

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**KING'S LYNN AREA COMMITTEE**

Minutes from the Meeting of the King's Lynn Area Committee held on Thursday, 26th September, 2024 at 5.15 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: Councillor F Bone (Chair)
Councillors S Collop, R Colwell, S Everett (Vice-Chair), D Heneghan, B Jones, J Rust, D Sayers and A Ware

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mark Whitmore- Assistant Director, Health, Wellbeing and Public Protection
Laz Mafuko- Interim Financial Services Manager
James Grant- Principal Project Manager

EXTERNAL ATTENDEES:

Inspector Ben Jarvis- West Norfolk Neighbourhood Policing Inspector
Ian Parks- Principal Transport Planner- Norfolk County Council

26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Lowe, Kemp and Wilkinson.

27 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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RESOLVED: The minutes from the meeting held on the 11th July 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

29 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

30 **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

There were no members present pursuant to Standing Order 34.

31 **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE (IF ANY)**

There was none.

32 **POLICING IN KING'S LYNN- INSPECTOR JARVIS**

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Inspector Jarvis welcomed the Committee and gave a presentation to the Committee on Policing in King's Lynn.

Inspector Jarvis provided an overview of the figures in the King's Lynn town area for neighbourhood crime, domestic abuse and serious violence and knife crime and serious sexual offences. He highlighted there had been increases and decreases in these areas and he confirmed the overall crime rate was low in King's Lynn.

He brought to the Committee's attention the crime recording standard and charging standards were different and crime should be recorded at the earliest opportunity. He provided further explanations and context to the definitions.

Inspector Jarvis highlighted the improvement in the figures provided in the presentation could be down to introduction of the new reporting system as it was easier to report crimes to the police in an easier format. He reflected further by advising of the delays in reporting along with supporting evidence, forensic, CCTV and witnesses.

He outlined that opportunities needed to be considered on how the Police were diverting offences rather than dealing with them by an arrest. He commented other ways needed to be considered on how offending was managed and stressed the importance of early intervention.

Inspector Jarvis highlighted the improvement at the Bus Station with the extra patrols which had been put in place and work would continue as the operational partnership team had considered other options such as civil orders and injunctions.

He referred to projects in King's Lynn such as the clear, hold, build and events held to provide information to stakeholders on this project. Additionally, Inspector Jarvis referred to the Beacon in King's Lynn and the London 2 Lynn walk which started to the Rise North Lynn project.

Councillor Jones referred to the purple flag award which was awarded in Cambridge for managing evening and nighttime economy and asked if this was being worked towards in King's Lynn.

Inspector Jarvis confirmed the purple flag award was being worked towards in King's Lynn and was in conversations with BID on ways for this to be achieved.

Councillor Heneghan asked for further details on serious sexual offences which had occurred and questioned what else could be done to prevent these crimes from happening. She referred to Ask for Angela, a safe haven for women and better lighting in the town.

Inspector Jarvis advised the where and when were variable and stranger violence and nighttime economy crimes were low. He added venues were being contacted to be made aware of the resources available. He referred to the SOS van in King's Lynn and outlined what they had done to provide support. He added further the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and the Police needed to continue to work together in different aspects to provide a safer area.

Councillor Heneghan sought clarification on actions being taken to improve street drinking.

Inspector Jarvis acknowledged street drinking was still an issue and encouraged this to be reported. He advised additional officers were in the areas where this was occurring.

Councillor Heneghan commented Youth Hub's had begun to be set up around the country and commended the work around the Beacon and the pizza project.

Inspector Jarvis agreed the Beacon was a fantastic blueprint and encouraged this to be replicated in other wards.

Councillor Sayers sought clarification on the White Ribbon Campaign being supported again this year and if CCTV was helping with prosecution and how the Borough Council could do more to support the Police. Councillor Sayers asked a further question regarding the Anti-Social Behaviour figures, and if any had got to the community stop or case review stage.

Inspector Jarvis responded to Councillor Sayers and confirmed the White Ribbon Campaign would be supported this year. He added further the relationship with CCTV at the Borough Council and the Police work proactively and identify crimes together and encouraged this work to continue. He advised of the success the operational partnership team have had with early intervention and this was key to having a low number of community stops and case review.

Councillor Colwell commented it was encouraging the figures had decreased and asked in comparison how King's Lynn was doing to Norfolk and the rest of the country.

Inspector Jarvis reiterated crime was low in King's Lynn and the figures were positive. He referred to how the constabulary had gone beyond with the work to prevent shop lifting compared to what had been done nationally.

Councillor Colwell referred to the presentation and the serious violence and knife crime figures and specifically the solved crime rates and questioned what was preventing improvement of these figures.

