

TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday 14 May 2013 at 4pm in Conference Room L, 2nd Floor, The Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

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

Present

Councillor Caroline Scott (Chair)
Les Stevens
Sandra Stockdale

Officers

Simon Brownlie, Traffic & Network Manager
Rachael Dalby, Head of Health, Safety & Licensing
Richard Lee, Environmental Health Manager

4 Apologies for Absence (AI 1).

Councillor Young sent his apologies.

5 Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2).

No interests were declared.

6 Minutes of the Meetings held on 18 December 2012 and 26 March 2013 (AI 3).

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel held on 18 December 2012 and 26 March 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.

7 Air Quality in Portsmouth (AI 4).

RESOLVED that the report be signed and sent to the Cabinet for consideration.

8 Discussion of Future Topics (AI 5).

Rachael Dalby, Head of Health, Safety & Licensing explained that supported by the Safer Portsmouth Partnership, community safety is undertaking a programme of reviews in order to ensure that the services offer the best value and meet existing need. It is also seeking to identify efficiencies across the system and to develop collaboration between partners.

She suggested that the panel might consider the following review topics:

Domestic Abuse.

A review was concluded in January 2012 and the recommendations endorsed by the Safer Portsmouth Partnership, the Children's Trust Board and the

relevant Cabinet Member.

It would be helpful if the scrutiny panel could assess the implementation of the review in particular the co-ordination of services, support provided by partners and the effectiveness of the activity in providing support at all levels and encouraging survivors to report and seek help earlier.

Anti-Social Behaviour.

A city wide multi-agency review of Portsmouth's approach to anti-social behaviour started recently. Using the same methodology as previous reviews, it aims to develop a clear commissioning strategy that will improve customer satisfaction with existing services and reduce perceptions and experience of anti-social behaviour across the city.

Due to the inherent difficulties in identifying, reporting and recording behaviour that is anti-social, the review will focus on the behaviour that causes residents most concern as well as looking at the drivers behind the complex cases managed by the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit:

- Drunk or rowdy in public places
- Rubbish and litter lying around
- Teenagers hanging around
- Noisy neighbours/ loud parties.

The review will include the impact of all service delivery and therefore services across the council such as the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, community wardens, environmental enforcement team, noise service as well as links to the Early Intervention Audit/ IYSS and Positive Family Steps.

It will take account of the findings of the Customer Management work stream in relation to last year's review of street scene services.

As a result of the national review of vulnerable victims, the review will also look at the relationship between hate crime and anti-social behaviour.

The panel could add value to this process by ensuring that the right agencies and services are involved and scrutinising their contributions as partners to this piece of multi-agency work and ensuring that the voice of local residents and communities is heard.

Re-Offending.

Reducing adult re-offending is a long-term priority and statutory duty for all Community Safety Partnerships. Addressing re-offending also reduces crime, driving down drug-related acquisitive crime, domestic violence, alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour. The Safer Portsmouth Partnership is currently focussed on collaborative work to enable prolific and priority offenders to turn their lives around and stop the re-offending cycle. In Portsmouth in 2011/12, 3,465 offenders were responsible for 29% of the crime. By focussing on appropriate interventions, significant reductions in adult re-offending and crime could be achieved.

No single indicator can explain why someone gets involved in criminal activity; it is a far more complex and multi-faceted process. There is a growing body of research that considers these risks and identifies what enables individuals to desist from offending. In terms of change, it is the combination and quality of input that is critical, starting with appropriate assessment of risk, need and change; ensuring access to a range of interventions, providing adequate opportunities to change and ensuring good service quality.

It is proposed that the scrutiny panel could support a review of work to improve the city's response to adult re-offending, reviewing the evidence base for success, current performance, budgets and partner activity. This is particularly important in light of the Government's proposed changes to the support and management of offenders and the prison system.

In order to reduce the risk of re-offending, it is important that upon leaving prison, offenders have accommodation, a buddy and work in place.

Richard Lee, Environmental Health Manager, suggested that the panel consider the following topics for review:

Pest Control.

A fee for mice control is charged but first time treatments for rats are currently provided free of charge. This has a significant impact on service demand and our potential to generate income. Last year in the region of 1,700 enquiries about rats led to between 5 and 6,000 visits. The panel may wish to explore further how the pest control service is delivered and whether alternative charging regimes may be more appropriate.

Food Hygiene/ Standards.

The Environmental Health Manager manages a team of six members of staff who are currently responsible for:

- Port Health (food imports, water sanitation etc.)
- Infectious diseases (acupuncture, tattooing etc.)
- Animal welfare (dog boarding, pet shops, riding establishments etc).
- Food Hygiene and Standards
- Health and Safety

The team is required to deliver the Inspection Programme in order to monitor the 1,800 or so food business operators in the city. Using the Food Standards Agency guidelines, it focuses on high priority premises but has an obligation to inspect all premises. When a premises has been rated as below excellent, operators are usually keen to book a revisit as soon as possible to show the improvements that have been implemented so that it can be upgraded. The panel may wish to give further consideration to the manner in which the inspection regime is implemented and charging for non-regulatory visits made outside the prescribed inspection program.

In response to a question from the panel, Mr Lee explained that officers look

at rubbish disposal and management performance during the inspections.

Simon Brownlie, Traffic & Network Manager explained that subject to the Cabinet's decisions regarding the air quality review's recommendations, the traffic team would be involved in the follow up work and that he could not suggest any areas that would benefit from scrutiny at the moment.

RESOLVED that the following topics (in order of priority) be considered by the Scrutiny Management Panel for inclusion in the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel's work programme:

- 1. Domestic Abuse.**
- 2. Anti-Social Behaviour.**
- 3. Re-offending.**

The meeting concluded at 4:40pm