

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

County Hall, Worcester

Wednesday, 17 November 2021, 2.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Tom Wells (Chairman), Cllr Richard Morris (Vice Chairman),
Cllr Alastair Adams, Cllr Brandon Clayton and Cllr Mike Rouse

Also attended:

Paul Middlebrough, Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner
Superintendent Steph Brighton, West Mercia Police
Superintendent Mark Colquhoun
Yvonne Pepper, Road Safety Manager, West Mercia Police
Bob Haynes, Traffic Management Adviser - Worcestershire, West Mercia
Police
Anna Higgins, Engagement and Campaigns Manager, West Mercia Police
Dave Perridge, Operations Manager, West Mercia Police

Sheena Jones, Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager
Samantha Morris, Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Available Papers

The members had before them:

- A. The Agenda papers (previously circulated);
- B. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 2021 (previously circulated).

(A copy of document A will be attached to the signed Minutes).

1216 Apologies and Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Kyle Daisley, Cllr Shirley Webb, Mark Hughes (Parent Governor Representative) and Tim Reid (Church Representative).

1217 Declaration of Interest and of any Party Whip

None.

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1218 Public Participation

None.

1219 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1220 How The County Council can Support Its Councillors to Empower Communities to Manage Speeding

In attendance for this discussion:

Yvonne Pepper - Road Safety Manager, West Mercia Police
Dave Perridge – Operations Manager, West Mercia Police
Anna Higgins – Engagement and Campaigns Manager, West Mercia Police
Bob Haynes - Traffic Management Advisor (Worcestershire), West Mercia Police
Paul Middlebrough - Assistant West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner
Superintendent Steph Brighton, West Mercia Police (South Worcestershire)
Superintendent Mark Colquhoun, West Mercia Police (North Worcestershire)

The Board as the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee had identified as part of its work programme that it would like to look at how the County Council could support its Councillors to empower communities to manage speeding in Worcestershire. Key partners involved in this area had been invited to attend and contribute to this discussion.

A presentation was made by the West Mercia Police Road Safety Team (as detailed in the Agenda) which set the scene for the ensuing discussion.

The following main areas were discussed:

- The number of roads applicable to the 9 Community Speed Watch Schemes in Worcestershire varied according to the location and risk assessment.
- In response to a Members question about whether the 32 fatalities in South Worcestershire between 2018-2020 as opposed to 21 in North Worcestershire suggested that the roads in South Worcestershire were more dangerous than North Worcestershire, it was explained that in order to explain the reasons for the difference in numbers, there would need to be analysis taking into account population and use of the roads.
- The number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) as a result alcohol and drugs was increasing. It was suggested that this was a theme which could be related to changes in behaviour patterns resulting from Covid. Further analysis would however be required however to substantiate this.

- The Board would be provided with further data in respect of the number of KSI's relating to speeding.
- Where a pattern to collisions was identified, resources would be put in place to understand the reasons why, however it was suggested that fatal accidents were often random.
- In response to a Member suggestion that rural roads could be speeding hotspots, it was explained that this was not necessarily the case and that excessive speed for the circumstances could be an issue and be addressed via education on speed awareness and focused campaigns eg Dying 2 Drive, Be Safe, Be Seen.
- The Assistant PCC explained that as part of his role, he would be working with the hard to reach communities of Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The PCC was very keen to deploy resources to educate communities in the widest way and had allocated £0.5m to road safety education.
- There was a general consensus that education was key in tackling speeding in communities and it was agreed that the Road Safety Team would provide data to show how driver education has changed patterns of behaviour.
- The Road Safety Team provided education to 6th forms and young people up to the age of 24. Most schools received the Programme on an annual basis. The County Council Road Safety Team offered courses to the primary school age group.
- The Road Safety Team acknowledged the importance of hearing the voice of the victim and welcomed details of any victims who were willing to share their story.
- The Dying 2 Drive Scheme was discussed and the importance of promoting and encouraging young people to attend was emphasised. Any promotion by Councillors of the Scheme was welcomed.
- When a serious accident occurred, partners would work together to establish the cause and whether any remedial action was required.
- It was agreed that in order for the Road Safety Team to build up relationships with the newly elected councillors, details would be provided to them.
- In general terms, Councillors welcomed Community Speed Watch Schemes but thought the set up time was too long and protracted and more schemes were needed. The process for setting up a scheme was explained and it was suggested that it was possible to set up a Scheme in 2 months, however not all roads were suitable for a Scheme and communities weren't always willing to operate a Scheme. It was suggested that a better way forward may be to match the community concern sites with councillors who could look at setting up Scheme where needed. The Road Safety Team agreed to consider this as a way forward.
- The Road Safety Team confirmed that there was sufficient resource capacity to support the Community Speed Watch Schemes.
- The accuracy of the Council's Traffic Regulation Orders was questioned and it was agreed that this would be fed back to the Legal Team.
- In response to a question about night-time anti-social speeding around towns and village at the weekend, Members were advised in the first instance to contact the relevant safer neighbourhood teams.

