace structural change, if it was mandated. However, it would prefer to remain independent;
- Lincolnshire Police was close to the 'cost of being in business' and as a result, there were concerns over the potential for further significant cuts in 2016/17 and 2017/18;
- Any further cuts would challenge Lincolnshire Police's operational viability. It was felt that there was a clear need for a different funding model to ensure there was a fair distribution of funding across the country;
- In 2011 the force was faced with budget cuts of £19.7 million per annum over a period of four years. The force was anticipating further funding cuts through the next Comprehensive Spending Review and it was expected that it could be as much as £7 million in 2016/17 and £11 million in 2017/18;
- The Force had the lowest cost per head of population in the country, despite having the third highest workload. It was also noted that the district of North Kesteven was one of the safest places to live within the Country;
- It was noted that overall there had been a reduction in crime. However the force still had the third highest level of crime, per visible police officer, in the country;

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- The main operational challenges for Lincolnshire Police had included: austerity; rising demand for services; increasingly challenging diverse community issues; Strategic Policing Requirement; and there were 10% fewer officers compared to two years ago;
- It was essential that the number of police officers (1100) and police and community support officers (149) was protected at this level to ensure a high level of service was provided to the Lincolnshire population;
- Lincolnshire Police was committed to Neighbourhood Policing;
- It was important for Lincolnshire to retain its own police force and its own identity to ensure the services were kept at its current level;
- The force was an exemplar for most best practice initiatives; and
- The force worked collaboratively with other East Midlands forces.

Members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions, where the following issues were raised:-

- Lobbying the Government with regard to funding issues. The Chief Constable welcomed any support from members;
- Role of PCSO's – The Chief Constable advised that the PCSO's were a success, and that they provided a very important role throughout Lincolnshire;
- Collaboration forces – Members were advised that there was no intention, nationally, for police forces to merge. However, there was a clear need to work in partnership on certain issues;
- Cyber-crime – the force was working proactively to address the increasing rise in cyber-crime within Lincolnshire;
- Drug and alcohol – it was noted that the price of legal highs was much lower within Lincolnshire compared to other areas of the country and this therefore posed a significant issue for the force;
- Volunteers –the force had a number of individuals who volunteered to undertake administrative work. The Police and Crime Commissioner had introduced a 'Volunteer 1000 Challenge' project, which had set out an ambitious plan for Lincolnshire Police to increase the numbers of policing volunteers to 1000 within the county by April 2016;
- Firearms – the force aimed to ensure that anyone issued with a firearms licence had the highest level of security in place for storing their firearms;
- Funding – it was queried whether Lincolnshire residents could, by choice, donate additional funds to Lincolnshire Police, through the Council Tax precept. Although that it was felt that this could be a good idea, the national funding formula would need to be addressed to ensure that there was a fair distribution of funding across the country, rather than Lincolnshire residents having to provide additional funding;
- Alcohol Education Seminars – it was hoped that Alcohol Education Seminars would be introduced across the county, similar to the speeding reduction seminars; and
- Drink Driving – a discussion took place regarding whether or not the national blood alcohol level should be reduced.

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On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman extended his thanks to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Chief Constable for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the presentation and answers to the Committee's questions be noted.
- (2) That the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire and the Chief Constable be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide a further update.

The meeting adjourned at 11.55 a.m. until 12.05 p.m.

28 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report by David Hair, Team Leader (Scrutiny and Member Support), which provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider its work programme and the work programmes of the Scrutiny Committees. Copies of the individual work programmes were appended to the report and the following updates were received:-

i) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The Chairman advised Members that a Development Session was scheduled to be held on Friday, 21 November 2014 on financial information, and in particular how best to scrutinise it. The session would be held in both the morning and afternoon and would be particularly timely ahead of the next budget round in January 2015.

