

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

MINUTES OF COMMUNITIES, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Monday, 16th July, 2018

Present:- **Councillors** John Bull, Brian Simmons, Neil Butters, Liz Richardson (in place of Alan Hale), Richard Samuel, Peter Turner, Patrick Anketell-Jones, Dine Romero (in place of Ian Gilchrist) and Michael Evans

13 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

14 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillors Hale and Gilchrist had sent their apologies to the Panel. Councillors Richardson and Romero were their respective substitutes.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

17 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

18 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

There were none.

19 MINUTES - 21ST MAY 2018

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

20 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

Councillor Karen Warrington, Cabinet Member for Transformation and Customer Services addressed the Panel, a summary of her update is set out below.

Libraries

She said that she had received positive feedback on the proposals for Midsomer Norton Library.

She explained that an Engagement Panel had been established to look at the plans associated with the future of Bath Library. She said that she would look to share them with the Panel as soon as it was possible.

She stated that with regard to Community Libraries 11 initial contacts were made in respect of running them, this was followed by 7 expressions of interest and has resulted in 3 full applications.

She said that she was pleased to announce that Salford Community Library Hub transferred to community ownership today (Monday 16th July) and will open to the public on Tuesday 17th July.

She informed the Panel that Stowey Sutton Community Library was planned to commence in September 2018 and Weston Community Library was planned to commence in October 2018.

She explained that discussions were still ongoing regarding the Mobile Library vehicle and availability of drivers for the service.

Councillor Richard Samuel asked for timescales concerning the Bath Library and whether the proposals would be subject to the Planning Application process and subsequent debate at a meeting of the Development Management Committee.

Councillor Warrington replied that the Engagement Panel had concluded its work in July and that she intended to bring the plans to the September meeting of the Panel. She added that Planning officers have been involved throughout the process and would await their decision on what process was required next.

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones asked if the consultation showed clearly the library offer that was wanted by the public.

Councillor Warrington replied that it had and the intention is for the site to be a Library and Information Service that will include study space with a range of technology available and space for 1-2-1 interviews to be carried out.

Councillor Bob Goodman, Cabinet Member for Development and Neighbourhoods addressed the Panel, a summary of his update is set out below.

Joint Community Safety Plan

He wished to commend the Plan and the remarkable work carried out by Samantha Jones, Inclusive Communities Manager in producing it.

Waste

He informed the Panel that he was working on vision for Waste and would look to bring that to them when it was ready.

Littering

He stated that he had made a decision to increase the maximum fine for littering to £150 and that this would come into effect from 17th July 2018.

Air Quality

He said that modelling was taking place almost constantly and that a Business Plan was due by the end of the year. He said that this would be presented to the Panel prior to a decision being made, possibly their September meeting.

Leisure Centres

The refurbishment of Keynsham Leisure Centre has begun.

The new swimming pool at Bath Leisure Centre looks great and will reopen on July 23rd 2018.

Grass Cutting

He said that issues around ownership and frequency of cutting were being resolved.

Parks & Gardens

He said that a funding application had been made to the Rethinking Parks 2018.

He informed the Panel that various categories in Bath in Bloom had been judged between Saturday, 7th July and Sunday, 15th July 2018 and award winners and their friends will be invited to attend the Gala Presentation of awards and prizes in autumn 2018.

Councillor Richard Samuel asked if following a recent statement from a member of the public to Council on the issue of waste collection from flats if the Panel could be involved in this work.

Councillor Goodman replied that he would be happy for the Panel to be involved.

Councillor Peter Turner asked if the increased littering fines would be advertised.

Councillor Goodman replied that they would and that he would look to spread the message as much as possible.

Councillor Turner commented that he was aware that not all establishments within the city were using gull proof bags.

Councillor Goodman replied that the BID has helped in financing the bags for some premises. He added that some businesses must be addressed regarding their food waste.

Councillor Mark Shelford, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment addressed the Panel, a summary of his update is set out below.

Transport

He informed the Panel that works on Marlborough Buildings and London Road were nearly complete and that the planters on London Road were due to transfer to the community for their upkeep.

He explained that there is a delay in works at Odd Down Coach Park as a species of butterfly had been identified that required protection.

He said that the parking price increase had been well received, along with the 10% discount for residents. He added that work continues in assessing an emissions based car parking charge.

He stated that a refurbishment of the underpass at Rossiter Road was about to take place.

Councillor Neil Butter asked if he could enquire as to the process of painted pavements as there was an issue within his ward (Bathavon South) where a section of pavement was requiring further attention.

