

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Commission
1:30pm – 4:15pm on Thursday 13th November 2025

Room 77, The Guildhall, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull, HU12AA and MS Teams (Officers Only)

Present:

Councillors: Randall (Chair); A Collinson; Belcher; Kemp; Nicola, and Wood.

In attendance:

Councillor Dolman, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Community Safety, Hull City Council
T. Harsley, Assistant Director CitySafe, Hull City Council
K. Stevenson, Head of Community Safety and Partnerships, Hull City Council
M. Temperton, Partnership Delivery Manager, Hull City Council
J. Mortimer, Neighbourhood Nuisance Manager, Hull City Council
D. McKinney, MEAM and Rough Sleeping Programme Manager, Hull City Council
V. Paddison, Domestic Violence Co-Ordinator, Hull City Council
P. Todd, Scrutiny Officer, Hull City Council

Apologies:

Councillor Coward and Healand.

| Minute Number | | Action to be Taken by |
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| 37 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (2) | |
| Councillor A. Collinson declared an interest in minute number 39 and 40 insofar as the ward tasking on Ryfield borders her ward. | | |
| Recommendations: | | Reasons for Recommendations: |
| a) That the declared interests be noted. | | a) To ensure the Register of Members' Interests is updated accordingly. |

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| NON-EXEMPT ITEMS |
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| 38 | MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER 2025 (3) | |
| P. Todd (Scrutiny Officer) submitted the minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 11 th September 2025 for approval. | | |
| Recommendations: | | Reasons for Recommendations: |
| a) That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 th October 2025 be taken as read and correctly recorded. | | a) N/A. |

39

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITIES PRIORITIES 2025 -
26 (4)**

Councillor Dolman attended the meeting to provide an update on his priorities for the 2025 – 2026 municipal year and an overview was provided on each of the priorities that included: Strengthen Communications with Residents and Partners; Encourage a Focused and Targeted Approach to Enforcement; Ensuring Ease of Reporting for All; Restore our Relationship with Community Centres; Clarify the Roles and Responsibilities of Neighbourhood Coordinators; Consistency across Ward and Area Level Communication; Assess and Develop Area Committee Governance Changes; Focus on building support and welfare services around residents; Widen our Bereavement Service offer; Encourage and Enhance Customer Self-Service.

The Commission discussed:

Community Safety

- i. Encouraging a focused approach and how the ward councillors can help. The Commission was informed that feedback from Councillors was essential due to their knowledge of the ward and their suggestions should be shared with officers, particularly Neighbourhood Coordinators (NCs), during ward briefings. This information fed into the tasking process.
- ii. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) involving e-bikes, scooters, and mobility scooters, including safety concerns and accidents. The Commission was informed that this is a significant issue and that an upcoming meeting between Hull City Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Transport Portfolio Holder would focus on ensuring hotspots in Hull are addressed by police. Councillors are encouraged to email any ward-specific concerns that could be raised during the meeting. Legislation is unclear, and public awareness of what is legal is low, which was raised by the Young People's Scrutiny who expressed a need for further education on the subject.
- iii. The underreporting of crime, fear of reporting, concerns surrounding QR code security and the varying definitions of ASB requiring clarity for the public. The Commission was informed that fear and apathy are barriers to reporting and to tackle this it must be simple, ideally via a single point of access. QR codes are being explored for ease of reporting, but vulnerabilities are acknowledged.

Partnership work and anonymity through Crimestoppers will be promoted. While triage is inevitable, the Local Authority should set an example by making reporting easy and clear. Signposting must be simple and accessible.

- iv. Communication across boundaries and coordination between wards and area committees. The Commission was informed that crime does not respect boundaries. Operationally, Hull works well with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council in boundary wards with Neighbourhood Co-ordinators playing a key role in reporting and co-ordination. Tasking is split by wards and all partners attend to review ward-specific issues with the boundary concerns addressed through the collaboration between Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire policing teams.

Communities & Neighbourhoods

- v. The relationship between Community Centres, Councillors, and the Council, including clarity on expectations when ward budgets have been invested. The Commission was informed that relationships with centres are often tenuous and the Council commissioned support to the centres through CVS. Neighbourhood Coordinators work with the centres with an aim is to enable and enhance community work. The network is currently weak, and some centres operate independently however plans include providing secretariat support and encouraging all centres to attend joint meetings to develop those relationships.
- vi. Whether to reintroduce a federation of community centres to give them an independent voice. The Commission was informed that the current network mirrors this approach but was set up in coordination with CVS, which may not have been ideal. Centres should lead the network to share good practice and voice issues. This is now being recognised.
- vii. Provision of community spaces in areas without centres and capacity to support activities citywide. The Commission was informed that funding is available in the budget for neighbourhood-level events. Engagement with partners will explore using central hubs where possible. Capacity issues exist, and proposals have been put forward to build this. Future plans aim to increase provision and support across the city.
- viii. Challenges with continuity when Neighbourhood Coordinators change roles or work in job shares. The Commission was informed that this issue will be investigated separately however it was expressed that consistency is important across the city. The approach across the team will be reviewed as Neighbourhood Coordinators should be encouraged to attend meetings and adjust their time accordingly to ensure continuity.
- ix. The survey to members about Neighbourhood Coordinators roles and responsibilities and concerns about role evolution. The Commission was informed that the survey results were not returned. There is a split view on whether Neighbourhood Coordinators

should be guided by members or by community development work. Neighbourhood Coordinators are not administrators and should be active in communities as the role is to co-ordinate while enabling engagement.

