



10 November 2023

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –20 NOVEMBER 2023

A meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will be held at 6pm on Monday 20 November 2023 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Members of the public may view the meeting via the livestream from the Council's website.

Mannie Ketley
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2023.

2. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of:

(a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their non-pecuniary interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest, the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

4. Discussion with the Operations and Traded Services Portfolio Holder on the topic of Property Repairs.
5. Digital Exclusion Motion (report to follow).
6. Community Safety Motion.
7. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

Membership of the Committee:

Councillors Mistry (Chair), Mrs Brown, Lawrence, Ms Livesey, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs New, Mrs Parker, Rabin and Mrs Timms

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Linn Ashmore, Democratic Services Officer on 01788 533522 or email linn.ashmore@rugby.gov.uk. Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Community Safety Motion
Name of Committee:	Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 November 2023
Contact Officer:	David Burrows Chief Officer Regulation and Safety
Summary:	The report provides a summary of the current work in relation to prevention of knife crime, as delivered through the Rugby Community Safety Partnership in response to the motion of Council from the 25 October 2023.
Financial Implications:	None.
Risk Management/Health and Safety Implications:	None.
Environmental Implications:	None.
Legal Implications:	Statutory duty to consider crime reduction in all council activities under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998
Equality and Diversity:	No specific implications. Partnership priorities include hate crime.

Scrutiny Committee - 20 November 2023

Community Safety Motion

Public Report of the Chief Officer - Regulation and Safety

Summary

The report provides a summary of the current work in relation to prevention of knife crime, as delivered through the Rugby Community Safety Partnership in response to the motion of Council from the 25 October 2023

1. Introduction

This report has regard to the following notice of motion from the Council meeting that occurred on 25 October 2022:

56. notices of motion pursuant to standing order 11

- (a) Councillor Sandison moved and Councillor Mrs New seconded the following notice of motion which had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 11:

“This Council recognises that community safety has an important role to play in reducing violent crime and the fear of violent crime, in particular the carrying of knives on our streets and in our open spaces.

It is proposed that the Council’s Scrutiny Committee assess this matter in conjunction with the Council’s Regulation and Safety Team and the Community Safety Partnership.

This will focus on the Community Safety Partnership’s action plan for a proposed knife amnesty. It will also focus on education and any application that can be made to the Home Office for any available support and resources.

We recognise that the first duty of the Council and police is to make our wards and parishes safe for its residents and we would encourage a Member conversation on how this can be progressed at both ward and parish level.”

Further to the proposer and seconder speaking, and in accordance with Standing Orders, the motion stood referred to Scrutiny Committee.

The report will set out what current work is being carried out by the Rugby Community Safety Partnership to deter knife crime and the carrying of knives.

2. The Rugby Community Safety Partnership Current Data

The Rugby Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is well established with a good track record of understanding levels of risk within the Borough, producing action plans to deal with local community safety concerns and working across partners to maximise resources.

Following strategic assessments in 2021/22 which were reviewed last year Young people linked to knife related violent crime remains a CSP priority. Therefore as a partnership we monitor data and develop actions to reduce knife related violent crime in particular in regards to young people.

Data for 2022 showed that knife crime is still an issue but knife related violence continues to predominately occur in the home. There have been increases of note in the borough during 2022 in relation to more serious violence, including S18 wounding offences and violence involving a knife. This is, however, a county wide trend, and volumes of offences in the borough are either level with, or below, pre-pandemic volumes.

Over the first two quarters of 2023/24 there have been reductions in Rugby of knife related violence and Possession of Article with a Blade or Point Offences. However when incidences of violence involving knives do occur in Rugby the impact on those involved and the Communities that surround them can be catastrophic and the CSP continues to put in place interventions that will reduce knife crime.

3. Current CSP Interventions and Actions

The following table is taken from the CSP action plan around the priority area of Young people linked to knife related violent crime. This is not an exhaustive list of interventions and CSP partners are continually taking action to tackle knife crime.

Date	Action	Lead Authority	Existing Strategy or Action Plan	Target Date
17.10.23	Serious violence intervention - identify Programme	WCC	Serious Violence	2024
17.10.23	Serious violence intervention - Rugby knife crime initiative - New Artwork, link with sports clubs, launch	RBC/Police/WCC	Serious Violence	Mar-24

	event around basketball.			
17.10.23	Op Sceptre - Week of knife crime awareness work including a knife amnesty	Police		13/11/2024

Serious violence intervention -Identify Programme

Warwickshire County Council will be working in schools across Warwickshire including Rugby to mentor and work with young people around the causes and prevention of serious violence. This will include education on knife carrying and empowering young people so they have the tools to ensure they can avoid being the victim or perpetrator of serious violence. This will be funded by the Home Office from the Serious Violence Duty funding.

Serious violence intervention - Rugby knife crime initiative

The CSP Partners including RBC and the Police will develop anti knife crime art work in conjunction with young people and link in with sports clubs producing promotional logoed material such as water bottles and balls . The partnership will engage young people through sports and sport related engagement events on the dangers and repercussions of carrying knives. This will be funded by the Home Office from the Serious Violence Duty funding.

Op Sceptre - Week of knife crime awareness

Twice a year Warwickshire Police run Operation Sceptre which is a weeklong campaign raising awareness of the dangers of knife crime. This includes a knife amnesty at Rugby Police Station. This has run week commencing 13th November 2023.

