

Adults, Health & Public Protection Policy & Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday 19th April 2016

Briefing of: Cabinet Member for Public Protection

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1 Community Cohesion

- 1.1 A meeting has been set up to fully draft the terms of reference. This will take place on the 27th April. The main output for the Commission will be a Community Cohesion framework implemented by the Council and our local partners. To develop this framework the Commission will take an evidence based approach to understand the barriers to cohesion, engage with stakeholders to inform recommendations and prepare a report for consideration.
- 1.2 This work will position the Council well to respond to the national review currently undertaken by Louise Casey (Director General, Troubled Families) at the Department of Communities and Local Government.

2 Rough Sleeping

- 2.1 The Rough Sleeping team are in the process of reviewing our street outreach models; this entails analysing outcomes, outputs, cost and flexibility. They were commissioned almost three years ago and the model requires some changes due to the changing demographics that teams are seeing on the streets and the fluctuations of nationalities, street based behaviour and partnerships required to address it.
- 2.2 The partnership between Growth, Planning and Housing and City Management and Communities to address rough sleeping and importantly, the street based anti-social behaviour (ASB) that can accompany it has developed a new 'day team' approach. A worker from the Westminster Hot Spot team has been

seconded part time to join City Management to support bringing together of social care response with enforcement from City Inspectors and the Neighbourhood Problem Solving Coordinators against day time street based activity. This work will focus on key areas that have seen sustained increases in day time ASB.

3 Tents on the Public Highway

- 3.1 Regular operations are underway to remove tents on the public highway, in some cases these have been used for various forms of ASB, drug use and as open toilets. City Inspectors, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), Outreach hotspot team from St Mungo's Broadway and Veolia are attending sites and removing tents from locations. The majority of tents are being removed using section 143 of the Highways Act, where a 30 day notice of removal has been previously served. In cases where there is a dangerous obstruction to the highway, tents can be moved without delay; under section 149 of the Highways Act and a number have been removed in this way.

4 Begging

- 4.1 Joined up approaches to addressing issues of begging are now well underway with improved intelligence sharing between MPS, Immigration Services, City Inspectors and Rough Sleeping teams. Over the last four weeks there has been an anti-begging operation within three identified areas of the City using the new ASB tools under the ASB and Policing Act 2014. This has targeted 'career beggars' in hot spot areas. The operation started in the South around Victoria Street and the coach terminus and it then moved to the Edgware Road in the North and Strand/Charing Cross in the Central area.
- 4.2 The initial figures show that 93 ASB interactions were made by City Inspectors from Residential Services and the 24/7 teams. There were 31 interactions in the South; 45 in the North and 17 Central. This has resulted in 64 Warning Notices being issued; 18 Community Protection Notices (CPN) and 11 statements of evidence breached of the CPN. Persistent offenders are being identified for further action through Immigration services, where appropriate, and the Courts. There were a number of nationalities engaged with and the two largest groups were United Kingdom (27) and Romanian (49).
- 4.3 City Inspector teams are also increasingly coming into contact with more vulnerable rough sleepers, some of whom are also begging, and they are signposting to outreach services. An officer from St Mungo's Broadway Hot Spot team will be working alongside City Inspectors over a six month period, from April, to support approaches to dealing with this cohort, during day time hours.

5 Street Performing

- 5.1 Officers have been working closely with the Greater London Authority (GLA) to improve information sharing and reduce the number of blockages. A member from the Busking Liaison Officers and a Council officer have been nominated to work together to develop a process that will see improved information sharing and the use of complaint data as well as more focussed joint activity against the more problematic buskers.
- 5.2 Officers have attended a regular busker meeting and it has been agreed that our attendance will continue. This will help foster relationships between street performers and the Council, dispelling rumours and providing an opportunity to cascade the Council's expectations. Most responded positively to our dialogue and understood our method of enforcement.
- 5.3 Four pitches for statues have been established on the north terrace of Trafalgar Square and this has been running with a permit system since mid-March. The GLA expect a permit system for the remainder of the square will be up and running by the end of May. I have written to Munira Mirza, the Deputy Mayor for Culture and Education, relaying my desire for these pitches to be in place by the end of May.

6 The Evening and Night Time Economy

- 6.1 I am planning on hosting a roundtable with representatives from the Night Time Industry at the end of May to discuss my proposal for a Westminster Licensing Standard. In preparation for this I am meeting with representatives separately in the run up to May to gauge their interest. I have met with representatives from SAB Miller, The British Beer and Pub Association and the Night Time Industries Association. In the next couple of weeks I am meeting with Novus Leisure, the Portland Group, Mitchell & Butler and Heaven night club, so far feedback has been positive.
- 6.2 On 12th April I attended the first meeting on the Night Time Commission. The Commission has been set up to review London's Night Time Economy and bring together a London wide strategy. The Commission will provide recommendations to the Mayor of London in the autumn and have commissioned the music based consultancy, Sound Diplomacy, to reach and develop evidence based policy. I asserted the view that Local Authorities are best placed to regulate the Night Time Economy due to their understanding of the area and local knowledge as well as highlighting that the correct processes are in place to review and scrutinise the Night Time Economy. Although taking a look at the pan London scale will provide some useful insight. I will keep the Committee updated as to the findings and the discussions.

7 Local Area Risk Assessment for Gambling

- 7.1 As of 6th April Local Risk Assessments for gambling premises came into effect. This requires gambling operators to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises and to have policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks.
- 7.2 The Council has now published its guide on local gambling risk assessment. The guidance has been developed to assist gambling operators in undertaking and preparing their local risk assessments.

8 Statement of Licensing Principles for Gambling

- 8.1 Stage Two of the Statement of Licensing Principles for Gambling is underway with the revised Statement being published later this year. It will include Local Area Profiles which will provide information on the Council's concerns associated with localised gambling related risks.