Customer and Bereavement Services

- x. Simplifying the registration processes for deaths involving residents across the boundaries of Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire. The Commission was informed that the approach would be simpler and is supported in principle. The issue is likely legislative, and clarification will be sought as to the practicalities of the suggestion.
- xi. Maintaining a one-stop service in Hull, concerns about moving services online, and opportunities to widen the provision using existing private spaces within as children’s hubs and libraries. The Commission was informed that budget pressures exist due to the popularity of East Riding of Yorkshire Council crematorium services, and efforts are being made to make Hull’s service more appealing. The aim is to provide a reliable, secure, and competent service that inspires confidence.

| Recommendations: | Reasons for Recommendations: |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the Portfolio Holder for Communities sends an email to all Councillors inviting them to highlight areas of concern in their wards regarding antisocial behaviour linked to E-bikes and E-scooters. Their comments will be raised during a meeting with the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and the Portfolio Holder for Transport for further investigation. b. That the working practice of Neighbourhood Co-ordinators, who operate via a job share, be looked into due to consistency issues across meetings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To enable all Councillors to provide input into the joint meeting and provide a clear picture as to the problems across the city. b. To ensure that consistency issues are addressed and rectified. c. To provide clarity to members that opt to use ward budget to help fund Community Centres. d. To demonstrate the planned approach to increase capacity and undertake Community Asset Transfers in a more efficient way. e. To provide information on the legalities associated with registering deaths and what could be adapted in the future to allow ease of access to the services that residents require. |

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| <p>c. That information be provided off agenda to Councillors on what to expect from Community Centres following Ward Budget allocations.</p> <p>d. That once the plan to increase officer capacity for Community Asset Transfers has been developed, it be shared with the Commission off agenda.</p> <p>e. That clarity be provided on the legality of registering a death in Hull for residents of East Riding and vice versa.</p> | |
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| <p>40</p> | <p>COMMUNITY SAFETY (5)</p> | |
| <p>T. Harsley (Assistant Director CitySafe), K. Stevenson (Head of Community Safety and Partnerships), M. Temperton (Partnership Delivery Manager), J. Mortimer (Neighbourhood Nuisance Manager), D. McKinney (MEAM and Rough Sleeping Programme Manager) and V. Paddison (Domestic Violence Co-Ordinator) attended to provide an update on Community Safety that covered: Safer Hull Community Safety Partnership strategic priorities 2025-2028; Cuckooing; Violence against women and girls; Ward Tasking; Prevent Champions and Preventing Radicalisation Fund; Antisocial Behaviour and Neighbourhood Nuisance; Changing Futures and Rough Sleeping; Domestic Abuse.</p> <p>The Commission discussed:</p> <p><u>Safer Hull Community Safety Partnership/VAWG/Ward Tasking</u></p> <p>i. Hotspot areas within the city and whether issues are being resolved or simply moved elsewhere. The Commission was informed that this concern is recognised however the project is in its first year, and additional funding has been applied for. A collaborative approach</p> | | |

is being developed to avoid displacement, including a tiered, holistic plan involving Changing Futures, NHS prevention, and trauma-informed safeguarding. Long-term solutions are being explored alongside good practice from other areas.

- ii. The concept of a 'safe space' encompasses inclusivity for same-sex relationships and transgender individuals. The Commission noted that these spaces are not limited to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and are therefore not exclusively for women and girls. Instead, they are designed for anyone who feels vulnerable, forming part of an accredited national scheme that provides places where individuals can find warmth or someone to talk to. Premises offer support to those who feel threatened or unsafe.
- iii. The visibility of housing for women's refuge and concerns about advertising locations. The Commission was informed that previous attempts to publicise refuge locations were unsuccessful as they became too identifiable, making them unsafe. A generic offer, such as Ask Angela, is considered more accessible and secure.
- iv. Cross-scrutiny working, cultural differences among taxi drivers, and linking with licensing. The Commission was informed that taxi drivers receive training, but this could be reviewed to ensure they are seen as trusted individuals. The presence of Uber and Wolverhampton licensing arrangements was noted.
- v. Referrals and the need for ward-level breakdowns of data. The Commission was informed that current figures reflect inbound reports and emerging issues. Councillors can influence tasking by encouraging referrals through Neighbourhood Coordinators and partners. This helps ensure concerns are captured and addressed.

