



Notice of a public meeting of

Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee

- To:** Councillors Fenton (Chair), Pavlovic (Vice-Chair), Baker, Mason, Musson, Vassie, Wells
- Date:** Monday, 2 November 2020
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** Remote Meeting

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, members are asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. Minutes

(Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Monday 24 February 2020.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the

management of public participation at remote meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is at 5.00pm on Thursday 29 October 2020.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of the agenda.

Webcasting of Remote Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this remote public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

- 4. Community Safety During COVID** (Pages 5 - 8)
This report updates the committee on the activity of the Community Safety team and partners during the coronavirus outbreak. The Head of Community Safety and Superintendent Lindsay Robson will be in attendance.
- 5. Work Plan**
The committee is asked at this point to discuss future items that they would like to see on their work plan for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year.
- 6. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair considers urgent.

Democracy Officer
Robert Flintoft

Contact details:

- Telephone: 01904 555704
- Email: robert.flintoft@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats.

Contact details are set out above.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date	24 February 2020
Present	Councillors Fenton (Chair), Pavlovic (Vice-Chair), Baker, Wells and Musson
Apologies	Councillor Mason

39. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests or any prejudicial or discloseable pecuniary interest that they might have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

40. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 27 January 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

41. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

42. Homelessness and Winter Night Provision - February Update

Members considered a paper which provided an update on the current homelessness situation and the winter night provision for rough sleepers and homeless people in York. The paper outlined how the Council proposed to spend additional funds to reduce rough sleeping, and meet the demands of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017. The Head of Housing, the Resettlement Services Manager and a representative from the Salvation Army, were in attendance to present the report and to respond to questions.

The following information was provided in response to questions from committee members:

- There were typically between 5 – 13 rough sleepers each night in York and had been 6 vacancies in emergency homelessness provision the previous evening.
- That the current hand over date for James House was the 3 March 2020.
- It was noted that individual circumstances would not prevent a rough sleeper from accessing the emergency winter night provision. However, should service users be abusing alcohol or drugs, this would not be allowed under the Misuse of Drugs Act.
- The guest from the Salvation Army noted an opportunity to use shipping containers, that had been donated by the Fire Brigade, to provide shelter for those unable to continue in the tier 2 provision.
- In response to reports of rough sleepers not utilising hostels due to a lack of security or fear of violence, officers stated that they try to persuade service users that it is the first step in the process.
- ‘Housing First’ was a scheme offered as an option for service users to receive the offer of accommodation with very little expectation on that individual and building benefits around them.
- The guest from the Salvation Army noted that rough sleepers were unlikely to seek early medical attention and could be more reliant on the emergency services. It was noted that the Salvation Army had attempted to include a first stage nurse in their walkabouts to help combat this.
- Officers also noted that the Supported Accommodation Scheme had excellent links with mental health services in the city.

Resolved: Members noted the report.

Reason: In order to be informed of the Homelessness and Winter Night Provision.

43. Environmental Retrofitting

Members considered a paper which explained the process of retrofitting, which is the term generally used to describe the process of carrying out construction work to improve the energy efficiency of an existing building. Members considered the various different approaches to retrofitting and the key

considerations that needed to be made when deciding on an appropriate retrofit approach.

The Head of Building Services was in attendance to present the report and to respond to questions.

The following information was provided in response to questions from committee members:

- That there was an aspiration to achieve net zero carbon in the Council's housing stock by 2030.
- A third of the housing stock in York was below EPC rating 'D' standard. It was noted that due to the age of York's housing stock, there were additional complications (particularly with building materials) and that more work was required to find the appropriate solution.
- Officers noted the extent of the challenge to retrofit all properties and stated that the Executive would need to decide on the best approach to maximise carbon reduction and achieve value for money and future savings. As an example, Officers noted that improving an EPC rating from C to B, could result in an approximate saving of £700 per annum in fuel bills.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Scrutiny Officer would check whether the Executive report on the direction of travel for this project could be received at this Committee for pre-decision scrutiny.
- (ii) Members noted the report.

Reason: To ensure the Committee are informed of this project.

44. Work Plan

Members considered the work plan for 2020. The following were agreed as alterations and/or additions to the Work Plan for 2020.

23 March

- Environmental Retrofitting (TBC – potentially 20 April Committee meeting, dependent upon when this will be considered by Executive)

- Housing Fraud – Internal Audit Actions – to be considered in May

18 May

- Housing Fraud Awareness Raising

Cllr Fenton, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.00 pm].



**Housing & Community Safety Policy &
Scrutiny Committee**

**Monday 2nd November
2020**

Report of Interim Director of Place

COMMUNITY SAFETY DURING COVID

Summary

1. Lockdown on 23rd March 2020, the subsequent recovery period as restrictions were lifted and the transition now into the Tiered system and its current restrictions have all impacted on the delivery of Community Safety services. Close partnership working between the local authority and the police has been crucial along with increased dialogue between a range of partners on how to develop innovative and creative approaches to problem solving crime and anti-social behaviour when court closures removed the ability to use many enforcement powers. The meeting on 2nd November will provide the opportunity to hear from the Police, Community Safety and other services within the council who have been working in partnership with Make It York and York BID throughout the pandemic to keep our communities in York safe.

2. **Background**

COVID has had an impact on patterns of crime and antisocial behaviour as previously unknown restrictions were placed on communities and then varied as the country returned to elements of normality despite the pandemic continuing. Balancing a need to open the city's economy amid public health concerns and the need to deliver community safety outcomes in relation to all areas of crime and anti-social behaviour has been challenging. However, it has provided an opportunity to maximise the benefit of partnership working across a range of agencies, adapt service delivery to cope with the challenge of the pandemic and continue to keep those who live in, visit and work in York safe.

3. **Key Issues of Concern raised by Communities during COVID**

The key concerns raised by communities directly to the police and council throughout the COVID situation have been:

- Anti-social behaviour including environmental issues such as littering and noise and how this is being addressed
- Neighbour nuisance and how to report concerns to the appropriate body
- Understanding the COVID regulations, what that means for residents and how to report concerns
- The role of the Police and Council in enforcing the COVID regulations
- Traffic and speeding offences
- Perception about social distancing and health risk

Council Plan

4. This report links to the following priorities within the Council Plan 2019-23:
- **Safe communities and culture for all**
 - **Good health and wellbeing**
 - **An open and effective council**

Implications

5. In producing this report the following implications have been considered:
- **Financial** – There are no financial implications however there will be implication in relation to specific actions
 - **Human Resources (HR)**– The only HR implications relate to the Community Safety Team within City of York Council
 - **Equalities**– There are no equalities implications, a one planet York assessment will be required
 - **Legal**) Community Safety is a legal requirement stated at S6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
 - **Crime and Disorder** – The Community Safety Strategy is a key document aligned to the development and delivery of partnership work to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - **Information Technology (IT)** –there are no identified IT implications

- **Property** – There are no identified property implications
- **Other** – There are no other identified implications.

Risk Management

6. There are no known risks.

Recommendations

7. Members are invited to hear from officers within City of York Council and North Yorkshire Police on how the challenges of delivering services within COVID restrictions have been met and how the issues of concern to communities are being addressed.

Contact Details

Author:

Jane Mowat
Head of Community Safety

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Tracey Carter
Interim Director of Place

Report Approved **Date** 22/10/2020

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

N/A

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Annexes

Abbreviations

CSMC = Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee.

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