- The merits of 20 mph speed limits were discussed and the importance of the speed limit managing the environment.
- It was noted that a Road Safety Community Toolkit had recently been shared with Councillors. It was suggested that this should be developed further to be a total resource for Councillors relating to all areas of speeding.

The meeting was adjourned from 4.10-4.20pm

In summary, the following actions were agreed:

- The Road Safety Team would provide data in respect of the number of accidents relating to speeding and how driver education had changed patterns of behaviour
- listening to the victims' voice as part of driver education/awareness to change driver behaviour and roll out to schools and the Road Safety Team would liaise as appropriate with Cllr Rouse
- details of the current Worcestershire County Councillors would be shared with the Road Safety Team so that links could be established
- Councillors would be reminded about the Road Safety Community Toolkit, and any suggested adaptations considered
- The Council's accuracy Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) would be discussed with the Councils Legal Dept
- The Road Safety Team would consider matching Community Concern Sites with the relevant local councillors
- The DFT Circular 2013 would be circulated to the Board for information.

It was agreed that following the receipt of the information and data requested during the meeting, Community Speed Watch Scheme would be reviewed in 6 months' time.

1221 Performance and In-Year Budget Monitoring Feedback

The Board was asked to consider the feedback provided by Scrutiny Chairmen following the discussion of performance information for Quarter 2 (July to September 2021) and in-year budget monitoring information relating to period 6 of 2021/22. In addition, Panels had started to explore the emerging pressures and challenges in relation to the 2022/23 Budget and Chairmen would provide some initial feedback in advance of a more detailed discussion at the Board's 15 December meeting.

Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Councillor Mike Rouse)

During the Panel's discussion of quarterly Performance and in-year Budget Monitoring, Members took the opportunity (as suggested by the Leader of the Council) to discuss emerging pressures and challenges for services in relation to the 2022/23 Budget. The themes of the challenges coming through were around cost of transport, energy, pay and staffing. The Panel was concerned about the impact of the pressures and the resultant impact on Council budgets and services.

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Cllr Alastair Adams)

A Budget Task Group of the Panel had an initial meeting on 9 November to start looking at the data provided.

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Cllrs Brandon Clayton)

At its meeting on 3 November, the Committee received an explanation about Public Health Ring-fenced Grant (PHRFG) of approximately £30m.

1222 Member Update, Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Cllr Alastair Adams)

At its recent meeting, the Panel had received the Flood Risk Management Annual Report/Update on Flooding 2020/21.

In addition, a Task Group of the Panel had started to look at 3-year cost centre trends as part of the Budget Scrutiny process.

Adult Care and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Cllr Richard Morris)

At its recent meeting, in addition to performance and in-year budget monitoring the Panel had looked at compliments and complaints relating to Adult Social Care Services, the Council's approach when people who have been self-funding their own care in residential/nursing care homes, reach the threshold for financial support and also received an update on the Review of Council provided Day Services for adults with learning disabilities.

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) (Cllr Brandon Clayton)

On 18 November, a Task Group of the HOSC would be meeting to discuss delays in ambulance at Worcestershire hospitals with all system partners. This was as an area of concern and in particular, regular and significant delays.

Cabinet Forward Plan

It was agreed that consideration would be given to adding the following items to the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme:

- Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy
- Waste Management Contract
- Storm overflows.

The meeting ended at 4.55 pm

Chairman

