

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held in the Jeffrey Room,
St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE .on Wednesday, 29 July 2015
commencing at 6:00pm

D Kennedy
Chief Executive

If you need any advice or information regarding this agenda please phone Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, telephone 01604 837408 (direct dial), email ttiff@northampton.gov.uk who will be able to assist with your enquiry. For further information regarding **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** please visit the website www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Members of the Committee

Chair	Councillor Jamie Lane
Deputy-Chair	Councillor Brian W Sargeant
Committee Members	Councillor Rufia Ashraf Councillor Muna Cali Councillor John Caswell Councillor Gareth Eales Councillor Terrie Eales Councillor James Hill Councillor Phil Larratt Councillor Dennis Meredith Councillor Brian Oldham Councillor Suresh Patel Councillor Samuel Shaw Councillor Zoe Smith Councillor Graham Walker

Calendar of meetings

Date	Room
28 September 2015 6:00 pm 25 November 11 January 2016 11 April 13 June	All meetings to be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated

Northampton Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Item No and Time	Title	Pages	Action required
1 6:00pm	Apologies		Members to note any apologies and substitution
2	Minutes	1 – 3	Members to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2015.
3	Deputations/Public Addresses		<p>The Chair to note public address requests.</p> <p>The public can speak on any agenda item for a maximum of three minutes per speaker per item. You are not required to register your intention to speak in advance but should arrive at the meeting a few minutes early, complete a Public Address Protocol and notify the Scrutiny Officer of your intention to speak.</p>
4	Declarations of Interest (Including Whipping)		Members to state any interests.
5 6:05pm	NBC Owned Street Lighting	4-5	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider a briefing about NBC owned street lighting.
6 6:35pm	Community Safety (CSP) Performance	6 – 10	The Chair of the CSP to provide a progress report on the levels of performance.
7 6:55pm	Multi-Agency approach to Street Drinkers	11 – 15	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a briefing on the Multi-Agency approach to Street Drinkers.
8 7:20pm – 7:50pm	Scrutiny Panels		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive the scopes of the Reviews from the three Scrutiny Panels.
8 (a) 7:20pm	Scrutiny Panel 1	16 – 22	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to approve the Scope of the Review – Scrutiny Panel 1
8 (b) 7:30m	Scrutiny Panel 2	23 – 29	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to approve the Scope of the Review – Scrutiny Panel 2
8 (c) 7:40pm	Scrutiny Panel 3		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to approve the Scope of the Review – Scrutiny Panel 3 (copy to follow).

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9 7:50pm	Potential future pre decision scrutiny		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider any potential issues for future pre decision scrutiny.
10	Urgent Items		This issue is for business that by reasons of the special circumstances to be specified, the Chair is of the opinion is of sufficient urgency to consider. Members or Officers that wish to raise urgent items are to inform the Chair in advance.

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 6 July 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Lane (Chair); Councillor Sargeant (Deputy Chair); Councillors Ashraf, Eales, Eales, Hill, Larratt, Meredith, Oldham, Patel, Shaw, Smith and Walker

APOLOGIES:

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2015 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none. The Chair confirmed that he had received an email from Tom Appleyard with some suggestions on Keep Northampton Tidy and Councillor Allowances to be based on attendance. He confirmed that he would respond to Mr Appleyard regarding his suggestions and that the suggestion he made for inclusion in the Work Programme will be deferred until next year.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

There were none.

4. WORK PROGRAMME 2015/2016

The Chair confirmed that as a result of the Work Programme three topics had been identified. The Committee were asked to prioritise these and also indicate whether they wished to serve on the Panels. The Chair advised the Committee that other non Executive Members would then be asked if they wished to serve on any of the Panels.

AGREED :-

That the priority of suggested reviews be as follows

Scrutiny Panel 1 Health Check of Local Economy

Membership of the Panel would comprise:

Chair Councillor Rufia Ashraf
Deputy Chair Councillor Samuel Shaw
Members Councillor Terrie Eales

Scrutiny Panel 2 – Environmental Crime

Membership of the Panel would comprise:

Chair Councillor Dennis Meredith
Deputy Chair Councillor Phil Larratt
Members Councillors Zoe Smith, Rufia Ashraf, and Brian Oldham

Scrutiny Panel 3 Licensing Policy

1 1

Membership of the Panel would comprise:

Chair Councillor Gareth Eales
Deputy Chair Councillor Graham Walker
Members Cllrs Brian Sargeant and Suresh Patel

Further membership to be confirmed.

The recommendations were as follows:-

- 4.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees its Work Programme for 2015/2016 from the issues suggested by the recent Work Programming event.
- 4.2 That membership of the three Scrutiny Panels is set and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoints the Chairs of the three Scrutiny Panels.
- 4.3 The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee invites other non-Executives, who are not a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to join the membership of the Scrutiny Panels.
- 4.4 That the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee communicates details of the Work Programme 2015/2016 with all Councillors, and Directors.
- 4.5 That the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2015/2016 is published on the Overview and Scrutiny page of the Council's webpage.

5. REPORTING AND MONITORING WORKING GROUP

The Chair confirmed that the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group would be meeting on 12th October 2015 and 4th January 2016. Membership was agreed as follows-

Chair Councillor Jamie Lane
Deputy Chair Councillor Brian Sargeant
Members Councillors Dennis Meredith, Samuel Shaw, James Hill and Terrie Eales

6. NBC'S REPRESENTATIVE TO NCC'S HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair advised that this Committee met during the day and it was agreed as follows:-

Representative Councillor Brian Sargeant
Deputy Councillor Rufia Ashraf

It was confirmed that the next meeting was on the 4th September 2015.

