

**Deprivation STG update on recommendations  
O&S - 27 April 2015**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Question for the Town Centre NCG Coordinator, Bernice Thomson</b>
	<p>When and how were the recommendations agreed at Cabinet communicated to the Town Centre NCG group. (Recs 1,11 and 12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What actions are being taken by the NCG group to address crime and disorder issues in partnership with the police and CBC. (Rec 1)</li> <li>- Has the public protection team worked with the Town centre NCG to support community-led environmental action in the town centre such as community litter picks? (Rec 11)</li> <li>- has any feedback been given to O&amp;S regarding the actions being taken by the group to promote integration and cohesion for residents and businesses in the town centre? (Rec 12)</li> </ul>
	<b>Response from Bernice Thomson</b>
	<p>(Rec 1)</p> <p>The town centre NCG responds to issues raised by the businesses, residents and agencies that attend the meetings and will either take action as a group, where that is possible, or encourage the police or CBC to take action where it is more appropriate. Issues currently of concern to the NCG are street drinking, underage drinking and drug dealing/use in the town centre. Currently street drinkers are being dealt with by the police and the worst offender has recently been banned from the town centre. Through the NCG and CBC positive Activities funding Cheltenham West End Partnership employs youth workers to engage with the underage drinkers to provide them with support where possible. There are currently about 50 young people aged between 12 and 18 drinking in the town centre and causing problems particularly around McDonalds and Winston Churchill Gardens. The two youth workers that we can afford are not really enough to deal with this problem. Also our funding will be running out in a couple of months and we will have to stop this activity if we cannot secure further funding. On drug dealing we have agreed to encourage the reporting of drug dealing incident so that we can map activity. We have only just started doing this, not as yet with too much success, and we intend to extend the reporting beyond NCG members and ask businesses to participate. (the form we use is attached)</p> <p>(Rec 11)</p> <p>We are not currently planning any environmental actions, such as litter picks, as this has not been raised by NCG members as a major issue. We feel that UBICO do an excellent job of keeping the litter under control. The dumping of black bags and other rubbish on street corners is much more of an issue. The only environmental actions we are taking is to lead the proposed scheme to improve St Mary's churchyard.</p> <p>(Rec 12)</p> <p>I would expect to get an invitation from O&amp;S to make a report and would be happy to do so at any time. This group, which is now known as Cheltenham Together, is very successful with about 20 different communities now engaged with the group. We have been successful in securing PCC funding for the group. We have also been given funding by Community Pride to hold a big event which will be taking place on June 6th in Winston Churchill Gardens. This follows a very successful smaller event in the Brewery in June 2014.</p> <p>As a more general point I would suggest that someone talks to Jeremy</p>

	Williamson as proposals on action around the lower high street will be going to the next meeting of the CDTF on 24th April. I have told Jeremy that it is important that anything the DTF does should not be done in isolation to O&S.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Question for the Cabinet Member Development and Safety (Louis Krog)</b>
	<p>- What initiatives are you are aware of that being taken by the project to reduce alcohol related violence to ensure that it is effectively addressing levels of crime in the area associated with the night time levy? (Rec 2)</p> <p>- How are the outcomes emerging for the Late Night Levy and any funding allocations reflecting the need to reduce the impact of night-time economy on local residents? (Rec 3)</p>
	<b>Response from the Cabinet Member</b>
	<p>(Rec 2)</p> <p>The reduce alcohol related violence (RARV) codes of practice were reviewed in 2014 and the revised and updated codes of practice will be published shortly. The majority of work on the RARV project over the last 12 months has been focused on revising and updating the codes of practice.</p> <p>Other recent crime prevention initiatives from RARV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase of body worn cameras for the taxi marshals (funded through the PCC's Safe Days/Safe Nights fund).</li> <li>• Procurement of a new online exclusions database for day safe/night safe members (funded by Cheltenham Safe).</li> <li>• Adoption of a new leafletting code of practice for late night operators to eliminate problems and crime associated with NTE promotions.</li> <li>• Assessing more alcohol licensed premises for Best Bar None accreditation.</li> </ul> <p>(Rec 3)</p> <p>The following projects have been awarded funding from the LNL income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purple Flag - To appoint a Night-Time Economy coordinator that will secure and maintain Purple Flag status for the town centre.</li> <li>• St Pauls Streetwatch - St Paul's Streetwatch is a joint project between local residents, university students and the police, operating bi-weekly volunteer patrols to address issues of antisocial behaviour (nuisance, personal or environmental), and discourage and prevent crime. Funding has been provided for radios and lollypops.</li> <li>• Hub Bistro - Feasibility study to investigate the possibility of developing an alcohol-free venue for Cheltenham Town Centre that would provide a quality late night alternative to the current alcohol-centred late night economy.</li> <li>• Hello Cheltenham - The joining together of a number of agencies to purchase a multi-use, flexible community van for use by a variety of partners.</li> <li>• University Community Street patrol - The project expands and develops an existing programme: the University of Gloucestershire / Students' Union</li> </ul>

