

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE:	22nd November 2013	
TITLE:	Alcohol Harm Reduction Scrutiny Inquiry Day	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 Report: A review into alcohol harm reduction in B&NES		
Appendix 2 Recommendations Response table		
Appendix 3 Equalities Impact Assessment		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 In March 2012, the Government launched its Alcohol Strategy that included new powers for local authorities from April 2012. Licensing and health bodies became responsible authorities under the Licensing Act 2003. They are now notified of applications or reviews; and can instigate a review of a licence. From Oct 2012, local authorities' also have powers to introduce Early Morning Restriction Orders (to restrict alcohol sales if a problem) and the Late Night Levy (from businesses to cover the cost of policing and local authority action).
- 1.2 In April 2012, the cabinet adopted the refreshed B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The key themes were: health & treatment, community safety, crime and disorder, children and young people as well as partnership working. A steering group was tasked with responsibility for implementation.
- 1.3 The purpose of the scrutiny inquiry day was to provide the opportunity to formulate policy approaches with relevant experts and stakeholders on the B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, with a view to refreshing its desired outcomes; and the new powers being introduced through the Government's Alcohol Strategy.
- 1.4 Cllr Brett, Vice Chair of the Planning, Transport & Environment (PTE) Panel led a steering group with councillors representing four PDS panels: Early Years, children & Youth (EYCY), Planning, Transport & Environment (PTE), Economic & Community Development (ECD) and Wellbeing.

- 1.5 The Wellbeing PDS Panel may be aware that the Health and Wellbeing Board have identified alcohol as a key priority within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (full sign off expected in November 2013).

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

At the Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013, the Panel are asked to:-

- 2.1 Consider and make any further comments on the findings of the final Alcohol Harm Reduction Scrutiny Inquiry Day report; and to
- 2.2 Consider the recommendations response table which will be received by the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, Simon Allen; Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, Ben Stevens; Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, David Dixon and the Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Youth, Dine Romero as detailed in Appendix 2 to this report.

## **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 3.1 The review was completed within the resources available to the four Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels involved in this joint scrutiny work; namely Early Years, children & Youth (EYCY), Planning, Transport & Environment (PTE), Economic & Community Development (ECD) and Wellbeing.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 Equalities issues were considered by the Panel as part of their work in formulating the scope of this proposed investigation and further equalities work was undertaken during the course of consultation. Appendix 3 provides the full Equalities Impact Assessment for this work
- 4.2 The Council has a statutory duty to promote the health & wellbeing of the inhabitants of its area and reduce inequalities amongst its population. This PDS scrutiny work seeks to present evidence of how alcohol harm impacts local communities. The work also seeks to identify those initiatives that would help reduce alcohol harm.
- 4.3 Under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, the Council has to have regard to the need to reduce crime and disorder in exercising any of its functions. In seeking to reduce the impact of alcohol harm, the Council will be meeting this obligation.

## **5 THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The full report for this review is attached at Appendix 1.

## **6 RATIONALE**

- 6.1 Appendix 2 provides the Recommendations Response Table for this work

## **7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

7.1 None

## **8 CONSULTATION**

8.1 Ward Councillors; Cabinet Member; Parish Councils; Town Councils; Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer

8.2 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.

## **9 RISK MANAGEMENT**

A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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<b>Background papers</b>	None
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