7. POTENTIAL FUTURE PRE DECISION SCRUTINY

The Chair advised that at the Programme Event it was decided that the following topics would be investigated:-

1. Code of Practise for Betting Shops
2. Sheltered Housing

In addition Councillor Larratt suggested two further issues:

3. NBC Street Lighting
4. Flooding – 1:200 floor risk

He confirmed that a report would be presented to the Committee on these topics and then further investigated if required.

8. URGENT ITEMS

There were none.



Northampton Partnership Homes

Briefing paper for Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 29th July 2015

Update on Street Lighting

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were last briefed on Street Lighting on 8th September 2014. Outlined within item 2.2 of the briefing paper were three responsibility areas one being "for street lights off the highway around some housing estates, including footpaths, garages, parking and pedestrian areas around blocks of flats"
- 1.2 The above responsibility is under the jurisdiction of Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) and this report provides an update on activities since the creation of NPH on 5th January 2015.

2. Update

- 2.1 As previously briefed in at this Committee in November 2015 extensive cataloguing and condition survey assessment work has previously been carried and this information has since been transferred to NPH.
- 2.2 Initial work has since commenced on converting and adapting this data for incorporation into NPH asset management databases and this is an ongoing project covering all 12,000+ stock and neighbourhood areas where there are street lighting upkeep responsibilities for NPH.
- 2.3 In the meantime and in parallel to the above NPH have since assumed the repair and maintenance of the non highway street lighting with issues reported by estate based staff and tenants alike.
- 2.4 To date during 2015 there has been 8 reported repairs to street lighting maintained by NPH which is a slight increase on the previous year.

3 Future initiatives

- 3.1 In managing the Council stock and neighbourhoods NPH is about to embark on the planning and coordination of environmental improvements covering estates in a priority order for subsequent delivery.

- 3.2 As inferred this large piece of work will be inclusive of known local knowledge, staff input and of course stock condition data covering a multitude of elements which includes street lighting.
- 3.3 Therefore any works to existing lights and/or columns will be picked up at this stage for inclusion into the wider environmental scope of works where required.
- 3.4 Furthermore, and as referred to in item 2.2 above the conversion and input of data into the NPH asset management database will allow us to create planned more effective work regimes thereby reducing costly 'one off' repair costs . Typically this will include overall maintenance, testing, light level recordings and renewal programmes as and where required.
- 3.5 As part of our aim to improve the safety of neighbourhoods, additional lighting may also be provided either in the form of lampposts or high level lighting attached to buildings adjacent to key access routes.
- 3.6 It may also interest Committee members to know that the 'Northampton standard' is now inclusive of the installation of front and rear security lights where required and these will in turn improve home security and enhance overall lighting levels. This work is due to commence as part of other broader work delivery programmes later in the year.

Geoff Prior
Executive Director of Property Services
Northampton Partnership Homes

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29 July 2015

Briefing Note – Crime & Disorder, Overview & Scrutiny

Summary

On the 3 February 2011 it was agreed that as part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee role, that in meeting their responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, a bi annual report from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) would be provided. The report would focus on the levels of CSP performance and whether crime has increased in the light of reduced resources, and if so what measures have been taken to meet any shortfall in performance. The report was to advise the Committee of work undertaken, thereby informing Overview and Scrutiny of further review or scrutiny that may be required.

Community Safety Partnership – Performance Overview

The CSP continue to prioritise issues that are most likely to affect people in their day to day lives, including violent crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic burglary and vehicle crime, ensuring that our town and communities are safe places in which to live and enjoy themselves.

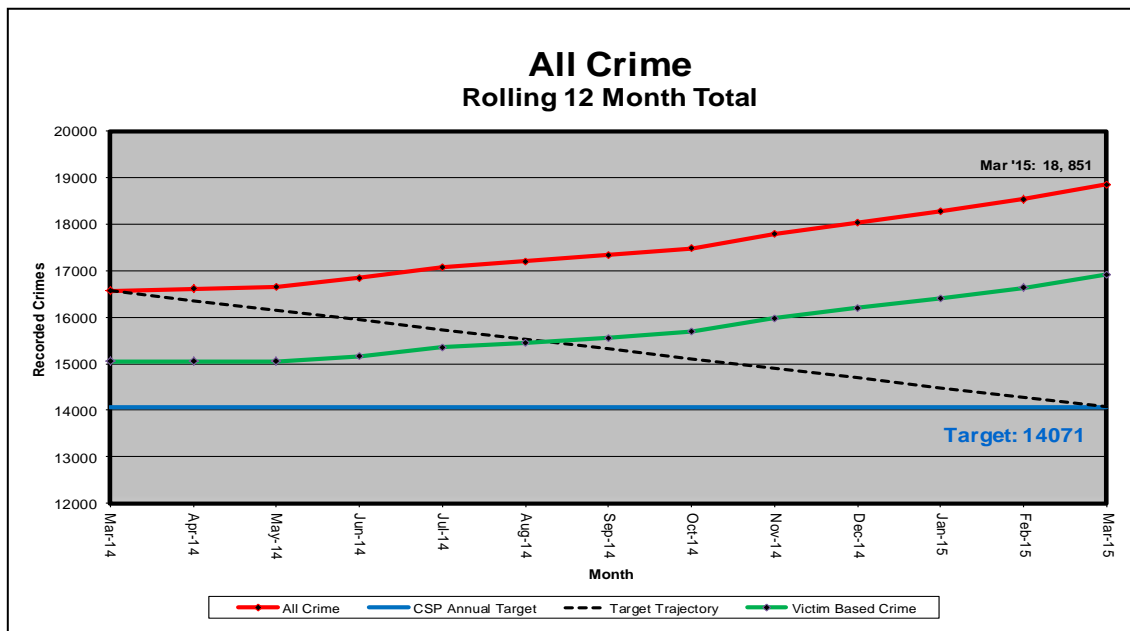
Performance overall has been mixed for 2014/15, continuing to achieve reductions in some crime types but seeing reduced performance in others. The partnership continues to see good reductions in Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC). There is a small reduction in recorded Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), and victim satisfaction for the ASB Unit is exceeding targets, but there has been a small increase in reported criminal damage. However, overall crime and specifically violent crime have seen large increases.

