

Cheltenham Borough Council**Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 3rd
April 2003****Night Time Economy Community Group Update Report****Report of the Assistant Director Public Protection****1. Summary and recommendation**

- 1.1 As its meeting on 3rd October 2002 the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report from the Assistant Director Built Environment entitled "Dealing with the effects of the Night Time Economy".
- 1.2 This report updates Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress stemming from the report of 3rd October.
- 1.3 **I therefore recommend that the committee notes progress to date.**

2. Introduction

- 2.1 On 24th July 2002 cabinet considered a report entitled "Crime and Disorder - alcohol related activities". The report identified a range of solutions contained in a matrix.
- 2.2 Cabinet adopted many of the proposals contained within the report requesting this Overview and Scrutiny Committee to formulate a strategy which considers and addresses the broad effects of the night time economy.
- 2.3 Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 3rd October considered a report, based on the original cabinet report, and adopted a set of proposals viz:
- a range of options which it is was felt officers could implement without additional resourcing;
 - a range of options which required additional financial, or other resource and/or third party support;
 - to establish a community based group to consider and address the broad effects of the night time economy;
 - to give the police every assistance to ease late night anti-social behavioural problems;
 - to report to cabinet in April 2003 with a draft strategy to tackle a range of existing and new issues as a result of the community based group.
- 2.4 As part of the Council's re-structuring process I have since taken on responsibility for the night time economy issues.

3. The Community Group

- 3.1 In accordance with committee's instructions a community based group has been established. Membership of the group comprises:

Councillor Duncan Smith, Chairman
Councillor John Morris, Vice Chairman
Chief Inspector Mike Barton, Gloucestershire Police
Inspector Rachael Jones, Gloucestershire Police
Martin Quantock, Cheltenham Business Partnership Manager
Stewart Dove, General Manager, Students Union, University of Gloucestershire
Justine Spenser, Area Committee Central Representative
David Savage, Chairman, Nightsafe
Stephanie Skinner and Frances Robertson, St. Margaret's People Interested in the local environment (temporary arrangement until a permanent representative from the various residents groups is nominated).
Cheryl Benbow, Cheltenham Magistrates Courts
George Rowlinson, Assistant Director - Public Protection
Graham Lewis, Assistant Director - Built Environment
Rob Bell, Assistant Director - Environmental Maintenance
Trevor Gladding, Community Safety Manager
Richard Gibson, Corporate Policy Manager
Philip Williams, Assistant Director Integrated Transport

- 3.2 In formulating the group the chairman has made it very clear that it is an action group of interested parties working together to address issues surrounding the night time economy, rather than a discussion group.
- 3.3 The inaugural meeting of the group was on the 4th December 2002 when everybody was tasked with various actions resulting from the previous reports to cabinet and overview and scrutiny committee.
- 3.4 The Group last met on 25th February when members reported back on actions to date.

4. The solutions

- 4.1 For purposes of simplicity I have appended a status report based on the original solutions matrix considered by cabinet in July together with other matters identified by the community group since.
- 4.2 Members will see that while a significant amount of work has already been carried out there are areas where further research has yet to be undertaken before detailed proposals together with costings can be formulated. As a consequence it is the view of the chairman and myself that the time frame originally set by cabinet may have been rather ambitious. In the circumstances it has been agreed to update cabinet at its meeting on 3rd June 2003, with a more detailed report scheduled for September 2003. This will also enable any solutions with budgetary implications to be fed into the 2004/05 budget setting round.

5. Implications

- 5.1 **Financial** None as a direct consequence of this report. Longer term proposals to be fed into the next budget round.

- 5.2 **Legal** None as a direct consequence of this report.
- 5.3 **Personnel** None as a direct consequence of this report.
- 5.4 **Equal opportunities, social justice and anti-poverty** The work of the night-time economy community group contributes to the council's equal opportunities and social justice strategies by working towards improving the access and safety of town centre facilities for all sections of the community.
- 5.5 **Environmental** The work of the night-time economy working group contributes to improving the environmental quality of the town centre.

Background Papers

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