Inspector Jarvis commented proving a robbery was problematic and evidence was required. He added solvability assessments were considered when investigating a robbery. He provided assurance that 15% was a positive figure.

Councillor Ware thank Inspector Jarvis for the presentation and asked if the reduction in domestic burglary was down to people's own preventions such as ring doorbells. Additionally, Councillor Ware referred to the clear, hold, build event which was taken and asked for clarification when events like this take place that a place needed to be booked for Councillors.

Inspector Jarvis commented preventions taken by people were effective such as ring doorbells and battery CCTV Cameras. He added this provided reassurance to people. He responded to Councillor Ware and encouraged Councillors input surrounding these events and provided clarification.

Councillor Everett brought to the Committee's attention the projects which were taking place in Fairstead and sought clarification these figures had reflected these projects.

Inspector Jarvis advised the figures did not reflect the effectiveness of the projects in Fairstead due to the short amount of time they had been in place. However, he provided assurance there was scope to reproduce the success of North Lynn in Fairstead.

Councillor Everett asked how the relationship between the Police and Social Housing Associations and other organisations was.

Inspector Jarvis confirmed this was the role of the operational partnership team and this team had won an exceptional policing award. He confirmed the relationship between the police and Social Housing Associations was good.

Councillor Rust thanked Inspector Jarvis for the presentation and advised she had attended a clear, hold, build event, and stated it was excellent. She also commented the policing for pride and impact it had

for making people feel safe and protected during a vulnerable event. Councillor Rust referred to training she has had on child exploitation and asked if there was any investigation on anti-social behaviour being caused by child exploitation.

Inspector Jarvis referred to Norfolk County lines team would have had similar training on child exploitation and added recognising the circumstances surrounding anti-social behaviour was key and that early intervention was the education to officers.

33

SPECIAL EXPENSES- MONITORING REPORT

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The Interim Financial Services Manager presented the report on special expenses which identified the outturn for 2023/2024 and the monitoring position and projected outturn for 2024/2025.

He explained to the Committee the special expenses are received as part of the Council Tax. He added the Borough Council contribute as part of the special expenses. He added the over expenditure of the special expenses was paid for by the Borough Council.

The Interim Financial Services Manager confirmed the year end position for 2023/2024 resulted in a lower spend of £36,406. He added there were areas in the special expenses that had over and under expenditure.

He brought to the Committee's attention the underspend on Community Centres for 2023/2024 was £43,171. He explained Fairstead Community Centre had received additional income for 2024/2025 which resulted in an under spend on the special expenses.

The Interim Financial Services Manager outline the overspend on play areas for 2024/2025 due to general increase in repairs, replacement, and removal of play equipment. He added for 2024/2025 it was expected special expenses was to be inline with the budget at the end of the year.

The Interim Financial Services Manager highlighted that included in the current monitoring position in 2024/25 was £2,000 forecast outturn for the Gaywood Remembrance Service.

Councillor Colwell sought clarification on dog waste bins and highlighted there was no proposed increase in the special expenses budget for this .

The Interim Financial Services Manager confirmed the special expenses budget was determined by what was considered as needed in specific area but advised can come back and confirm further details.

Councillor Rust added, the item dog bins had been on the forward work programme and commented Councillors were not familiar with the process of how to apply for dog waste bins.

Councillor Everett questioned the amount of underspend of Councillors grants and if this was included in the KLAC Budget.

He additionally questioned, in relation to the Fairstead Community Centre contribution of the special expenses should be spent in Fairstead as this was where the money came from.

The Interim Financial Services Manager responded that he would find the information and figures and come back to Councillor Everett.

34 **COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME AND CABINET'S FORWARD DECISION LIST**

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Councillor Rust asked for the item dog waste bins to be scheduled in the next coming meetings as this was outstanding.

Councillor Bone provided information on a Youth Bus and highlighted the benefits for the Borough. He advised a Youth Bus was seen at Enfield Council and requested this to be added to the Work Programme and funding be considered.

Councillor Rust provided the Committee with an update on the Changing Places location and progress.

RESOLVED: The Committee's Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Decision List was noted.

35 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for **14th November 2024 at 5:15pm** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place.**

36 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely

disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

37 **EXEMPT- STARS AND SOUTHGATES MASTERPLAN**

The Principal Project Manager introduced and provided an explanation on the item to the Committee.

The Principal Transport Planner from Norfolk County Council gave a presentation on the STARS Schemes that facilitated the Southgates Masterplan.

The Chair invited questions and comments from the Committee.

Members of the King's Lynn Area Committee asked question and made comments and the Principal Project Manager and Principal Transport Planner responded.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm