



City of Westminster

Adults, Health & Public Protection Policy & Scrutiny Committee

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Briefing of: Councillor Antonia Cox, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Chairman of Licensing

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1 Evening and Night Time Economy Vision and Plan

- 1.1 Work has commenced on developing the Council's future vision for the Evening and Night Time Economy and we remain engaged with the Mayor of London as he develops his own thinking on the subject.
- 1.2 The Licensing Committee considered this issue at its March meeting and made a number of initial observations. Not only licensing but economic development, culture, planning policy, street cleansing and parking are part of the picture. We have to take all these matters into account.
- 1.3 The views of key external stakeholders will also be sought to inform our vision, and the structure of the Westminster Entertainment Forum is currently being reviewed, with a view to providing a forum for key industry representatives to come together and help contribute to the development of the vision.
- 1.4 The Licensing Charter will also provide a testbed for some of our proposed innovations, which we may include in the Evening and Night Time Economy Plan. This will, of course, be trialed in collaboration with our partners.

2 Licensing Charter

- 2.1 The Licensing Charter and Westminster's Best Bar None scheme are scheduled to be launched in July 2017, subject to availability of our key partners. The pilot area, Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus, will be overseen by a partnership steering group consisting of representatives from the

City Council, the Metropolitan Police Service, the Heart of London Business Alliance, local businesses and Best Bar None.

- 2.2 The Charter will contain a range of measures designed to manage the impact of licensed premises' operations on their surroundings during the evening and night time. Central to this will be the introduction of a Best Bar None scheme in the trial areas, complemented by a shift in how the council and police engage with licensed premises during the evening and night time hours.
- 2.3 The programme will also be part of the Home Office Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) scheme.

3 MOPAC London Crime Prevention Co-Commissioning Fund

- 3.1 Westminster's community safety representatives have been appointed along with those of three other authorities to a working group to develop the funding prospectus for the MOPAC LCPF Co-commissioning Fund.
- 3.2 There have been two preliminary meetings of the working group, with the first being a general discussion on the fund's aims and objectives, initial timescales, and an outline of the process to be followed. The second meeting looked at an early draft of the funding prospectus and the proposed priorities for the first round of funding, which is expected to be announced at the end of 2017 for projects starting in April 2018.
- 3.3 The final prospectus is due to be launched at the end of June and final proposals are being developed for late Summer / early Autumn. All proposals must be agreed by a minimum of three boroughs and three partner agencies, to ensure effective collaboration.

4 Westminster Cathedral Piazza and South Street-Based ASB

- 4.1 We are continuing to see improvements around the Cathedral Piazza area, as daytime ASB continues to fall, particularly when compared to the last 6 months. Any new rough sleepers utilising the site are swiftly engaged by the outreach team and along with social care interventions, they are advised of the Piazza's hotspot status and encouraged to find alternative sites to sleep. Furthermore, proposals for the colonnades next to McDonald's are currently being looked at by the managing agents for the area.
- 4.2 As a result of our operations, there has been some displacement of activity to Vauxhall Bridge Road. To remedy this, officers have worked with local landowners to implement various measures in the area to reduce the likelihood

of anti-social behaviour at popular locations, such as remodelling the frontage of the affected buildings.

5 Soho Drug Related Issues and ASB

- 5.1 The Council and Metropolitan Police Service are aware of the scale of concern over drug dealing and use in Soho. This continues to remain a high priority for the Council's partnership with the police, as we work together in tackling those who are responsible for the sale of drugs. In addition, the Council is also working with landlords to help 'design out' some of the more problematic locations in Soho.
- 5.2 In the last six months, as a partnership we have issued 18 community protection notices and 72 warnings. Furthermore, 4 high profile individuals have been issued with criminal behaviour orders.
- 5.3 In order to support police efforts, a dedicated team of City Inspectors will be focusing on associated environmental issues such as defecation, urination and abandoned tents. We have increased our street flushing schedule to ensure the area remains clean and clear.
- 5.4 The Council is also aware that telephone boxes in the Soho area are being subjected to abuse, including waste dumping, drug taking and drug dealing. As a result, we are working closely with BT to highlight this issue and a number of unused phone boxes have been locked, stopping individuals using these for drug taking and urination in the meantime.
- 5.5 As part of our community reassurance responsibilities, the Council and the Police have conducted regular walkabouts with Soho residents and held monthly Walk-In surgeries for residents. Both Council and Police representatives have been attending Soho Ward Panel meetings and meetings with Camden authorities to ensure cross-border measures are employed. Over the last few weeks, we have received more positive feedback from the community, who are starting to see the impact partnership interventions. There is still much to be done and this area remains a key focus for the Police and Council resources.

6 A focus on the residential Service – work to protect and support the vulnerable in our community

Westminster's Home Improvement Agency (HIA)

- 6.1 The HIA works within the homes of our more vulnerable, older and disabled residents. The Council arranges for funding, via grants, to those on benefits so

they can adapt their homes as they move into older age. The alternative to this is a residential care home or more expensive care packages from Adult Social Care. Residential Services work with Adult Social Care to install level access showers, stair lifts, ramps and any other works identified by the Occupational Therapist that will make their home more accessible, given the residents health challenges.

- 6.2 Residential Services also provide: security measures for residents who have been burgled, emergency heating and support for residents at risk of domestic abuse.
- 6.3 The team has worked within over 300 private sector homes; funding £1.1 million of work this year across the City, ensuring the quality and professionalism of our contractors and works are completed on time and to an excellent standard.
- 6.4 The budget for adaptations remains healthy for residents to stay in their own home and we are continuing the work to extend the engagement with our partners in Adult Social care and Health.

Westminster's Handyperson service

- 6.5 Westminster's Handyperson service provides low-level, low-cost interventions that are considered extremely helpful, if not vital, by our residents. The service is essential to keeping vulnerable people safe and independent in their own home, and can be used to identify other issues in the resident's life, or home environment, which may be having a detrimental impact on their quality of life, safety or health.
- 6.6 Early identification of such issues can significantly impact on the likelihood of such a resident entering a crisis situation at a later date and the consequential costs that can occur in the Health Service and Adult Social Care as a result. The works by our handyperson service therefore also contributes to the wider prevention agenda.
- 6.7 We operate 2 Handypersons providing a free service to all residents over 60 or disabled in the borough. They carry out those small jobs around the home that elderly or disabled people struggle to carry out. We change light bulbs, put up shelves, add grab rails, secure carpets, in fact almost any small improvement or repair around the home.
- 6.8 During the 2016/17 financial year the service achieved 1123 visits, significantly above the 800 target (40% above target). The impact of this service on its clients' well-being is immeasurable to the individual resident.

Warm Homes Healthy People scheme

- 6.9 The Residential Environmental Health team are currently operating the Warm Homes Healthy People scheme, which specifically aims to check the homes of those aged over 65 and those with children under 5. We have now incorporated this work into our regular service, so residents can self-refer for a Healthy Homes Check, or be referred on behalf of someone else, such as healthcare worker or a doctor.
- 6.10 The Healthy Homes Check covers all aspects of hazards in the home environment, with a particular focus on: fuel poverty, energy efficiency, insulation, heating and whether any financial savings can be made. Onward referrals are frequently made for home adaptation needs, the Handyperson Service, the Safe and Secure grant scheme and for further energy or benefits advice. The support on offer varies depending on tenure. Private rented properties can be improved more easily via enforcement action and various grants can be utilised where owner occupiers are on a low income.
- 6.11 186 Healthy Homes Checks have taken place this financial year, which has resulted in 58 significant Category 1 hazards identified and removed.
- 6.12 Supporting cohesion within our communities and taking a lead on preventing extremism.
- 6.13 Prevent is one of the four elements of CONTEST, the government's counter-terrorism strategy which works with the Home Office and community organisations to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Although there have been criticisms of Prevent, the former chief executive of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Nazir Afzal, has endorsed the programme's value in preventing around 150 individuals travelling to Syria, 50 of them children. It continues to be supported here in Westminster.
- 6.14 During 2016/17, the Council's Prevent Team has achieved the following:
- Delivered 45 'Workshop Raising Awareness of Prevent' (WRAP) sessions to over 1300 front line workers across Westminster.
 - Over 100 individuals have attended our Prevent Parenting Programme – a 13 week parenting programme based on the Race Equality Foundation's 'Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities', but adapted in order to address the risks of radicalisation and extremism.
 - Launched a pilot programme to engage with young people about the risks and threats they face from both gangs and radicalisation.

7 External Funding Success (Community Safety)

7.1 Community Safety has successfully leveraged a range of external funding in order to maintain and improve commissioned services across crime reduction and Prevent. Securing this funding has involved developing detailed proposals with multiple partner agencies:

- Over £200k funding for Prevent staff, increasing capacity from 3 to 5 staff
- Over £185k funding secured for Prevent projects, a £40k increase from 2016/17.
- c£500k from the DCLG Domestic Abuse Fund for accommodation based support for victims of violence and abuse, including women's only emergency accommodation to support female rough sleepers
- Continuation of Home Office Sexual Violence support funding, as well as match funding from the CCG for mental health support linked to the IGU.

8 CCTV

8.1 We remain in discussion with the Metropolitan Police Service with regards to the provision of CCTV in Westminster. The Metropolitan Police Service wishes to install a CCTV network in Westminster, which will mainly be used during large scale events in the city. The current proposal is for the Council to grant fund the purchase and installation of the cameras and the police would then monitor and maintain them in the future. The MPS will therefore own the network and will be required to provide necessary revenue expenditure to support the maintenance of the cameras