

Date: Thursday 23 June 2022
Portfolio: Communities and Public Protection

The Report Of: Raj Mistry, Executive Director of Environment and City
Management
Serena Simon, Director of Communities
*On behalf of Councillor Aicha Less, Cabinet Member for
Communities and Public Protection*

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1. Communities

1.1 Priorities for the coming months

Community investment strategy – engagement with the VCS and Council officers have revealed the need for a centralised approach around defining needs, identifying outcomes, streamlining grant processes, and measuring the impact of the grants. This is the first stage in the development of a community investment strategy.

Engagement Deep Dive – we gathered feedback from residents, amenity societies, and community organisations in January and February on their experience of the Council. Sessions were held online and in person, and the feedback was summarised into six categories and will be used to transform how we involve the community in decision making.

Charter of community participation – the Council would like to introduce a Charter of Community Participation, which sets out key performance standards that Westminster residents can expect from the Council when engaging and consulting with our communities.

Approach to equalities – the service will update our Equality Objectives, setting out our measurable priorities. Engagement will be undertaken with teams to develop priorities over the next two months. We will also be reviewing and transforming our approach to equality impact assessments, making them mandatory for all decision making.

#2035 – this programme is in collaboration with partners in Westminster to reduce the life expectancy gap and improve the health, wealth, and well-being of local communities through a cross-sector place-based strategy.

2. Public Protection and Licensing

2.1 Priorities in the coming months

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) – community and officer consultation on the new ASB strategy is concluded and the objectives identified. Work is underway to inform the 5 strategic pillars of the strategy (Prevention, Early Intervention, Supporting Victims, Perpetrators Brought to Justice, Engaging the Community). Cllr Less will also be undertaking monthly walkabouts throughout the borough to examine hotspots.

Licensing – applications are being accepted for street trading at this year's Notting Hill Carnival. In addition to processing the applications, the team are providing training to the operators on what is expected of them.

2.2 Recent and ongoing activity

Environmental health – the service successfully undertook food hygiene and licensing inspections over the Jubilee weekend. At the British Summer Time concerts in Hyde Park, the service will inspect food hygiene, health and safety (H&S) and noise.

Night Stars – the service now operates in four locations on Friday nights. Volunteer numbers are increasing weekly and there are now more than 70 applications being processed.

Oxford Street enforcement – the service has coordinated enforcement activity to disrupt poorly managed premises, remove dangerous and fake goods and address anti-social behaviour reducing the quality of customer experience on the area and visitors, e.g., all candy and souvenir stores have been visited three times a day over the past three months.

H&S – the service recently prosecuted a company for causing the electrocution of an employee.