Councillor Shelford replied that if Councillor Butters supplied him with more details he would follow up on his behalf.

Councillor Richard Samuel commented that he had witnessed as many as 10 coaches 'idling' in the Avon Street Coach Park and asked what could be done to prevent this.

Councillor Shelford replied that he would ask for signage to be put in place and enquire with officers if there was a need to visit the site.

The Chairman asked who would be paying for the planned highway drainage system on Freezing Hill Lane.

Councillor Shelford replied that the land was within South Gloucestershire and that funding had been sourced through WECA.

The Chairman asked if the 10% parking discount for residents only applied for the first hour.

Councillor Shelford replied that he would have to check and reply in due course.

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones asked if preparations were being made to exclude traffic from Kingsmead Square.

Councillor Shelford replied that this was being considered.

The Chairman thanked all of the Cabinet Members for their updates on behalf of the Panel.

21 JOINT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

Sgt Jon Bagnowiec and Victoria Jeffries (ASB Co-ordinator) briefed the Panel on recent Antisocial Behaviour in Keynsham.

Victoria Jeffries explained that there are three main categories for antisocial behaviour, depending on how many people are affected:

- **Personal antisocial behaviour** is when a person targets a specific individual or group.
- **Nuisance antisocial behaviour** is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.
- **Environmental antisocial behaviour** is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

She said that the Police fully understand the impact that Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) can have on communities and individuals. She added that services such as Lighthouse were available for victim support.

She informed the Panel of the new powers following the implementation of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

- **Criminal Behaviour Order** – Issued by the courts after a person has been convicted for a criminal offence. Under the order, a person who has been convicted would be banned from certain activities or places, and would also be required to address their behaviour, for example by attending a drug treatment programme. A breach could see an adult face up to five years in prison.
- **Police Dispersal Power** – Allows the police to disperse anti-social individuals and provide short-term respite to a local community. The power is preventative and allows an officer to deal instantly with someone's behaviour in a particular place and to confiscate related items.
- **Community Protection Notice** - Enables local authorities and police to stop persistent environmental anti-social behaviour, like graffiti, neighbour noise or rubbish on private land.
- **Public Spaces Protection Order** – A power which allows a local council to deal with a particular nuisance or problem that is detrimental to the local

community's quality of life by imposing universal conditions on the use of that area. This can be used to tackle issues like dog fouling and restricting the consumption of alcohol.

- **Closure Power** – Allows the police or local council to close premises where anti-social behaviour has been committed, or was likely to be committed.
- **Absolute Ground for Possession** – Will speed up the possession process in cases where anti-social behaviour or criminality has already been proven by another court.

Giving victims a say

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 also includes two new measures which are designed to give victims and communities a say in the way anti-social behaviour is dealt with:

- **Community Trigger** – Gives victims the ability to demand action, starting with a review of their case, where the locally defined threshold is met.
- **Community Remedy** – Gives victims a say in the out-of-court punishment of perpetrators for low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.

She stated that warning letters can also be sent to perpetrators of antisocial behaviour prior to them agreeing to sign an Acceptable Behaviour Contract which can be in place for six months. She said that in some cases parents may also be asked to agree to certain contract conditions.

Councillor Dine Romero asked if speeding vehicles or vehicles parking in an obstructive manner could be considered as nuisance antisocial behaviour.

Victoria Jeffries replied that this could possibly be seen as antisocial behaviour, but may involve some crossover work and discussion with a local beat team.

Sgt Jon Bagnowiec added that depending on the offence Road Traffic Act powers can be used, including the seizure of vehicles.

Councillor Peter Turner asked how the effectiveness of these powers is measured.

Victoria Jeffries replied that interventions are monitored on a regular basis. She added that unfortunately some individuals continue to breach their conditions and this leads to court proceedings.

Councillor Turner asked if enough resources were in place.

Victoria Jeffries replied that resources are limited, but this has meant that staff are working smarter and together with colleagues in areas such as Youth Services. She added that the Police welcome interaction with the public and highlighted the work of local group Keynsham Community Spirit.

Sgt Jon Bagnowiec said that there has been a reduction in antisocial behaviour in Keynsham due to public interaction by identifying individuals and setting boundaries for them to act within.

Councillor Neil Butters what the gender split was for people carrying out antisocial behaviour.

Sgt Jon Bagnowiec replied that in terms of formal interventions there are 3 females and 18 males involved in antisocial behaviour in Keynsham. He added that demand on the team was high last year due to specific people.

He gave the Panel the following figures for average of incidents per day.