Name of Meeting: Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 20 November 2023
Subject Matter: Community Safety
Originating Department: Regulation and Safety

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme
Name of Committee:	Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 November 2023
Contact Officer:	Linn Ashmore, Democratic Services Officer
Summary:	The report updates the Committee on the progress of task group reviews within its remit and details the overview and scrutiny forward work programme.
Financial Implications:	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Risk Management Implications:	There are no risk management implications arising from this report.
Environmental Implications:	There are no environmental implications arising from this report.
Legal Implications:	There are no legal implications arising from this report.
Equality and Diversity:	No new or existing policy or procedure has been recommended.

Scrutiny Committee - 20 November 2023

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Summary

The report updates the Committee on the progress of task group reviews within its remit and details the overview and scrutiny forward work programme.

1. CURRENT REVIEWS

1.2 Access to Emergency Health Care Provision

The task and finish group met with a representative from University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire at its last meeting on 9 November.

1.3 Development of a Landlord Forum

The task and finish group has invited representatives from Warwick District Council to discuss its Landlord Forum and understand the challenges at its next meeting on 30 November.

1.4 Young People in the Borough

Councillors who volunteered for this task and finish group consisted of Councillors Mrs Brown, Edwards, Karadiar, J Keeling, Ms Livesey, Mrs New, Russell, Mrs Sayani and Slinger. The first meeting will be held on 15 November.

1.5 Live Music Scene

A task and finish group has been formed and is made up of Councillors Barnett, Ms Livesey, Rabin, Sandison, Mrs Sayani and Slinger. The first meeting will be held in early December.

2. WORK PROGRAMME

2.1 Current Work Programme

A copy of the current work programme is attached at Appendix 1. A table listing the motions from Council has been included for reference.

3. FORWARD PLAN

The topics currently listed in the Forward Plan for the period December 2023 to March 2024 are available to download via the website - [Forward Plan](#).

4. CONCLUSION

The committee is asked to consider and agree the future work programme.

Name of Meeting: Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 20 November 2023
Subject Matter: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY **YES** **NO**

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Date of meeting	Item	Description
All meetings	Motions referred to scrutiny	
All meetings	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	Long-term rolling work programme.
TBC	Potential scrutiny topics	Report on potential items for scrutiny linked to the Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan.
29 January 2024	Discussion on the topic of planning enforcement	Growth and Investment Portfolio Holder and the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to attend.
29 January 2024	Annual Performance Report and discussion with the Leader of the Council	The item will include an update on the strategies and action plans that feed into the delivery of the Corporate Strategy. The Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to attend.

Items to be scheduled

Item	Report Description/Notes
Research work on the development of a Landlord Forum	Findings of the task and finish group to inform the next steps and terms of reference for a Landlord Forum.
Review of Access to Emergency Health Care Provision	Progress or final review report.
Annual review of Member training and development	Annual overview.
Review of Communication	To include internal and external communication.
Provision of Youth Services	A response from the Portfolio Holder at WCC is awaited.
Road improvements at Avon Mill/Hunters Lane	An invitation has been extended to WCC to attend a future meeting.

Current Reviews

Item	Report Description/Notes
Development of a Landlord Forum	The review work is ongoing.
Review of Access to Emergency Health Care Provision	The review work is ongoing.
Digital Exclusion	A report is included at item 5 of the agenda.
Live Music Scene	The review work is due to commence.
Young People in the Borough	The review work has commenced.

Motions from Council

Topic	Progress/Notes
Cost of Living – Reducing Fuel Poverty Cost of Living – Impact of Increases Cost of Living – Impact of the Energy Price Cap	The motions were addressed in a report to the meeting held on 14 November 2022 which identified a number of workstreams. A small sub-group of the committee was formed, made up of one Member from each political group to support the workstreams identified, to feedback to their own political group and to update the committee. A report on the outcomes and additional actions was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023.
Cost of Living – Impact on Children	A report was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023. No further immediate action was required.
Business Hubs	A report was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023. No further scrutiny was required.
Gypsy and Traveller Pitches	A report was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023. No further scrutiny was required.
Survey of Young People/Young People in the Borough	A report was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023. A task and finish group has been established.

Landlord Forum	A report was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023. A task and finish group has been established to carry out research on successful examples of Landlord Forums and inform the next steps and terms of reference.
Rugby's Live Music Scene	A report was considered on 11 September 2023 and a task and finish group has been established.
Digital Exclusion	Council on 20 September 2023 resolved that a task and finish group should be established. A report is included at item 5 of the agenda.
Community Safety	Council on 25 October 2023 referred a motion to Scrutiny Committee. A report is included at item 6 of the agenda.

Work programme Items carried over from 2020/21. The Committee may decide whether to remove these from the work programme

Topic	Timescale	Notes
Health and Wellbeing	To be agreed	Linked to recovery of the Covid-19 pandemic. A place-based Health and Wellbeing Strategy had initial conversations between the Chief Officer for Leisure & Wellbeing and Chief Officer Communities & Homes to outline the development of the new strategy. The situation is a significantly different picture to when this topic was originally tabled. The Chief Executive chairs the Rugby Health and Wellbeing Partnership working with a broad range of partners to identify new priorities for the group going forward. The group is made up of representatives from Public Health, the Strategy team and UHCW and GP's. There is also pilot work being carried out around area-based action plans.