Actual Performance – April 2014 to March 2015

There's been an increase in overall crime in Northampton of 13.8% (+2282 crimes) from the baseline during the year. However, there have been reductions in three of the key crime types, particularly theft from person.

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Overall crime is used as a proxy measure for crime relating to drugs and alcohol misuse. Victim based crime has been shown in the graph below to illustrate the changes in crime which closer aligns with CSP work, and the symptoms of alcohol & drug abuse. This crime group has also seen an increase of 12.4% (+1860 crimes). The increase in the volume of violence offences has impacted on overall crime and victim based offences.



Northampton has seen a 59.7% increase in violence offences (+1742 crimes) this year. There have been significant changes in recording practices in relation to violence offences which have had an impact on performance during this year. There has been a 50.8% increase (+701 crimes) in domestic crimes and a 49.2% increase (+518) of those classified as domestic violence this year. In comparison, domestic incidents have decreased by -2.9% (-113 incidents).

SAC has reduced by 13.1% (-387 crimes) in 2014/15. There have been good reductions within all four crime types; particularly domestic burglary (-16.9% / -197 crimes). Vehicle crime combined has seen a reduction of -11.0% (-159 crimes) during the year and robbery a decrease of -9.3% (-31 crimes). All sectors within Northampton have seen reductions.

Anti-Social Behaviour has seen a mixed performance this year; 81.5% were satisfied within the housing exit survey and 100% of Anti-Social Behaviour Unit victims/witness who could be contacted were satisfied with the support they had received. In addition, the perception of ASB problems taken from the public attitudes survey has reduced to 5.6% from 9.3% at the end of the last financial year. Recorded ASB incidents have seen an overall reduction of 2.8% (-429 incidents). The proportion of ASBU victims/witnesses that could be contacted (53.3%) has improved from last year (42.0%). The percentage of respondents to the public attitudes survey

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who agree that the Police and Council are dealing with ASB & crime issues has also increased from 53.8% (September 2014) to 55.1%.

Crime Type	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Target Reduction	Year end performance
All crime	16,558 recorded crimes	15%	13.8% increase, 2282 more crimes than previous year
Violent Crime (including domestic abuse)	2,913 recorded crimes	9%	59.7% increase, 1742 more crimes than previous year
Serious Acquisitive Crime	2,946 recorded crimes	16%	13.1% reduction, 387 crimes less than previous year
Criminal Damage	2,562 recorded crimes	5%	2.1% increase, 54 more crimes than previous year
Anti-social behaviour incidents	15,226 recorded crimes	5%	2.8 reduction, 429 less incidents than previous year

Specific pieces of work that took place:

- Priority location work in relation to serious acquisitive crime and target hardening for victims of burglary. Main areas for focus are Blackthorn, The Mounts/Abington Square, Spring Boroughs/Semilong, Spencer/St James. .
- Three Partnership 'Weeks of Action' focusing on crime, anti-social behaviour and environmental issues and 2 focused on drugs & alcohol. These weeks resulted in over 1,870 face to face interactions with local residents, 214 Home Fire Safety Checks and the removal of over 34 tonnes of waste.
- Community Payback undertook 29 specific projects during the year and also supported work during all five 'Weeks of Action'.
- Specific multi-agency focused work on alcohol related violent crime. Closer working between Police, NBC and NGH looking at frequent flyers.
- Development of Alcohol Outreach project for street drinkers and rough sleepers in partnership with the Bridge Project.
- Target Hardening of properties at risk of burglary continues. 139 properties had improved security measures implemented.
- Target hardening for victims of Domestic Abuse being provided. As at 30/09/2014, 92 victims received security improvements to their home.

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- Street Football continued in hot spot locations.
- School Pastors were launched at Northampton Academy, with regular patrols taking place on Thursdays' and pastoral support being provided as and when required. The team have been well received and feedback from pupils and staff has been positive.
- Castle Community Hub was re-opened (formerly known as Community Café), headed up by the local Police Sector, NBC Wardens and Housing. To date over 220 residents have utilised the resource.
- Killing with Kindness campaign continues, raising awareness around street begging issues, and encouraging people to donate to local charities who provide support for this group.
- Specific events held at University of Northampton and Northampton College, providing crime prevention and personal safety advice, support and guidance to students. Security marking of property was also undertaken.
- Implementation of a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) in Kingsthorpe/St David's.
- Work on anti-social behaviour cases continues with 42 referrals being received by ASBU. This resulted in the 27 warning letters being issued and and 7 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders being granted.
- Junior Warden's scheme continues, with a further 4 primary schools taking part.
- Fifth year of Best Bar None - 20 licensed premises achieved accredited status this year.
- Funding has been allocated to domestic abuse support agencies to provide counselling and support for victims, perpetrators and their families.
- Language Café was established in Spring Borough's linking in with individuals who are experiencing difficulty in communicating, as English is not their first language. The first 6 months of the project saw 24 people taking part, with excellent results. 4 people have found employment, and the majority are now able to communicate at a good level and have more confidence in speaking with professionals.