July 2016: 1.7 – 2.7 incidents a day (max 6, min 1)

Aug 2016: 3.7 incidents a day (max 6, min 1)

Sept 2016: Figures reduced

Oct 2016: Small spike

July 2017: 2 – 5.3 incidents a day (max 8, min 1)

Aug 2017: 4.9 incidents a day (max 7, min 1)

The figures continued in this vein into October & November and he stated that they are continued to be monitored on a daily basis.

He informed the Panel that the figures were comparable with Frome which sees average daily incidents of 3.1.

He stated that the main contributors to the figures in Keynsham were aged 11-15 years old and took place in a number of hot spots that included the Memorial Park, Library, Carpenters Lane, Hawthorns Lane, Tintagel Close and the Leisure Centre.

He explained that as a result of this increased activity 4 beat surgeries were introduced, but that these were soon to reduce to two, based at the Library and Queens Road.

He said that the Police provide reports to both the Keynsham Town Council and B&NES and that their website is updated regarding incidents on a weekly basis. He added that there are fixed patrol strategies in place locally and that officers will if necessary return young people to their homes and talk to parents directly.

He added that bids for further officer resources have been made on numerous occasions, but not had yet been successful due to the needs of other work streams.

He stated that officers have attended local Primary Schools to speak about antisocial behaviour and plan to visit Secondary Schools in the near future. He added that in some instances the Acceptable Behaviour Contracts mentioned earlier can be tied to tenancies within Curo and therefore directly affect the family if young people within the premises are behaving inappropriately.

He said that as well as the Police website being updated weekly, articles are published in Keynsham Voice to keep the public informed. He added that he had also introduced a call back service for members of the public reporting incidents. He said that local CCTV was not online yet and would help officers when in place.

To summarise he said that it was clear to him the effect the incidents that took place had on the local area and that the actions taken by the Police were appropriate.

The Chairman asked what effect cuts to the local Youth Services have had on antisocial behaviour.

Victoria Jeffries replied that the reduction in available services is a concern.

The Inclusive Communities Manager introduced the Joint Community Safety Plan to the Panel. She explained that the Plan sets out the Partnership's Community Safety work for the next three years with emphasis on the recent Bath & North East Somerset Council Scrutiny Inquiry Day on Community Safety, which identified the benefits of partnership working. It identifies issues including crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Bath and North East Somerset.

She said that the Bath and North East Somerset Responsible Authorities Group (RAG), which is our Community Safety Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), have worked closely together to prepare this document, alongside the other key partners involved in keeping us safe.

She stated that the Police provide regular policing updates to the Connecting Communities Area Forums and this allows for local concerns to be raised and projects identified. She added that she would be visiting all Forums within the next week to clarify the Plan.

She identified the following strategic and emerging issues across the area from within the Plan.

- “Street” based issues – Including supporting the Task and Targeting Group to address rough sleeping and aggressive begging. Our partnership with the Business Improvement District has extended city centre marshalling, and our Bath and District Crime Reduction Partnership reduces the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour on businesses particularly regarding anti-social behaviour including rough sleeping in doorways.
- Domestic Abuse – Particularly supporting the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) service and conducting Domestic Homicide Reviews. The Partnership has secured long-term funding for the RUH IDVA through contributions from Public Health, CCG and Wiltshire Council. The Partnership has also secured funding to provide 10 new beds of refuge provision.
- Serious and Organised Crime – Establishing cross-agency links to disrupt organised crime gangs operating in our area, including Disrupt and modern slavery and people trafficking. Our multi-agency Disrupt Panel brings together Council, Police, and others to tackle serious and organised crime in our area.

She informed the Panel of the three priorities within the Plan.

Priority 1: Protect the most vulnerable from harm

Priority 2: Strengthen and improve local communities to improve outcomes for local people

Priority 3: Work together effectively to respond to community safety challenges

She stated that indicators will be regularly reviewed in order to understand the impact of the Plan's activities, noting the challenges that present in interpreting these as measures of performance.

Councillor Neil Butters said that he represented the Council on the Avon Fire Authority and that he was aware that members of the public were more likely to pass information to Fire Officers than the Police when they attend incidents.

The Inclusive Communities Manager replied that they are key players within the RAG and have commented on the Plan.

Councillor Richard Samuel commented that he acknowledged the data relating to headline figures and emerging issues, but did not see the thread between the proposed measures and their outcomes.

The Inclusive Communities Manager replied that she would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter further with Councillor Samuel outside of this meeting.

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones asked what work was planned to address homelessness in the area.

The Inclusive Communities Manager replied that the local voluntary sector has been granted £310,000 which will enable additional work to be carried out with Julian House. She added that it will enable someone to be employed at the RUH to work with those that are homeless when they are discharged.

