

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>	
MEETING:	Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2012
TITLE:	Terms of Reference for Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Scrutiny Inquiry Day
WARD:	ALL
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>  Appendix 1: Draft terms of reference	

## **1 THE ISSUE**

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012, the Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel received a report on Bath & North East Somerset Council's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The briefing also outlined powers that are set to be introduced as part of the Government's Alcohol Strategy that was published in March 2012. The briefing recommended that the Panel consider undertaking a Scrutiny Inquiry Day to help refresh the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy in light of these new powers. The draft terms of reference (Appendix 1) sets out the initial scope, objectives and timescales for the Scrutiny Inquiry for the Panel to approve.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

The Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the terms of reference and agreed to undertake a Scrutiny Inquiry Day
- 2.2 Agree to appoint a Steering group (usually 2-3 Members of the Panel) to plan the Scrutiny Inquiry Day
- 2.3 To make any initial suggestions for invitations to the Scrutiny Inquiry Day

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The cost of the Scrutiny Inquiry Day will be met by the budget allocated to the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels
- 3.2 Financial considerations will also be taken into account when forming any recommendations at the Scrutiny Inquiry Day

## **4 THE REPORT**

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012, the Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny received a briefing on Bath & North East Somerset Council's (B&NES) Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and also the Government's Alcohol Strategy that was this year. The briefing outlined that a refreshed version of the B&NES strategy had been adopted and key priorities agreed by the Cabinet in April 2012. The key themes in the strategy are health and treatment, community safety, crime and disorder children and young people and partnership working. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Steering Group, a multi-agency group with Council representation, is responsible for implementing our local strategy.

The briefing also outlined that in March 2012; the Government launched its 'Alcohol Strategy' which introduced a number of new powers to local authorities including: from April 2012, licensing authorities and local health bodies became 'responsible authorities' under the Licensing Act 2003. This means that both will now be automatically notified of an application or review and can instigate a review of a license themselves. From October 2012, local authorities will also have the power to introduce Early Morning Restriction Orders to support local areas to restrict alcohol sales late at night if they are causing problems and a new late night levy for businesses that sell alcohol late into the night, which can be used to cover the cost of policing and wider local authority action. The government also plans to hold national consultation on whether to ban multi-buy drinks promotions and the levels of minimum pricing for alcohol sales.

The B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy will need to be reviewed in light of the national strategy within the next 12 months so the Wellbeing Panel agreed to undertake a scrutiny inquiry day (SID) to assist with this review.

## **5 RISK MANAGEMENT**

A preliminary risk assessment was discussed at a scoping meeting for the Scrutiny Inquiry Day and a further risk assessment related to the Scrutiny Inquiry Day will be undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

## **6 EQUALITIES**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been completed but equalities issues were considered when scoping the terms of reference and will be considered as part of the preparations for the Scrutiny Inquiry Day and the recommendations that come out of the Scrutiny Inquiry Day.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

*7.1 Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Stakeholders/Partners;*

7.2 A scoping meeting was held between the Chair, Vice Chair, the Public Health Development and Commissioning Manager and the Policy Development and Scrutiny team to identify the reasons and benefits for undertaking the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Scrutiny Inquiry Day. This meeting was also used to identify key stakeholders who will be invited to attend and input into the Scrutiny Inquiry Day and a full stakeholder analysis chart is being developed.

7.3 The draft terms of reference has been circulated to the Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair, Alcohol Harm Reduction

Strategy Steering Group and officers in Policy and Partnerships who are working on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment their input prior to publication.

7.4 Further steering group meetings will take place to identify stakeholders and finalise the arrangements for the Scrutiny Inquiry Day

## **8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION**

8.1 *Social Inclusion; Young People; Health & Safety; Other Legal Considerations*

## **9 ADVICE SOUGHT**

The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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<b>Background papers</b>	<i>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy</i>  <i>Department of Health Alcohol Strategy (March 2012)</i>  <i>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	