Partnership Weeks of Action

Partnership Weeks of Action have been a key delivery model during 2014/15. These 'Weeks' were held in the five priority areas as identified by the police and NCSP as high in Serious Acquisitive Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. The areas also mirrored the authority's hotspots for fly-tipping and other social disorder.

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During the weeks there were a number of coordinated activities across each of the areas which included:

- Community Engagement
- Awareness raising around drug and alcohol abuse
- Crime prevention and home security advice
- Target Hardening & Home Security Checks
- Rubbish removal and community clean-up activities
- Community Payback carrying out landscaping improvements and other clean-up activities
- Fire Service carrying out Home Fire Safety checks and fitting smoke alarms
- Housing enforcement activity
- Police enforcement activity
- Promotion and education around recycling and the introduction of the Green Bag system and Euro-bins
- Family Fun Days – linking in with the ‘Our Place’ programme
- Youth engagement and sports activities

Conclusion

The Community Safety Partnership has seen mixed results against the targets compared to 2013/14 performance. Good reductions in Serious Acquisitive Crime continued, especially in the area of burglary. There are issues around increases in overall crime and specifically violent crime, but it is felt that the change in national recording has contributed towards this. Nevertheless, the CSP do take this increase seriously, and are looking at all factors to ensure an effective multi-agency approach will be taken in addressing the matter in 2015/16.

Brief Author: Debbie Ferguson, Community Safety Partnership Manager on behalf of Councillor Anna King, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety – July 2015

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29 July 2014

Briefing paper – Street Drinkers & Beggars

Background

As with other major towns and cities, street drinking and begging has long been an issue for Northampton. The partners within Northampton Community Safety Partnership recognise that this is a public concern and the anti-social behaviour that arises from it can contribute to the fear of crime, as well as potentially discouraging people visiting the town centre. NBC, in partnership with the police has taken these concerns very seriously. Over the years a strong partnership has been created, and a range of interventions and enforcement have been undertaken in order to counteract the problem and respond to public concerns.

Those involved in street drinking and begging are generally highly vulnerable individuals with very complex needs. Some street drinkers and beggars do have, or have at some point, also had substance misuse problems, mental health problems, and may have suffered a traumatic childhood. It is also often found that there is a history of homelessness. Therefore, when dealing with this group it is important to recognise that enforcement on its own will not necessarily resolve the issue. Due to this, Northampton has adopted a multi-agency approach in addressing the problem.

Over the years a range of legislation has been introduced to tackle street drinking and begging issues and associated anti-social behaviour, and NBC has historically adopted these powers to enable an effective response

There are a wide range of interventions and enforcement measures at the disposal of the police and local authorities to tackle street drinking and begging in Northampton. It is important to note that with effect from 20/10/2014 the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 was superseded by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. This has resulted in the merging of a number of powers and also the creation of new ones.

Multi-Agency Case Management Meetings

Due to the complex needs, and chaotic lifestyle of most street drinkers, a multi-agency case management approach is adopted in addressing individuals. Cases can be referred by any of the agencies involved. At the meetings cases are discussed with relevant officers, issues identified and a support plan developed which ranges from intervention

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through to enforcement, if required. It is important to note that agencies, in the first instance, will always try to engage and provide support to the individual. However, if it is abundantly clear that they will not engage, the enforcement process will be followed.

Support & Intervention

Substance 2 Solution (S2S) – S2S works with partners and provides advice, information and medical treatment for people worried about alcohol or drugs, and offer support to their families and friends. S2S has been commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council and works in partnership with two voluntary organisations: The Bridge which provides drug & alcohol recovery services, and Aquarius, a specialist recovery agency that engages with individuals on issues with alcohol and drugs.

Oasis House - offers accommodation & support to homeless people in Northampton. There are 48 units at the scheme with 9 direct access beds & 39 move on apartments. Oasis House services are delivered in partnership by Northampton Borough Council who have their Gateway Housing Solutions team on site, Northampton Hope Centre who provide day centre services to the homeless by providing meals, clothing, training & activities. NAASH deliver accommodation related support to the residents of Oasis House.

Gateway Housing Solutions - Gateway is a housing service provided by the council for vulnerable people who have housing needs. It aims to help people with a range of circumstances, including people with people with complex multiple needs and alcohol and or drug addiction.

Gateway officers work with people who approach the council for help (particularly if they are homeless) as well as taking referrals from other agencies such as the County Council, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Job Centre Plus, Probation and Northamptonshire Police. The Gateway officers role is to undertake a detailed needs assessment of people referred to them

Street Drinkers Outreach Project – delivered by the Bridge Project, who provide a dedicated support worker to link in with street drinkers at risk of enforcement proceedings. The support worker looks at a wide range of issues including health & welfare, housing, addiction issues. They also link in with other agencies such as Oasis House, S2S and CAN. This enables a wider range of rehabilitation support options to be utilised. Five referrals are currently the focus for the worker, with varied engagement taking place. In some cases there has been a notable reduction in reports of ASB relating to them.