Councillor Anketell-Jones commented that he felt that an increased Police presence in the city centre would make a difference.

The Inclusive Communities Manager replied that resource challenges are in place that currently prevents this.

Councillor Dine Romero suggested liaising with the Student Community Partnership on future versions of the Plan.

The Inclusive Communities Manager replied that she would discuss the proposal with the RAG.

Councillor Michael Evans commented that some of the terms used within the Plan, such as Lighthouse, Complex / Toxic Trio should be explained further.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the content of the Joint Community Safety Plan.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel thanked Sgt Jon Bagnowiec, Victoria Jeffries and the Inclusive Communities Manager for their contributions to the meeting.

22 REVIEW OF TAXI POLICY AND CONDITIONS

The Team Manager for Licensing and Environmental Protection gave a presentation to the Panel, a copy of which can be found online as an appendix to these minutes or on the Panel's Minute Book. A summary is set out below.

Why are we reviewing the policy and conditions?

- Need to align with the proposals for Bath's Clean Air Plan
- Need to fulfil recommendation of Ofsted Report of Children's Services in 2017
- The last review was in 2014 and there is a need for an update to ensure our policy and conditions remain fit for purpose

Proposal: Vehicle Specification

- Taxis will be included in all options of the Clean Air Zone.
- Technical modelling is currently underway which will give us a clearer picture of the types of taxi vehicles which could or could not be charged.
- Current assessment is recommending that Euro 6 Diesel / Euro 4 Petrol vehicles, electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles would be considered as compliant.

Proposal: Mandatory Child Sexual Exploitation awareness training

- Ofsted report recommended that all drivers undergo some form of CSE awareness training
- Drivers will need to prove that they have received training for their licence to be renewed
- Proposal is for 1 hour training session to be delivered in-house at minimum cost to drivers
- This is about drivers being supported to take action if they identify a problem

Proposal: English speaking test for new applicants

- It is essential for public safety that a driver can communicate clearly with passengers and the Emergency Services in the event of an emergency situation.
- Other LA's have introduced similar tests
- Assessment will be conducted at the taxi licensing office as part of the application process

Proposal: Adoption of s165-167 the Equalities Act 2010

- In future the Council will maintain a list of 'designated' vehicles suitable for use by customers using wheelchairs
- Duties are imposed for drivers to provide assistance to such customers e.g. handling luggage into and out of the vehicle

- Provides greater transparency around our commitment to disabled customers
- Requires adoption by the Licensing Committee

Public consultation

- Launched today (16th July 2018) and running until 14th September 2018 (23.59hrs) – 8 weeks
- Launch event held at Odd Down Sports Ground on 16th July 2018 between 10am-3pm to which all drivers had been invited
- Policy consultation discussed at CTE Scrutiny Panel on 16 July 2018
- Bring report to Licensing Committee in October 2018 for ratification, before referring to Cabinet for decision

Communications

- Dedicated webpage from 16 July 2018 at <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/breathetaxis>
- Online questionnaire for consultation responses
- All drivers and operators will be sent copies of proposed documents for their information, together with a summary document of changes

Councillor Richard Samuel commented that current fleet data must exist, so the new conditions when set should be stated to the operators and they must be informed that they must comply, otherwise they are not given a licence.

The Team Manager for Licensing and Environmental Protection replied that modelling work continues and that electric and hybrid vehicles are being promoted where possible.

Councillor Samuel said that charges through the clean air zone would be unavoidable for taxi drivers if they did not comply.

The Team Manager for Licensing and Environmental Protection acknowledged that and said that Government funding was being pursued that may aid drivers / operators.

Councillor Samuel questioned the equity in asking drivers to take part in an English speaking test and asked if they could appeal if they failed.

The Team Manager for Licensing and Environmental Protection replied that the test is to assess the driver's ability to communicate and that concerns had been raised through the current application process. She added that the Council needs to satisfy itself that drivers will be able to handle emergency situations appropriately.

She said the test would take around 20 minutes and that a pass rate of at least 56/80 was required. She added that if applicants were unsuccessful in the test they would be shown how to access resources to improve their results. She said that she was unsure of the process regarding any appeal and reminded the Panel that the test was only applicable to new drivers.

Councillor Brian Simmons asked if this would apply to Uber drivers.

The Team Manager for Licensing and Environmental Protection replied that the test would be required to be undertaken by any new taxi driver that would be licensed by B&NES.

Councillor Peter Turner commented that he had been made aware that all taxis in Halifax were now either electric or hybrid vehicles.

