

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Economic and Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE:	13th March 2014	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2566
TITLE:	Alcohol Harm Reduction Scrutiny Inquiry Day	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 Recommendations Response table		

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' were given 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 ('SID') was to provide the opportunity to formulate policy approaches with relevant experts and stakeholders on:
- (1) The B&NES Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy (with a view to refreshing its desired outcomes); and
 - (2) To consider the new powers being introduced through the Government's Alcohol Strategy.

The SID was held on the 10th October 2013.

- 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 Economic & Community Development PDS Panel may be aware that the Health and Wellbeing Board previously identified alcohol as a key priority within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (that was agreed by Council on 14th November 2013).
- 1.6 Members of all four relevant PDS Panels were invited to attend the Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel on the 22nd December 2013 to comment on the draft report, recommendations and equalities impact assessment. Minor amendments were made to refresh the report and recommendations table.
- 1.7 Cabinet members have been asked to consider the recommendations of the scrutiny inquiry day. Their response now returns to each of the respective PDS Panels for the consideration of members.

2 RECOMMENDATION

At the Economic & Community Development Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on the 13th March 2014, the Panel are asked to:-

- 2.1 Consider the recommendations response table completed by the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, Simon Allen; Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, Ben Stevens; Cabinet Member for Community Resources, David Bellotti; Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, David Dixon and the Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Youth, Dine Romero as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report. To discuss in particular the recommendations flagged as falling within the Economic & Community Development PDS Panel's remit.

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.
- 3.2 A key consideration for the Cabinet members in determining their response to the recommendations has been resource requirements, in particular financial implications.

Where relevant, resource implications are acknowledged in the responses in two main ways:

- (1) where a recommendation is accepted and there is a recognised resource requirement, the potential impact of this requirement and/or the potential solution has been included in the response
- (2) where a recommendation is deferred or rejected due to (at least in part) resource issues, the barrier to delivery is explained.

The work to be carried out as a result of accepted recommendations will be undertaken within existing resources and there will be no financial impact.

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. For the full Equalities Impact Assessment for this work see the link in Background papers below.

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 can be found through the link in the background papers below.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 Appendix 1 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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Background papers	<p>Scrutiny Inquiry Day Report: http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s28027/App%201%20Alcohol%20SID%20Report%20041113.pdf</p> <p>Equalities Impact Assessment http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s28029/App%203%20EIA%20Alcohol%20SID%20041113.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of Wellbeing PDS Panel meeting 22nd November 2014: http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=460&MId=3329&Ver=4</p>
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