Killing with Kindness - publicity campaigns to discourage the public from giving directly to those begging, together with the provision of donation boxes at awareness raising events - proceeds are passed to local homelessness charities. Also raises awareness around the complex needs of beggars and street drinkers.

Enforcement

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Designated Public Places Order - In 2001, following issues with street drinkers on the Market Square and problems within the night time economy a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) was established for the town Centre through the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Due to other issues being experienced in other areas across the town the DPPO was extended to cover the whole borough in 2009.

The DPPO is NOT a ban on drinking alcohol outdoors. Drinking alcohol outdoors only becomes an offence if you are behaving in an anti-social manner and are asked by an accredited enforcement officer to stop doing so and you refuse. The DPPO is not applied to people who drink sensibly in a public place.

How is it enforced?

- If you are acting in an anti-social manner whilst consuming alcohol, or look as though you are likely to, you may be asked to stop drinking by a PSCO, police or other accredited officer.
- If you refuse to stop drinking the officer has the right to confiscate and dispose of the alcohol.
- If you surrender the alcohol and behave, no further action will be taken.
- If you refuse to give up the alcohol you may be arrested and have a fine of up to £500 or be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £50.
- If you surrender the alcohol yet continue to behave in an anti-social manner you may be arrested and convicted of a Public Order Offence.

(NB. With effect from 20/10/2014 the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 commenced. From that date the existing DPPO transferred to a Public Spaces Protection Orders, still keeping the same powers as listed above.)

Anti-Social Behaviour Warning letters – written notice issued to individuals advising that their behaviour is unacceptable and should it continue a more stringent enforcement route will be progressed.

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) (and Acceptable Behaviour Agreements [ABAs]) - written agreements between a person involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB) and agencies – such as the police, local authorities or RSLs – defining acceptable standards of behaviour that the person agrees to abide by. These Contracts are not often used for street drinkers due to the level of unacceptable behaviour.

Community Protection Notice -

- To stop a person, business or organisation committing ASB
- Council and police powers, social landlords can request designation from LA Chief Executive
- Behaviour having detrimental effect on the quality of life, is persistent or continuing & unreasonable

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- Breach is an offence - Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100 or prosecution with a fine (£2500)
- Written warning issued first
- If behaviour persists CPN issued
- Remedial works, seizures and forfeitures
- Behaviours include - loud music, untidy sites, disrepair, verbal abuse, unauthorised works, street drinking, begging, busking, nuisance vehicles, neighbour disputes etc.

Criminal Behaviour Order -

- Issued in criminal court upon conviction
- Individuals are persistently anti-social and engaging in criminal activity
- CPS prosecutes upon the request of police or council
- Scope for positive requirements
- Breach is a criminal offence - fine, supervision order, imprisonment

Civil Injunction -

- To stop or prevent individuals engaging in ASB
- Councils, Police, social landlords
- Balance of probabilities
- Two tier test - housing and non-housing
- Can include 'positive requirements'
- The council and social landlord will prosecute

Dispersal Powers -

- Replacing s30 and s27 dispersal powers
- Police powers only
- Requires a person acting, or likely to act anti-socially to leave an area for 48 hours
- A police inspector must have been designated in advance for the powers to be used

Public Spaces Protection Order -

- To stop individuals or groups acting anti-socially
- Council power in consultation with police, PCC and community
- Behaviour having or likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of the community
- Specific area has designated restrictions or requirements eg street drinking, ASB, begging, littering
- Breach is an offence - FPN of £100 or prosecution

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO): introduced by the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, ASBOs are civil orders intended to protect the public from behaviour that causes, or is likely to cause, 'harassment, alarm or distress'. ***Any ASBO's***

granted prior to October 2014 and run past that date still stand despite the change in legislation. They contain specific prohibitions around a street drinker's and beggars behaviour, such as not drinking in a public place, not being drunk in a public place, not being in possession of an open vessel. There are currently 13 live ASBO's on street drinkers, with a further 6 cases pending.

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Street Begging - It is an offence to “place yourself in a public place, street, highway, court or passage to beg or gather alms”. Contrary to section 3 of the Vagrancy Act 1824 and section 70 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982. This offence dates back to 1824 and often results in a very low level fine if pursued through the court system

Injunctions: the 1972 Local Government Act (Section 222) enables local authorities to apply for injunctions against behaviour that is a public nuisance.

Designing out: this is manipulation of the built environment to make ‘hotspots’ of street activity less habitable for street users (by, for example, removing seating regularly occupied by street drinkers).

Specific Police Operations – mainly take place over the warmer summer months when street drinking issues are more prolific. Increased patrols focus on the removal of alcohol, issuing warnings, requiring offenders to leave the area. These operations are also supported by the Neighbourhood Wardens.

Conclusion

Street drinkers are a difficult client group to work with due to their chaotic lifestyles and complex needs. It is therefore important to have good partnership working in place in order to address a wide range of issues. Northampton has established a multi-agency approach, in order to effectively utilise available interventions and enforcement tools. The approaches outlined above demonstrate the wide range of work that is undertaken by agencies. With the introduction of new powers in 20/10/2014, there is now the opportunity to further strengthen this work.

