

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Communities, Housing and Environment Committee

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2017

Present: Councillor Mrs Ring (Chairman), and
Councillors Barned, Mrs Blackmore, M Burton, Mrs
Joy, D Mortimer, Mrs Robertson, Webb and Webster

Also Present: Councillors Mrs Gooch

19. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Perry.

20. **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was noted that Councillor Blackmore was substituting for Councillor Perry.

21. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

22. **NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS**

Councillor Gooch was in attendance as a Visiting Member and indicated a wish to speak on item 11: 2017-18 Strategic Assessment.

23. **DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

There were no disclosures by Members or Officers.

24. **DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING**

Councillor Ring disclosed that she had been lobbied with regard to item 11: 2017-18 Strategic Assessment.

25. **TO CONSIDER WHETHER ANY ITEMS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE
BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBLE DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION.**

RESOLVED: That all items on the agenda be taken in public as proposed.

26. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2016**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

27. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were no petitions.

28. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY)

There were no questions from members of the public.

29. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - 2017-18 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

The Chief Executive of MBC and Chief Inspector Gardner of Kent Police co-delivered a presentation on Safer Maidstone Partnership's Strategic Assessment and Priorities for 2017-18.

It was explained that:

- The focus would be on threat, risk and harm to the vulnerable, and the priorities identified by the Safer Maidstone Partnership were consistent with the Police Crime Commissioner's priorities.
- Specialist Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) roles had been formed in order to focus on the issue of vulnerability, and these included a Youth Engagement PCSO, a Vulnerable Adult Intervention PCSO and a Domestic Violence Single Point of Contact (SPOC).

In response to questions the Committee was advised that:

- The Safer Maidstone Partnership core funding for 2017/18 had been confirmed by the Police and Crime Commissioner as £38,000.
- Kent Police did not have the capacity to attend all crime reports, but would attend where there was a vulnerable victim.
- The proposed introduction of the Police and Crime Bill in April 2017 would seek to eliminate the use of police stations as places of safety for children and young people aged under 18, and significantly cut their use for adults detained under S135 or S136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. It was unlikely that all the required agencies would be fully prepared to realise this change from April 2017, however the Bill would eventually ensure that vulnerable people received the correct care.
- The Safer Maidstone Partnership included a mental health professional. The Council's Community Safety Unit did not have a trained mental health professional within the team but was engaged with partner organisations with those specialisms.
- The Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops were attended by solicitors and mental health advisors. The Police were also in attendance however

some service users preferred to seek advice rather than criminalise the behaviour by reporting it.

- Some off-licences had entered into a voluntary agreement whereby they would sell smaller amounts of high strength alcohol to an individual. This would help prevent issues within the night time economy from people who were very intoxicated through 'pre-loading' with alcohol before attending on-licensed premises.
- A domestic abuse social media campaign had been launched to target those aged 18+. Educational programmes regarding domestic abuse were in place in schools in order to reach those aged under 18.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to adopt the 2017-18 Strategic Assessment for implementation by the Safer Maidstone Partnership.

For – 9 Against- 0 Abstain – 0

30. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 7.44 p.m.