	<p>operated “Superstars Xtra”, which is a voluntary scheme providing support to patrons of the Night Time Economy one day a week.</p> <p>The projects above were approved against the LNL outcomes criterion and the overarching expectation that they should be “aimed at reducing demand on policing and management of the night time economy as part of a preventative approach.”</p> <p>One other project is still be considered for funding.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Question for the Deputy Chief Executive, Pat Pratley</b>
	Action relating to the development of a collaborative approach to drug dealing was a commitment in the 2014-15 corporate strategy. As the Lead Officer for this group can you advise what progress has been made against this? (Rec 4)
	<b>Response from the Deputy Chief Executive</b>
	As above, we have supported work on drug dealing through the Town Centre Neighbourhood Coordination Group. They have encouraged the reporting of drug dealing incidents so that they can map activity.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Question for Cabinet Members Development &amp; Safety and Housing, Councillor Peter Jeffries (Mike Redman)</b>
	Has the proposal to Licence all private rented sector accommodation in the borough and the introduction of a more pro-active enforcement regime been considered as part of the scope of the REST project, specifically the strand looking at private-rented sector housing and what have been the outcomes, if any? (Rec 5 and 7)
	<b>Response from the Cabinet Members</b>
	<p>Key findings from the review are that there are a range of options open to the council to raise standards, but in order to fully inform our options in terms of introducing discretionary licensing arrangements then further work will have to be undertaken to drill down into the needs information. Cabinet have recently agreed for officers to go out to tender on a piece of work which which help inform the appropriateness of introducing Additional licensing or Selective Licencing and an Article 4 Directive across a number of wards around the inner town area, where the majority of the poorer quality housing is known to be.</p> <p>Once the council has received back bids for this piece of work, and potential costs understood, a further report will be brought to cabinet seeking approval to take this forward.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Question for the Housing and Communities Manager, Martin Stacey</b>
	What, if any, greater promotion of the housing advice service, has been undertaken since October 2014? (Rec 6)
	<b>Response from the Housing and Communities Manager</b>
	This recommendation was taken to CBC's Housing & Support Forum, which is made up of key organisations delivering housing advice and housing-related support to households in need. The Forum set up a task & finish group to design a leaflet which details the services of agencies delivering housing related advice and support in Cheltenham. The agencies included in the leaflet are: CBH's Housing Options Service, Turning Point, CCPs' Advice and Inclusion Service, CHAC's work with rough sleepers and those with complex needs, GEAR, Trinity Garage, Open Door and P3's community based support service. The leaflet provides a summary of each of these services along with contact details etc. On the back is a map which shows where all of these services are located within the town.

	All of the agencies listed are responsible for distributing these leaflets in key places throughout the town, such as GP surgeries etc.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Question for the Cabinet Member Clean and Green Environment (Pat Pratley)</b>
	<p>When and how were the recommendations agreed by Cabinet relating to operational matters communicated to Ubico and the Joint Waste team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have the Joint Waste Team and Ubico considered the possibility of installing more communal waste and recycling collection points across the town centre and if so, what was the outcome? (Rec 8)</li> <li>- Have the Joint Waste Team and Ubico explored how best to provide information to take-aways and shops in the area about trade waste collection arrangements and if so, what are the outcomes? (Rec 10)</li> <li>- Have the Joint Waste Team and Ubico produced information on waste and recycling services in different languages and distributed these, to houses and shops in the town centre area? (Rec 9)</li> </ul>
	<b>Response from the Cabinet Member</b>
	<p>When and how were the recommendations agreed by Cabinet relating to operational matters communicated to Ubico and the Joint Waste team</p> <p>(Rec 8)</p> <p>With the targeted approach to enforcing the no side waste and closed bin lid policy, it is perceived that it would be damaging to introduce a wide scale increase of communal waste points across the town centre as it would likely lead to an increase in waste being presented for collection. Similarly small communal recycling points rarely get used properly and often lead to an increase in waste due to the mix of waste which often isn't able to be recycled. The town centre households already receive a weekly waste collection service so properties with waste/recycling presentation or storage issues are dealt with on a case-by-case basis and the use of the recycling collection/bring bank schemes is promoted through the delivery of the updated waste and recycling service guide wherever practicable. Taking account of this, the current feedback from Ubico is that there doesn't appear to be a wide scale problem.</p> <p>(Rec 10)</p> <p>In 2014, the trade waste service was reviewed by Ubico and options for improving income whilst maintaining current costs were explored. It was demonstrated that the service is currently running close to capacity and so a dramatic increase in customers would lead to additional resources being required which would more than counter any improvement in income and actually result in an increase in budget expenditure. With this in mind the then Cabinet Member agreed to Ubico continuing to soft market the service along with the Councils customer service and public protection teams when they came in to contact with potential new customers, this includes take-aways and shops in the town centre.</p> <p>(Rec 9)</p> <p>Having recently completed the update of the waste and recycling service guide, work is now under way to identify the communities and associated languages which would benefit from a translated version along with a suitable delivery mechanism. Once confirmed, different versions of the guide will be produced and distributed accordingly.</p>