Debbie Ferguson
Community Safety Manager

Brief Author: Debbie Ferguson, Community Safety Partnership Manager on behalf of Councillor Anna King, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety – July 2015



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 JULY 2015

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – HEALTH CHECK OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake a Review regarding the Health Check of the Local Economy, the rationale being “To look at how partners locally, including the private sector, can work together to influence the local economy.”
- 1.2 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillor Rufia Ashraf (Chair); Councillor Samuel Shaw (Deputy Chair); Councillors Janice Duffy, Terrie Eales, Elizabeth Gowen and Cathrine Russell.
- 1.3 At the inaugural meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, Councillors agreed the scope of the Review; a copy is attached at Appendix A, for the Committee’s approval.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 In discussing the rationale for the Review, the Scrutiny Panel felt that the required outcomes should be:
 - To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the most appropriate approaches in influencing the local economy
- 2.4 The schedule of meetings comprises:-
 - July 2015 to March 2016
 - 16 July 2015
 - 17 September
 - 15 October
 - 3 December
 - 21 January 2016
 - 10 March
- 2.5 Various site visits will be programmed in during this period, if required.

- 2.6 Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel will commence at 6.00pm and be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall.
- 2.7 In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol the Chair of this Scrutiny Panel will provide written progress reports to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of the Scrutiny Panel 1, as attached at Appendix A.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Rufia Ashraf, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1
20 July 2015



Appendix A

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - HEALTH CHECK OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To look at how partners locally, including the private sector, can work together to influence the local economy

Key lines of Inquiry:

- How can schemes, such as Apprenticeship Programmes, be developed and expanded so that they deliver for both local employees, employers and local residents?
- What is the vision for skills and learning issues, particularly low skills?
- What support is there for those that are in long term unemployment?
- What are the areas for potential growth in jobs?
- What can other organisations/groups/individuals do to help?
- Whether a mapping skills gap exercise has been undertaken to identify the type of skills that are in short supply; and what the findings of this exercise are
- How specific services can be used to generate business investment
- How can the offer of commercial land in the borough be improved to ensure a steady stream of quality premises that are accessible by new and established organisations?
- What could feasibly be done to improve the physical infrastructure in and around the town?
- How it can be ensured that those who are seldom heard or isolated are engaged with?

2. Outcomes Required

- To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the most appropriate approaches in influencing the local economy

3. Information Required

Background data, including:

- Presentation to set the scene: “To identify the issues locally – The Northampton Picture”
- Relevant national and other background research papers, such as:
 - Mitigation Advisory Committee: [Skilled Shortage Sensible](#) (2013)
 - UK Commission’s Employer Skills Survey 2013: [UK Results](#) (2014)
 - [Future of Apprenticeships in England: Implementation Plan](#) (2013)
 - [Winning the Global Race: Jobs, Skills and the importance of vocational education](#) (2014)
 - Department for Business, [Innovation and Skills – Evaluation of Apprenticeships: Employers](#) (2012)
 - Warwick Institute for Employment Research: [Review of Apprenticeships Research](#) (2013)
 - SEMLEP – Strategic Economic Plan 2014
 - NEP – Northamptonshire Strategic Economic Plan 2014
- Survey data in relation to skills and skill shortages, including equality data within the wards
- Relevant Legislation
- Relevant data, such as ONSA and other statistical data, including Government statistics on apprenticeships
- Best practice and successful initiatives in both Northampton and elsewhere
- Witness evidence:

Internal

- Leader of the Council, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
- Cabinet Member for Finance, NBC
- Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, NBC
- Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, NBC
- Director of Workforce and Development, LGSS

External

- Academic, Enterprise, Industry and Innovation, University of Northampton, Northampton College and Moulton College
- Director, Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership
- Director, Adult Learning, Northamptonshire County Council

- Chair, Northampton Town Centre BID
- Chair, Markets Action Group
- Chair, Brackmills BID
- Director, Northamptonshire Connexions
- Director, Job Centre Plus, Northampton
- Director, Talent Match, Northamptonshire
- Director, Northamptonshire Growth Hub
- Director, Aim Higher Northamptonshire
- Director, SEMLEP
- Director, Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce
- Assistant Director, Transport Highways & Infrastructure, Northamptonshire County Council
- Key employers in the town
- Skills Funding Agency (SFA)
- Apprentice Training Agency
- Local employers
 - ETM Engineering
 - Carlsberg

4. Format of Information

- Background data
- Background reports and presentation
- Best practice data
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Site visits

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports
- Statistical data
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-
 - Key witnesses as detailed in section 3 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Review

None suggested for this Review.

7 Considerations for Community Impact, such as health, equalities and human rights

This Scrutiny Review will look at issues such as employment skills, training and skills shortages. It will seek to address how Northampton Borough Council can influence the local economy.

The Scrutiny Panel, in having regard to the general equality duty, will be mindful of the protected characteristics when undertaking this scrutiny activity; so that any recommendations that it made could identify disproportionate and unintended potential positive and negative impacts on any particular sector of the community, including any potential mitigation required. This will be borne in mind as the Scrutiny Panel progresses with the review and evidence is gathered.

In order that the Scrutiny Panel obtains a wide range of views, a number of key witnesses will provide evidence as detailed in section 3 of this report.

Any recommendations that explore ways of working, training and employment opportunities enabling income inequality to be addressed will consider impact and potential mitigation as appropriate and relevant across all protected characteristics. Impact assessments will be integral to any reports including actions plans.