The Team Manager for Licensing and Environmental Protection replied that the benefits of such an initiative are obvious but noted the need for the correct and accessible charging infrastructure to be in place.

The Chairman thanked her for her presentation on behalf of the Panel.

23 WASTE COLLECTION REVIEW

The Team Manager, Strategy & Contracts gave a presentation to the Panel, a copy of which can be found online as an appendix to these minutes or on the Panel's Minute Book. A summary is set out below.

What Changed?

- 57,600 households received 140 litre bins / 3,200 households issued larger 240 litre bins
- 10,500 received 140 litre reusable rubbish bags (fortnightly) / 6,360 received 70 litre reusable rubbish bag (weekly)
- 1,350 properties on weekly black sack collection (city centre and small proportion bin rooms) / 5,000 households serviced by bulk communal bins
- Recycling Service in-house

Why did we make these changes?

- To keep our streets cleaner
- To recycle more
- To save money

Background – Service model

- Extensive benchmarking & research into recycling performance and waste collection services offered by other local authorities
- Financial assessments into 5 alternative collection models, narrowed down to 2 that met 3 key objectives.

Changes requested during planning

- Increase in the number of properties eligible for a weekly collection service from the original modelling
- Increase in the amnesty period for the collection of side waste extended from 4 weeks to 12 weeks / Increased education during extended amnesty period.

Implementation

- Letters sent with Council Tax bills in March 2017 to advise of bin/bag allocation and asking residents to get in touch if they had concerns.
- From May – October 2017 Waste Doctor visits to residents who felt their property was unsuitable for wheeled bins or those requesting bigger bins. Hundreds of visits and telephone consultations undertaken.
- The Council's recycling service brought in-house on 9th September 2017. 85 staff were TUPE'd across from Kier to B&NES council, along with plant, equipment and offices
- The new service began on 6th November 2017

Publicity

- An extensive communications plan "Together we can all make a difference" was implemented including a proactive campaign to encourage people to recycle more
- 106 Roadshow events & community group talks / Over 5000 people reached though face to face contact / 42,000 new recycling containers ordered
- Waste doctors visited 491 properties to discuss personal arrangements

Education & Enforcement

- Two temporary waste awareness officers employed
- Since stopping side waste: 539 properties visited / 181 education letters issued / 665 Breach Notices issued / 8 intent to serves issued
- Many of the bags being dumped were found to be commercial waste being passed off as domestic
- 9 Business issued with warning notice / 2 FPN's issues for business leaving black sacks by litter bins / 80 new business waste customers

Key Objective – Achieve Financial Savings

- End of the DCLG grant of £450K per annum to retain weekly black sack collections

- 18/19 Budget has been reduced by £450K to reflect this

Key Objective – Increase Recycling

	2016/17 tonnes	2017/18 tonnes	Difference
Kerbside Recycling	17,975	20,099	+2,124
Food (included above)	4,153	5,323	+1,170
Domestic waste collected	27,815	23,311	-4,504

	April/May 2017	April/May 2018	Difference
Kerbside Recycling	2,832	3,676	+29.8%
Food (included above)	708	1,154	+62.9%
Domestic waste collected	4,426	3,250	-36%

Next Steps

- Work with Curo to resolve issues with bin stores and increase recycling provision
- Review of rounds to rebalance routes – day changes communicated with residents effected
- Continued review of streets where collection crews and residents are requesting change to wheeled bins
- Continue to review service operating models and the impact in any changes in legislation
- Update the Councils waste strategy

Councillor Brian Simmons asked if she had noticed that some street litter bins were being filled quicker than normal by people using them to deposit their household waste.

The Team Manager, Strategy & Contracts replied that this was already an issue in some areas prior to the changes and remains an ongoing issue.

Councillor Simmons commented that he believed that the Curo property St. John's Court was not using the gull proof bags it had been supplied with.

The Team Manager, Strategy & Contracts replied that she would look into it and contact Curo.

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones asked who was responsible if fly tipping occurred on Curo land.

The Team Manager, Strategy & Contracts replied that it was Curo's responsibility, but the Council is working with them to provide support.

The Chairman thanked her for her presentation on behalf of the Panel.

24 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Chairman introduced this item to the Panel. He stated that the following items were scheduled for their September meeting.

Bathscape Project - Update on Progress
Transport Strategy - Getting from A to B
Review of Statement of Principles for the Gambling Act 2005

He reminded Panel members that through the course of the meeting they had agreed to add the Bath Library Integration Plan and the Air Quality Business Plan also for September. He said discussions would need to take place with officers therefore to streamline the agenda.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services