Antisocial Behaviour and Neighbourhood Nuisance

- vi. Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) data breakdown by wards and why East Hull is not included. The Commission was informed that the city centre is treated separately and has its own ward tasking arrangements, and that East Hull is not within the PSPO area.
- vii. Young people on curfews and the role of foster carers in enforcement. The Commission was informed that work is needed around curfews and timings and that the issue has been raised under Holiday Activities and Food programme then picked up through tasking. There are gaps in communication, with information not always being shared or reported when individuals are out.
- viii. Difficulties in reporting anti-social behaviour, public attitudes, and misconceptions about age demographics. The Commission was informed that a communications plan is in place to address these issues as reporting is vital, and businesses need continued engagement to improve the rate of reporting. It is important to challenge the perception that antisocial behaviour is primarily caused by young people, as most incidents involve adults aged 20 and over.

Changing Futures and Rough Sleeping

- ix. Seasonal trends in rough sleeping and why numbers rise in summer despite harsher winter conditions. The Commission was informed that additional provision is funded in winter to address risk to life and a duty to accommodate. In summer, some individuals choose to sleep outdoors, and there may be people from other areas where there is no duty to accommodate.
- x. The impact of early prison releases on Hull's resources and related issues such as theft near prisons. The Commission was informed that early releases increase pressure on resources. Probation plans are in place for day-of-release support, including accommodation and a multi-agency hub exists to manage risk and share information, though it comes at a cost. Specific incidents should be reported to enable prisons to take preventive measures.
- xi. Homelessness and benefit sanctions. The Commission was informed that joint working with Department for Work and Pensions ensures sanctions are addressed quickly and benefits are maximised. A dedicated worker is based in the team to manage this.
- xii. The impact of the Renters' Rights Bill and evictions on homelessness numbers. The Commission was informed that there has been no significant impact on services, and few cases involve private renters moving into rough sleeping.
- xiii. Hull attracting individuals from other areas due to its support services. The Commission was informed that some out-of-area referrals occur because Hull's services are well known. Efforts are made to encourage individuals to return to their local areas, though referrals from other authorities do happen.
- xiv. Residents in supported accommodation struggling with budgeting, health issues, and accessing help. The Commission was informed that prevention work is a priority, including welfare and advice services. The prevention strategy aims to reduce homelessness risk by providing early support and information.
- xv. Staff wellbeing and support for those experiencing trauma in their roles. The Commission was informed that staff face vicarious trauma and challenging behaviour. Reflective practice sessions with a psychologist are provided to support staff wellbeing.

Domestic Abuse

- xvi. Support for men and boys experiencing domestic abuse and lack of equality in service provision. Concerns were raised about suicide rates among men and links to domestic abuse and access to children. The need for equality of support for men was acknowledged.
- xvii. Supporting victims where the perpetrator's actions may be linked to medical conditions rather than intent. The Commission was informed that such cases fall under safeguarding adults, which has a dedicated staff member. If referred to the Domestic Abuse

| <p>Partnership (DAP), a multi-agency discussion would take place involving social work teams and safeguarding adults to understand the behaviour and dynamics.</p> <p>xviii. Domestic Abuse Partnership referral numbers and repeat cases, including families affected. The Commission was informed that repeat clients typically do not have children, as they may have been removed, placed with grandparents, or fostered. Repeat cases often involve multiple complex needs. These are flagged at every Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), ensuring oversight across agencies. High-level repeats are consistent and reflect complexity rather than system failure. SafeLives guidance indicates that lower-level repeats could signal ineffective flagging, but current patterns align with expected complexity.</p> | |
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| <p>Recommendations:</p> | <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reporting abuse should be open and accessible to everyone regardless of their culture and religion, and due the nature of the taxi driver being a trusted person, Licensing Committee are invited to relook at the taxi driver's training delivered by Hull City Council, investigate the influence over Uber and taxi drivers who are licensed by another authority, and what Hull City Council can put in place to protect its residents. b. That a breakdown of ward tasking figured be provided off agenda, split per ward rather than by tasking group. c. That the White Ribbon Day 2025 video be circulated to members of the Commission off agenda. d. That a visit to the Domestic Abuse Partnership and Strength to Change teams be arranged. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To provide an opportunity to address current flaws in the training and improve the offer to incorporate all cultures and religions which will protect residents. b. To allow for a further in depth focus that wards Councillors can focus on and understand as the ward tasking was broken down in tasking groups rather than by wards. c. To provide information. d. Due to the successful visit to Clough Road Police Station, the Commission would like to visit other teams under the remit of Community Safety to see them first hand and provide an opportunity for discussions to take place. |

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| 41 | COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION – OUTSTANDING ACTIONS (6) | |
| <p>P. Todd, Scrutiny Officer submitted the outstanding action list.</p> <p>The Commission discussed the action list.</p> | | |
| Recommendations: | | Reasons for Recommendations: |
| <p>a) That the completed items be removed and the Scrutiny Officer follow up on those actions that awaited a response.</p> | | <p>a) To ensure recommendations of the Commission are being addressed in a timely manner.</p> |

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| 42 | COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION – DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2025-2026 (7) | |
| <p>P. Todd, Scrutiny Officer submitted the draft work programme.</p> | | |
| Recommendations: | | Reasons for Recommendations: |
| <p>a. That the work programme be noted.</p> | | <p>a. N/A</p> |