

# MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2011 10.00  
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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Paul Cosham  
Councillor Alan Davidson  
Councillor Reginald Howard  
(Chairman)  
Councillor Michael King  
Councillor David Nalson

Councillor Helen Powell  
Councillor Bob Russell  
Councillor Bob Sampson  
Councillor Mrs Judy Smith (Vice-  
Chairman)  
Councillor Ian Stokes

## OFFICERS

Head of Legal and Democratic  
Services (Lucy Youles)  
Head of Finance (Richard Wyles)  
Property and Facilities Service  
Manager (Liz Banner)  
Principal Democracy Officer (Jo  
Toomey)

## OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Raymond Wootten

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## 27. MEMBERSHIP

The Committee was notified that Councillor Stokes was substituting for Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown for this meeting only.

## 28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

## 29. ACTION NOTES - 27 SEPTEMBER 2011

The action notes from the meeting on 27 September 2011 were noted.

### **30. LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE UPDATE**

The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector Mark Housley to the meeting. Chief Inspector Housley was responsible for working with partners and neighbourhoods to deliver policing in North and South Kesteven.

At its meeting on Tuesday 25 January 2011, Chief Inspector Lee Pache had explained that Lincolnshire Police was restructuring the way it delivered services. Three divisions, each led by a chief superintendent, superintendent and one or two chief inspectors was replaced by four districts which were led by a chief inspector.

The re-structure saw Lincolnshire Police take a thematic approach: crime, operations and neighbourhood policing. Increasing the number of Community Beat Managers and their responsibilities was fundamental to changes in neighbourhood policing. Lincolnshire Police were reviewing and refining the effectiveness of the changes based on feedback from key stakeholders.

Questions asked of Chief Inspector Housley covered the following points:

- Across Lincolnshire reports of anti-social behaviour had reduced by approximately 20%. This coincided with the introduction of a new case management system.
- Anti-social behaviour calls were logged as part of the case management process. Calls were risk assessed and vulnerable and repeat victims were identified.
- Lincolnshire Police and partners would manage specific issues through bespoke problem solving plans. Efforts would also be made tackle signal crimes.
- Reductions in back office staff meant that web content was not always current. Officers were trained on updating information but that meant spending less time in their neighbourhoods.
- Techniques to tackle alcohol-related anti-social behaviour were in place; officers engaged with people during the early evening.
- Having night time economy wardens was seen as beneficial for supplying police with intelligence and identifying potential issues at an early stage.
- Police Community Support Officers were empowered to issue parking fines. The introduction of civilian parking enforcement would provide opportunities for district councils to enforce parking.
- Street pastors in Grantham helped free police officer capacity by caring for people who had had too much to drink.

- Grantham had approximately 24 special constables, who proved proactive and effective.

The Chairman thanked Chief Inspector Housley for his attendance.

### **31. LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY/POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT UPDATE**

The Chairman welcomed John Atter from Lincolnshire Police Authority. Mr Atter gave a brief presentation on the Police and Social Responsibility Act:

- The Act received royal assent in September 2011.
- The first Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election would take place on 15 November 2012. New arrangements would be fully operation on 22 November 2012.
- There were some similarities between the Police Authority and PCC roles.
- The PCC would appoint the Chief Constable, who would have responsibility for appointing other ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) ranks.
- The Home Secretary had published a shadow document for potential PCC candidates.
- The PCC would hold the budget for community safety. This would not be ringfenced.
- The PCC would hold the Chief Constable to account, while the PCC would be accountable to Police and Crime Panels (PCPs).
- The PCP should consist of representatives from each district council and the county council.
- Information documents were available on the Local Government Association's website.

Councillors discussed the presentation.

- The effectiveness of the PCC role was dependent on personalities and could become politicised.
- Staffing infrastructure was required to support the PCC – a chief officer, chief finance officer and a performance officer or analyst. These would remain separate from police force staff to retain independence.
- PCC elections would occur every four years. It was unclear whether there would be measures to refresh membership of the PCP.
- The PCP would be able to initiate proceedings to remove a PCC mid-term. This course of action would need justifying. The Home Office or the Department of Justice would manage any

removal proceedings.

Mr Atter was thanked for his presentation.

*The meeting adjourned between 11:06 and 11:13.*

## **32. PROCUREMENT**

At its meeting on 27 September 2011 the Committee received a presentation by Procurement Lincolnshire. Background papers were circulated with the agenda: the scrutiny review on Procurement Lincolnshire led by Lincolnshire County Council, Procurement Lincolnshire's 2010/11 annual report and a structure chart.

