

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
MINUTES****Date: Monday 12 June 2012****Time: 6.00 p.m.****Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage**

Present: Councillors: L Harrington (Chair), P Parker CC (Vice Chair),
S Speller and P Stuart.

Start/End Time: Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
End Time: 7.50 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Cherney-Craw, M Hearn and V Warwick.

There were no declarations of interest

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference be noted.

3. MINUTES – 2 APRIL 2012

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2012 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising – **Item 3 – HCC Light Switch off** - The Committee welcomed the Hertfordshire Police Authority Scrutiny Committee's report on the impact of reducing street lighting, but felt that the review would require a longer period before it could conclude that the decision to switch the street light off had no impact on any form of criminality.

The Committee agreed that SBC should undertake its own review on County's decision to reduce street lighting in Stevenage early in 2013/2014.

Members were informed that certain areas were exempt from switching the lighting off such as Neighbourhood Centres, footpaths and roads that were deemed by the Police to be dangerous like junctions.

4. EXECUTIVE MEMBER RESPONSE TO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UNIT SCRUTINY REVIEW

A Member suggested that Officers involved in reviews should endeavour to revisit previous scrutiny reviews as a number of recommendations emanated from an officer and Member review into anti social behaviour in 2004 -05. He advised that Officers should consider reviewing any outstanding actions from the 2004 review. Members were of the view that both the public and Members perception of how anti social behaviour is handled differs from those suggested by Officers. Members suggestion for a flow chart explaining the various processes and stages involved in anti social behaviour intervention would be of assistance to Members.

Members invited the Head of Housing, Partnerships and Communication to the briefing arranged for 11 October regarding the relationship between Operational Delivery Group and Open Case Management re anti social behaviour. Members noted Police and Officers concerns on data protection issues but still felt that ward councillors needed to be kept abreast of any anti social behaviour in their areas.

A suggestion for further training on anti social behaviour was welcomed and Members requested a date to be scheduled as soon as possible. The Committee requested that training should be an All Member Seminar.

Regarding the utilisation of community safety funding to tackle the root causes of ASB, Members asked to be kept informed of this development.

Members welcomed the opportunity of being able to contribute to the development of the Tenancy Agreement and requested for a specific date when this will take place.

5. SO SAFE COMMUNICATION FORWARD PLAN 2012-2013

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Debbie Barker, the Antisocial behaviour Coordinator. The Scrutiny Officer advised that the forward plan was a monthly rolling document informing partners of forthcoming events in the town. These events would present opportunities for partners to promote and publicise community safety issues. The Committee welcomed the recent decision to rearrange the Stevenage Day on 26 August and noted one of the issues to be highlighted on the day is alcohol awareness.

The Committee noted the So Safe Communication Forward Plan 2012/13.

6. SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR REVIEW OF NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

It was **RESOLVED** that the scoping document be agreed subject to the inclusion of young persons and older people

7. URGENT PARTI BUSINESS

None