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

16 July 2015
17 September
15 October
3 December
21 January 2016
10 March

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

9. Responsible Officers

Lead Officer Richard Lawrence, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

10. Resources and Budgets

Richard Lawrence, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, to provide internal advice.

11. Final report presented by:

Completed by March 2016. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

12. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (December 2016)



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 JULY 2015

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 2 to undertake a Review regarding Environmental Crime, the rationale being “To investigate behaviours (environmental crime) on the streets.”
- 1.2 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillor Dennis Meredith (Chair); Councillor Phil Larratt (Deputy Chair); Councillors Rufia Ashraf, Brian Oldham, Zoe Smith and Graham Walker.
- 1.3 At the inaugural meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, Councillors agreed the scope of the Review; a copy is attached at Appendix A, for the Committee’s approval.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Panel agreed that the title of the Review should be amended to read: “*The impact of anti-social behaviour on the town.*”
- 2.2 It was further suggested that the purpose of the Review be updated to read “*To investigate the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town.*”
- 2.3 In discussing the rationale for the Review, the Scrutiny Panel felt that the required outcomes should be:
 - To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on methods to deal with anti-social behaviour on the town
- 2.4 The schedule of meetings comprises:-

July 2015 to March 2016

13 July 2015
10 September
8 October
10 December

28 January 2016
17 March

- 2.5 Various site visits will be programmed in during this period, if required.
- 2.6 Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel will commence at 6.00pm and be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall.
- 2.7 In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol the Chair of this Scrutiny Panel will provide written progress reports to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of the Scrutiny Panel 2, as attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee amends the title of this Scrutiny Review to read "*The impact of anti-social behaviour on the town.*"
- 3.3 That the purpose of the Scrutiny Review is updated to read "*To investigate the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town.*"

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Dennis Meredith, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2

14 July 2015



Appendix A

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 - THE IMPACT OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON THE TOWN

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To investigate the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town

Key lines of Inquiry:

- To investigate the levels of anti-social behaviour in the town, such as tackling psychoactive substances, alcohol, littering (including chewing gum), graffiti, fly-tipping, street urination and dog fouling
- To consider the nature of the psychoactive substances market and any health consequences
- To review the policies and strategies for dealing with the impact of anti-social behaviour in the town
- To consider the paper/Bill that is currently being drafted by the Home Office to address the issue of psychoactive substances
- To identify the prevention strategies that can help to address anti-social behaviour on the town
- To identify 'hotspots' of the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town
- To consider the enforcement powers that the Council and other Agencies has in respect of anti-social behaviour
- To consider how Northampton Borough Council can work in partnership with local groups, Agencies, organisations and residents to reduce and prevent the impact anti-social behaviour has on the town

2. Outcomes Required

- To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on methods to deal with anti-social behaviour on the town

3. Information Required

Background data, including:

- Presentation to set the scene: “The Council’s responsibilities in respect of dealing with anti-social behaviour and how issues outside the Council’s responsibilities are dealt with” and “what psychoactive substances are”
- Relevant national, other background research papers and relevant Legislation, such as:
 - Drug Strategy 2010
 - Environmental Protection Act 1990
 - Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
 - Fouling of Land By Dogs Order 2014
 - Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
 - Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985
 - Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Relevant data:
 - Hotspots and trends
 - Statistical data, such as Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN), Community Protection Notices (CPN)
 - Job descriptions of Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Rangers, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
- Best practice and successful initiatives in both Northampton and elsewhere
- Case studies
- Witness evidence:

Internal

- Cabinet Member for Environment, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
- Cabinet Member for Community Safety, NBC
- Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, NBC
- Neighbourhood Wardens and Manager
- Park Rangers, NBC
- Community Safety Manager, NBC
- Town Centre Manager, NBC

- Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, NBC
- Town Centre Ranger

External

- Parish Councils
- Area Commander, Northants Police
- Town Centre Police Inspector, Northants Police
- Northamptonshire Drug And Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)
- Substance 2 Solutions (S2S), Northamptonshire (services for adults)
- CAN, Northamptonshire (services for young people)
- Director of Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)
- Director, Accident and Emergency, Northampton General Hospital
- Chief Executive, Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH)
- Chair, Market Action Group
- Chair, Town Centre BID
- Director, Trading Standards, NCC
- Conservation Area Committees
- Chair, PubWatch
- Chair, Northampton Retail Crime Initiative
- Director, Network Rail
- Director, London Midland

4. Format of Information

- Background data
- Background reports and presentation
- Best practice data
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Site visits

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports

- Statistical data
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-

➤ Key witnesses as detailed in section 3 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Review

None suggested for this Review

7 Considerations for Community Impact, such as health, equalities and human rights

This Scrutiny Review will investigate the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town. It will seek to put forward informed recommendations to all relevant parties on methods to deal with anti-social behaviour on the town.

The Scrutiny Panel, in having regard to the general equality duty, will be mindful of the protected characteristics when undertaking this scrutiny activity; so that any recommendations that it made could identify disproportionate and unintended potential positive and negative impacts on any particular sector of the community, including any potential mitigation required. This will be borne in mind as the Scrutiny Panel progresses with the review and evidence is gathered.

In order that the Scrutiny Panel obtains a wide range of views, a number of key witnesses will provide evidence as detailed in section 3 of this report.

Any recommendations that explore ways of dealing with the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town will consider impact and potential mitigation as appropriate and relevant across all protected characteristics. Impact assessments will be integral to any reports including actions plans.