It was noted that the Executive Councillor decision on 'School Funding Arrangements 2015/16', which was taken on 22 October 2014 had been Called-In. However, the Call-In had since been withdrawn on the understanding that a report on the School Funding Arrangements 2015/16 would be considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at its next available meeting. The Vice-Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee confirmed that he would take this forward.

ii) Adults Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman advised Members that the item on 'Extra Care Housing – Procurement of a Developer' which had been listed for 26 November 2014, would now be considered on 28 January 2015, prior to it being considered by the Executive on 3 February 2015.

iii) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

The Vice-Chairman advised Members that there were two changes to the work programme: -

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The report on the 'Proposal for a Scrutiny Review on School Improvement', which was listed for the 28 November 2014, would now be a proposal for setting up a working group rather than a scrutiny review. The reason for this was because concerns had been raised by the Executive Councillor Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services, about the timing of the review, as the contract was not due to end until 2017, and that a review would be duplicating work that was currently being undertaken by officers. The working group of around three members of the Committee would work with officers who were currently reviewing the School Improvement offer.

Also, a report on 'Topics for Future Scrutiny Reviews' had been added to the work programme for the meeting of the Committee scheduled to be held on 16 January 2015.

It was noted that the Deputy Lead Inspector from the Ofsted Inspection had attended the meeting of the Committee held on 24 October 2014 for the item on the Executive's Response to the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Scrutiny Review. Ofsted would also be speaking to the Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel during the week commencing 3 November 2014.

iv) Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman advised Members that the Committee's meeting scheduled to be held on 5 November 2014 would be held at St Giles Church in Lincoln, and this would support the Committee's consideration of the item on the 'Youth Offending Service', as St Giles was a good example of a youth offending project.

An additional item had been added to the meeting on 10 December 2014, following a request by the Leader of the Council, on sky lanterns, also known as Chinese lanterns, and whether a ban on their use on the Council's own land and property should be introduced, due to safety concerns for the land and animals.

v) Economic Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Officer advised that there were no amendments to the work programme. However, it was noted that the Committee's meeting on 21 October 2014 had been cancelled due to the funeral of Councillor J R Hicks being held that day.

The items from the October agenda had been added to the meeting of the Committee scheduled to be held on 9 December 2014, which would now be an all-day meeting. The Committee would be receiving the Executive Response to the Scrutiny Review on the Impact of Transportation on Maximising Economic Growth, and a report on Park and Ride Shuttle Service for Lincoln Castle Revealed in 2015.

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The Chairman advised Members that there was a change to the work programme for the meeting of the Committee scheduled to be held on 12 December 2014, which was the inclusion of an item on 'Nature Improvement Areas'.

vii) Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire

The Vice-Chairman highlighted the following items:

19 November 2014

In addition to the items listed for 19 November 2014, there would be an item on the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, where the Committee would be asked to finalise its response to the consultation. There were no changes to the other items listed.

14 January 2015

In addition to the two items listed, the Committee would now also be receiving an item on Complaints Handling by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Working Group Activity

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Working Group was due to meeting on Monday, 3 November 2014. The Working Group would draft a response to the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for consideration and approval by the Committee on 19 November 2014.

A conversation took place regarding East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust's latest position with its 'Being the Best' Consultation. It was expected that the Committee would receive an update in the coming months on the Trust's withdrawal of this consultation. Members of the Committee congratulated the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire, and in particular the Chairman's hard work, on the referral to the Secretary of State on this consultation.

Concerns were raised by a number of Members on the efficiency of Pharmacy Services in Hospitals. In response to a suggestion that this issue be considered as part of the PNA, the Committee was advised that the PNA focused on community and GP pharmacies, rather than pharmacies in hospitals. The Committee requested that the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire include Pharmacy Services in Hospitals in the work programme.

viii) Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman advised that while there were no specific changes to the work programme at this time, the Committee had agreed to receive an update at each meeting on the major schemes which were about to start around the County.

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Following the concerns over grass cutting which had been raised at previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, the Highways Alliance Report which had been considered by the Committee on 27 October 2014, had provided an update on the grass cutting regime. Members were advised of how often different operations were undertaken and the maximum length of cut. Copies of the update could be obtained from the Scrutiny Team.

An item on the Emergency Rail Crossing Procedures would be added to the Committee's work programme.

ix) Value for Money Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman advised that there were no changes to the Committee's work programme.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the work programmes for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Council's other Scrutiny Committees (Appendices A and B) be approved, subject to any amendments identified above.
- (2) That the working group activity set out in Appendix C be noted.
- (3) That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions from 3 November 2014 be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.25 pm.