To follow up, the Committee devised questions that they could pose to officers from South Kesteven District Council. The Head of Finance and the Property and Facilities Service Manager were invited to the meeting to answer the questions. Councillors also asked further questions based on discussions and the background paperwork.

- Generally officers were satisfied with the service provided by Procurement Lincolnshire. Officers had access to a lot of professionals who could provide specialist advice and support.
- Benefits of Procurement Lincolnshire included access to advice on all procurement issues, and training. It had also helped with a review of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The service was also developing a category management approach and ways to support local suppliers. Councillors recognised the value of this.
- Asked what could be better, officers said it was sometimes difficult not having a dedicated resource on site. The liaison officer was only on site one day a week.
- When considering value for money, a comparison was drawn; before procurement Lincolnshire SKDC employed a dedicated procurement officer at approximately £40k p.a. For a similar amount, SKDC could access over 30 Procurement Lincolnshire staff with a wider range of specialisms.
- The annual fee covered staffing costs for Procurement Lincolnshire. The shared service did not make profit. All savings were seen by the authority/authorities that owned the contract.
- SKDC had recently introduced procurement cards. These were used in 12 service areas. They were restricted by terms and conditions and had daily and monthly spending limits. They provided an opportunity to accelerate procurement and access additional discounts and better rates by purchasing online.
- As part of the partnership, SKDC could learn from the

experience of other authorities. Membership also gave greater exposure to frameworks that could provide better value.

- Savings were based on current year baseline figures. The savings achieved over year one were applied to the remainder of the contract's duration.
- So that Councillors could see the balance of price and quality on projects over £75,000, an example tender scoring matrix was circulated. Projects under that threshold were based on pricing. Each tendering exercise required a bespoke scoring matrix.
- Lincolnshire Procurement led significant or specialist procurement exercises. Straightforward, low-cost procurement was led internally, however support and guidance was available. All contracts were managed by SKDC.

Further discussion ensued on calculating savings. An accurate calculation could only be achieved if the council knew the cost had it not been part of Procurement Lincolnshire. Background papers reported that "savings are captured using a recording method that has been agreed with the partner authorities" Councillors asked to see a copy of the recording method. The tool took the baseline cost of the activity and extrapolated that over the life of the contract. The county council-led scrutiny review did not consider the method for calculating savings and the statements made by Procurement Lincolnshire in respect of these.

### ***Action Point***

#### ***Circulate a copy of the method for recording savings to all members of the Committee.***

Members debated the impact on savings during the second cycle of contracts after initial, significant savings were achieved. The scrutiny review stated: "the Group expressed surprise that targets were not refreshed annually to take into account the previous year's actual performance, current economic conditions and the anticipated spend of each authority over the forthcoming twelve months." Councillors felt this needed resolving. Officers stated making the calculations could prove difficult, as Procurement Lincolnshire could be reliant on authorities extending contracts or leaving contracts early to align dates. Economies of scale would provide greater opportunities for savings and make projects more appealing to potential tenderers.

Procurement Lincolnshire provided benefits that could not be identified through contract costs, including its training services and

the work it was undertaking to support local businesses.

Councillors noted a requirement within the scrutiny review that it should be circulated to scrutiny committee chairmen across the county. The report had not been made available to SKDC's Scrutiny Committee until this meeting.

Councillors briefly considered possible outcomes of a charging structure review. It was likely that any change would see each authority paying a fixed tariff with a top-up based on the level of savings achieved.

Significant SKDC contracts coming up for renewal included the Grounds Maintenance Contract and insurance. Savings could prove difficult to identify if contract specifications changed.

The Chairman thanked Councillors and officers for the questioning session and their contribution to debate.

### **33. WORK PROGRAMME**

Following work on procurement, the committee agreed to produce a report with conclusions and recommendations; this would be drafted and circulated to all Committee members for comment. The final report would be signed-off at the meeting on 24 January 2011. The report would be made to full Council.

The Committee's work programme also included an item on S.106 agreements and the impact of the Localism Act and introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy. Officers would be invited to attend the next meeting pending the release of regulations and guidance.

### **34. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Cosham gave an update on the Welland and Deeping Internal Drainage Board. Following complaints about a build-up of silt in the river in Market Deeping town centre the Environment Agency were going to visit the site.

### **35. ANY OTHER BUSINESS, WHICH THE CHAIRMAN, BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, DECIDES IS URGENT**

Councillor Powell circulated a map showing an area of Bourne together with a proposed route for a town bypass. It was understood that the land had been sold without a protective covenant for the

proposed route of the bypass. It was further reported that planning permission had also been granted for the site.

***Action point***

***Officers to look into the sale of the land and investigate whether planning consent for the site had been granted.***

**36. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting was closed at 12:50pm.