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

13 July 2015
 10 September
 8 October
 10 December
 28 January 2016
 17 March

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

9. Responsible Officers

Lead Officer Debbie Ferguson, Community Safety Manager

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

10. Resources and Budgets

Debbie Ferguson, Community Safety Manager, to provide internal advice.

11. Final report presented by:

Completed by March 2016. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

12. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (December 2016)



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 JULY 2015

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – LICENSING POLICY

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 3 to undertake a Review regarding Licensing Policy, the rationale being “To investigate the pattern of provision, including gambling, taxis and private hire.”
- 1.2 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillor Gareth Eales (Chair); Councillor Graham Walker (Deputy Chair); Councillors James Hill, Suresh Patel and Brian Sargeant.
- 1.3 At the inaugural meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, Councillors agreed the scope of the Review; a copy is attached at Appendix A, for the Committee’s approval.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Panel agreed that the title of the Review should be amended to read: “Effectiveness of Enforcement of Licensing Policy in respect of Taxis and Private Hire.”
- 2.2 It was further suggested that the purpose of the Review be updated to read “To investigate the effectiveness of enforcement of licensing, for taxis and private hire vehicles.”
- 2.3 In discussing the rationale for the Review, the Scrutiny Panel felt that the required outcomes should be:
 - To put forward informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the enforcement of Licensing Policy
- 2.4 The schedule of meetings comprises:-

July 2015 to March 2016

23 July 2015

30

24 September
22 October
26 November
7 January 2016
3 March

- 2.5 Various site visits will be programmed in during this period, if required.
- 2.6 Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel will commence at 6.00pm and be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall.
- 2.7 In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol the Chair of this Scrutiny Panel will provide written progress reports to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of the Scrutiny Panel 3, as attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee amends the title of this Scrutiny Review to read “Effectiveness of Enforcement of Licensing Policy in respect of Taxis and Private Hire”.
- 3.3 That the purpose of the Scrutiny Review is updated to read “*To investigate the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town.*”

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Gareth Eales, Chair,
Scrutiny Panel 3

24 July 2015



Appendix A

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – Effectiveness of Enforcement of Licensing Policy in respect of Taxis and Private Hire

1 Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To investigate the effectiveness of enforcement of licensing, for taxis and private hire vehicles

Key lines of Inquiry:

- To review the enforcement of policies and strategies for taxi and private hire vehicle licensing
- To assess the effectiveness of the legislation for taxi and private hire vehicle licensing
- To raise awareness of the licensing framework around the regulation of private hire and taxi licensing, inclusive of examining the root causes of flagging
- To assess what mechanisms are in place for the exchange of information between the Council, the Police and licence holders
- To examine what options are available and any best practice or solutions that other Local Authorities have successfully implemented
- To assess the provision and usage of taxi ranks in the borough

2. Outcomes Required

To put forward informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the enforcement of Licensing Policy.

3. Information Required

Background data, including:

- Presentation to set the scene: “Licensing Policy in the Borough”
- Relevant national and other background research papers, such as:

- [Department for Transport – Taxi statistics \(2013\)](#)
- [House of Commons Library – Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles \(2014\)](#)
- [Department of Transport Best Practice Guidance on Vehicle Licensing](#)
- Relevant Legislation:
 - The role of the Licensing Authority
 - Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
 - Town Police Clauses Act 1847
 - Licensing Policy and Practice
 - Licensing Enforcement practice guidelines
- Relevant data:
 - Statistical data, such as the number of hackney carriage and private hire licences in the borough, number of taxi ranks in the borough and spaces on each rank
 - Best practice and successful initiatives in both Northampton and elsewhere
 - Witness evidence:

Internal

- Cabinet Member for Environment, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
- Cabinet Member for Community Safety, NBC
- Senior Licensing Officer, Northampton Borough Council

External

- Licensing Sergeant, Northants Police
- Chair, Taxi and Private Hire Association
- Chair, Northampton BID
- Private Hire Operators

4. Format of Information

- Background data
- Background reports and presentation
- Best practice data
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses

- Site visits

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports
- Statistical data
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-
 - Key witnesses as detailed in section 3 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Review

None suggested for this Review.

7 Considerations for Community Impact, such as health, equalities and human rights

This Scrutiny Review will investigate the pattern of provision for licensing, including, taxis and private hire with a focus on the effectiveness of the enforcement of policies . It will seek to put forward informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the pattern of provision for licensing.

The Scrutiny Panel, in having regard to the general equality duty, will be mindful of the protected characteristics when undertaking this scrutiny activity; so that any recommendations that it made could identify disproportionate and unintended potential positive and negative impacts on any particular sector of the community, including any potential mitigation required. This will be borne in mind as the Scrutiny Panel progresses with the review and evidence is gathered.

In order that the Scrutiny Panel obtains a wide range of views, a number of key witnesses will provide evidence as detailed in section 3 of this report.

Any recommendations that explore ways of dealing with Licensing Policy will consider impact and potential mitigation as appropriate and relevant across all protected characteristics. Impact assessments will be integral to any reports including actions plans.

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

23 July 2015
24 September
22 October
26 November
7 January 2016
3 March

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

9. Responsible Officers

Lead Officer Ruth Austen, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

10. Resources and Budgets

Ruth Austen, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, to provide internal advice.

11. Final report presented by:

Completed by March 2016. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

12. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (December 2016)