



Committee and Date  
Oswestry Local Joint  
Committee

24 October 2013

7.00pm

Item/Paper

**5**

Public

## **OSWESTRY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

### **NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2013 AT CASTLE VIEW, OSWESTRY.**

**7.00pm – 8.50pm**

**Responsible Officer** Michelle Dulson

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#### **PRESENT:**

##### **Members of the Committee:**

Mr Martin Bennett	Shropshire Council
Mr Peter Cherrington	Shropshire Council
Mr Vince Hunt	Shropshire Council
Mrs Elaine Channon	Oswestry Town Council
Mr Paul Milner	Oswestry Town Council
Mr John Price	Oswestry Town Council

##### **Officers:**

Tim Smith	Area Director, Shropshire Council
Kate Garner	Operational Lead for Locality Commissioning, SC
Gill Jones	Community Action Manager, Shropshire Council
Steve White	Community Action Officer, Shropshire Council
Timothy Davidson	Shropshire Fire and Rescue
Michelle Dulson	Committee Officer, Shropshire Council (Notes)

**There were approximately 14 members of the public at the meeting.**

#### **ACTION**

#### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

- 1.1 It was proposed, seconded and AGREED that Councillor Hunt be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Keith Barrow (Shropshire Council) and John Gareth Jones (Oswestry Town Council).

#### **3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

- 3.1 It was proposed, seconded and AGREED that Councillor Mrs Channon be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

**ACTION****4. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

- 4.1 Councillor Hunt disclosed an interest in projects 2 and 6 of agenda item 10 – Funding Decisions (Fusion Arts and Ramped).

**5. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 5.1 **AGREED:** That the notes of the meeting held on 28 February 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND PACT MEETING (PARTNERS & COMMUNITIES TOGETHER)**

- 6.1 In response to a query raised at the last meeting, the Chairman reported that the number of Police personnel assigned to Oswestry by designation was as follows:

Special Constable - 6  
 Police Staff - 2  
 Community Support Officer - 7  
 Police Constable (inc Detective) - 32  
 Police Sergeant (inc Detective and Temporary) - 8  
 Temporary Inspector – 1

Any further queries in relation to Police personnel could be directed to the Chairman who would obtain a response.

- 6.2 Mr Timothy Davidson from Shropshire Fire and Rescue was in attendance. He reported that there had been a decrease in Road Traffic Accidents in the last 18 months. There was currently an issue in relation to arson in the Castlefields/Crestwood Court area and he requested residents to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police.
- 6.3 In response to a query, Mr Davidson explained that the decrease in road traffic accidents was partly due to campaigns promoting safety to younger adults through colleges etc which had reduced the number of collisions in the local vicinity. Also, a lot of money had been spent making roads safer and finally, the increased volume of traffic has led to a slow moving carriageway.
- 6.4 A query was raised as to why the Minutes of the Joint Economic Board were not available to the public. The Chairman would make enquiries but it was thought that a summary of the Minutes was available on the Town Council website. It was felt that a record of the proceedings should be publically available and that the meetings should be open to the public.
- 6.5 In response to a query, Mr Davidson confirmed that free Fire Safety checks and smoke alarms were still available to the public however, due to the current economic climate the scheme had been streamlined and free smoke alarms were only available for vulnerable people. If anyone was interested in a home safety risk assessment they could contact Fire Control on 01743 260200.

**VH / SW**

**ACTION**

- 6.6 A query was raised about the issue of traffic lights at the junction of Roft Street and Middleton Road. It was suggested that the Town Mayor be requested to call a public meeting for residents and members of the public to discuss the issue. The Chairman agreed to bring a response back to the next meeting.

**VH / SW****7. LOCALITY COMMISSIONING**

- 7.1 Tim Smith, the Area Commissioner for the North introduced this item and gave a very brief introduction to his role. He explained that work was being undertaken in Church Stretton with local Members and Town Councillors as well as with the public and partners to assess the needs of the local area, looking at how services are delivered, by whom and where from. It was hoped to collect evidence of better ways of working that were cheaper and faster and that saved money whilst providing better services.
- 7.2 The Area Commissioner introduced Kate Garner, the Operational Lead for Locality Commission and Gill Jones, Community Action Manager who were leading on locality commissioning. Ms Garner explained that she had been looking at the data to discover what needed to be done to adopt locality commissioning as one way to enable services to be delivered according to local needs.
- 7.3 She explained that the data had been looked at in more detail and the following three themes had emerged as areas to focus on:
1. Unemployment/disadvantaged
  2. Elderly eg loss of mobility, becoming ill
  3. Public realm eg pavements, bins, hedge cutting etc
- There was a lot of evidence showing how services in these areas were currently being run but it also highlighted opportunities to provide better, cheaper and faster services with a good end result.
- 7.4 The next stage was to compare the current/old way of working with the new way to assess whether it was better, faster, cheaper, with preventative action built in. Currently services addressed needs after something has happened but now they were trying to provide support before something happens. There were opportunities for local voluntary sector groups, local businesses, Town Councils etc to become part of the delivery of services to ensure the customer gets a better service.
- 7.5 In response to a query, Ms Garner gave an example of how locality commissioning could work in practice by eg cutting out multiple assessments, improving communication and decision making, and directing money into prevention.
- 7.6 Mrs Jones explained that her role was to lead Locality Commissioning in Oswestry which was at a very early stage of data collection. A scan of the data already held suggested that tackling economic growth and substance misuse would be a good starting point.

