

TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel held on 26 March 2010 at 2.30pm in the Executive Meeting Room, Third Floor, Portsmouth Guildhall.

(NB These minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting, which can be found at www.portsmouth.gov.uk).

Present

Councillors Caroline Scott (Chair)
Mike Blake
David Fuller
Jim Patey

24 Apologies for absence (AI 1)

Apologies had been received from Councillors Margaret Foster and Richard Jensen.

25 Declarations of interest (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

26 Minutes of previous meeting (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 5 March 2010 be agreed as a correct record.

27 Review of Trading Standards (AI 4)

The panel considered its draft report, which had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED that the draft report be AGREED final copy for publication, subject to the addition of officer titles in the recommendations section.

28 Review into the hazards posed by icy pavements in the city (AI 5)

The panel had received evidence from The Highways Manager, Risk Manager and Legal Services Team Leader at its meeting held on 5 March 2010.

The panel discussed the issues raised at this meeting and came to the following conclusions:

- The panel felt that the council, along with relevant partners, should provide a clear and unified statement not to discourage residents and business owners from clearing pavements. However, in order not to worsen the situation, clear advice on how to clear pavements properly should also be published. The dangers posed by clearing pavements inappropriately should also be highlighted, along with the possible legal challenges that people may open themselves up to by doing so. Such information could be published in an Autumn edition of Flagship;

- The panel noted that Southampton City Council and Hampshire County Council appeared to have been better prepared than Portsmouth City Council with regard to the heavy snowfall experienced in January 2010.
- When severe and prolonged snowfall is forecast, main roads and footways should be salted as soon as the first snow starts to fall;
- The panel felt that the communication between the council and residents during the heavy snowfall in January 2010 was inadequate and caused many residents to feel isolated.
- The panel requests that the next Winter Operational Plan be submitted to the relevant scrutiny panel for consultation, before it is finalised and considered by Cabinet;
- The panel recommends that hospitals in the city be consulted with the next Winter Operational Plan, in order that routes between hospitals and care facilities be kept clear to prevent bed blocking; and
- The grit bins agreed by Council in the 2010-2011 budget be put in place and that their locations be agreed in consultation with the relevant ward members;

29 Future topics for scrutiny (AI 6)

Having completed the review into Trading Standards, the panel had no further items on its work plan.

The panel discussed and agreed that the Scrutiny Management Panel be asked to consider that the following items be added to the TECS work plan:

- The introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the city;
- Fluoridation of water in the city; and
- Cold Calling.

30 Dates of future meetings (AI 7)

To be agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.07pm