**ACTION**

- 7.7 Economic growth had been chosen because Oswestry had suffered a greater loss of both full and part time jobs than the rest of Shropshire. Some work had already been done around substance misuse and some good ideas had come forward about how it could be dealt with better and how to work together more effectively to reduce numbers coming back into the system.
- 7.8 In response to a query about when exactly the approach would be rolled out to Oswestry and other areas it was explained that they were still yet to prove that the new approach worked and they needed to collect more data to ensure it was quicker and cheaper. If proven, it could well be rolled out as an opportunity for local commissioning.
- 7.9 A query was raised as to the possibility of quantifying the savings made by this new way of working. In response Ms Garner explained that it was difficult to show that the new way of working would be cheaper at the moment, but the savings would come in time.
- 7.10 A query was raised as to how much lessons learned in Church Stretton would be directly transferable to other areas. In response it was explained that they were still at the learning stage of roll out and whilst some would be straight forward eg discharge from hospital, others would have to be more adaptable. Flexibility and local adaptability would be essential.
- 7.11 The Chairman thanked the Officers for their interesting and informative presentation.
- 8. COMMUNITY ACTION OFFICER – UPDATE ON CURRENT WORK**
- 8.1 Steve White, Community Action Officer for Oswestry introduced himself and explained that he had been in post for five weeks and was working very closely with the Community Action Manager. He would be working very closely with the public and also on locality commissioning.
- 8.2 The Community Action Officer updated the meeting in relation to his current work, which included the following:
- Oswestry Access Group have successfully campaigned for Shropshire Council to raise the dangerous dropped curb outside Boots.
  - It was hoped to put together a timetable of activities for younger people during the Summer holidays.
  - Working with younger people to identify issues with the surfacing of Unicorn Road skate park and ways to improve it.

**ACTION**

- Oswestry Walking Festival, 13-15 September alongside the Heritage Open Days.
- Eastern Oswestry Green Space promotion events.
- Walford & North Shropshire College Fun Day 22 June 2013, 11am-3pm.

**9. GOOD NEWS STORIES**

9.1 Good news stories from Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council were reported, which included the following:

- The success of the Oscan event in Cae Glas park which it was hoped to replicate during the summer.
- Prize giving for a writing competition for Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils. It was hoped to publish some of them into a book.
- 19 piece Safari trail including a gorilla and deer.
- Opening of the new Fairholme Nursing Home. The old building would house The Marches School Sixth Form.
- Eastern Oswestry Green Space Association hope to apply for QEII Field status to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee.
- Planning started for next year's Youth Music Festival.
- Toilets have now been installed at Gatacre Allotments.
- Oswestry once again had a football team who hoped to play on Gatacre Playing Fields.
- Hope to get free tennis coaching and funding to use in Cae Glas Park.
- Jubilee Garden and plaque in Cae Glas Park.
- Plans to commemorate World War One next year. Information available on Imperial War Museum website.

**10. FUNDING DECISIONS**

10.1 The Committee received the report of the Community Action Officer (copy attached to the signed Notes) which considered the devolved funding allocated to the Oswestry Local Joint Committee for the period 1 April 2013 up to 31 March 2014. Six applications had been received by the deadline. The Chairman declared an interest in projects 2 and 6 (Fusion Arts and Ramped) and left the room.

**ACTION**

- 10.2      **A. It was AGREED that the LJC fund those organisations and their projects as set out in Appendix A to the report, as follows:**
- i.    £1,500.00 to The Project Group (Oswestry) CIC for ‘The Centre’ Textile Hanging
  - ii.   £1,000.00 to Fusion Arts (Oswestry) CIC for Urban Pulse Workshops
  - iii.   £500.00 to OBA Group for Oswestry Area Heritage Open Days 2013
  - v.    £300.00 to Oswestry Otters Swimming Club for Running costs
  - vi.   £522.50 to Ramped CIC for start-up costs
  - vii.   £2,270.00 Arts Funding to Oswestry and District Arts Association.
- B. It was AGREED to defer the following application:**
- iv.   QUBE – ‘From Qube with love...

**11.      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 11.1      The next meeting would be held at 7pm on 26 September 2013, venue to be confirmed.

**MD / SD**

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_