

Cheltenham Borough Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27 June 2016

Scrutiny task group review – Hidden Deprivation in our Town Centre

Review of progress against recommendations

Accountable member	
Accountable officer	Richard Gibson, Strategy and Engagement Manager
Executive summary	<p>In 2013, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee established a Scrutiny Task Group (STG) to review Hidden Deprivation in our Town Centre.</p> <p>The committee considered the final report of the task group at its meeting on 3 April 2014 but concluded that more work was required on some of the recommendations before the committee would be able to endorse them and forward them to Cabinet.</p> <p>The task group were not able to organise a meeting before the elections and the original members had either left the council or been appointed to Cabinet. The chair of the task group, Councillor Chris Coleman was keen that the work of the task group was not lost because they had covered some important areas and come up with a lot of good ideas which could have a significant impact on improving living conditions for people living in the town centre.</p> <p>O&S considered the matter again at their meeting on 9 July 2014 and agreed that the report, as it stood, should be forwarded to Cabinet with a request that Cabinet give some guidance to O&S regarding which of the recommendations they would support further work being done.</p> <p>In October 2014, Cabinet considered the interim report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet supported a number of recommendations from the task group that some issues be referred to other groups where work was already being done. Recommendations relating to private sector accommodation and increased pro-active enforcement for all regulatory and environmental services were to be considered as part of the REST commissioning review. Cabinet concluded that scrutiny did not need to undertake any further work at that stage.</p> <p>A progress update on all of the task group recommendations is attached at Appendix 1 and whilst progress has been made, there are areas that would benefit from further work and the suggestion is that this could be included in the review to be undertaken by a newly established task group looking at Town centre issues.</p>
Recommendations	<p>Having considered the progress update the committee agree that areas of the original STG recommendations requiring further work can be included in the review of the newly established STG looking at Town centre issues and no further updates are required in relation to the original review.</p>

Financial implications	There are no implications arising from the recommendation within this report.
Legal implications	There are no implications arising from the recommendation within this report.
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	There are no implications arising from the recommendation within this report.
Key risks	n/a
Corporate and Community Plan implications	The recommendations from the original STG would help the council deliver three of its four corporate strategy outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheltenham's environmental quality and heritage is protected, maintained and enhanced • Sustain and grow Cheltenham's economic and cultural vitality • People live in strong, safe and healthy communities
Environmental and climate change implications	None identified at this stage
Property/Asset Implications	None identified

1. Background

- 1.1 As set out in the Executive Summary.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 The original scrutiny task group (STG) has been disbanded.
- 2.2 Further work is still required in order to fully deliver what the recommendations made by the original STG aimed to achieve.
- 2.3 A new STG has been established which has been tasked with looking at various town centre issues and this STG could make progress on some of the outstanding issues identified in the original report. The committee are invited to consider which issues would benefit from being taken on board by the new STG.

3. Alternative options considered

- 3.1 No other options considered at this point.

4. Consultation and feedback

- 4.1 Ongoing engagement with residents and wider stakeholders through the Town Centre NCG group.

5. Performance management – monitoring and review

- 5.1 The O&S Committee will review and agree the terms of reference for the STG set-up to look at Town centre issues and can ensure that elements of the Hidden Deprivation review are included.
- 5.2 The O&S Committee will review progress in relation to the Town Centre Issues review and will ultimately consider the final recommendations of the STG before they are forwarded to Cabinet.

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Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hidden Deprivation STG and Cabinet recommendations (see background information for more details) 2. Hidden Deprivation STG recommendations – progress update (June 2016)
Background information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet – 14 October 2014 (Interim report from the O&S Committee and the Cabinet response)

Detailed recommendations from the Hidden Deprivation STG:

1. The council continues to support the Town Centre NCG in order that it can act as a forum for local residents and businesses to address crime and disorder issues in partnership with the police and CBC.
2. The relevant cabinet member keeps an overview of the work of the reducing alcohol related violence project to ensure that it is effectively addressing levels of crime in the area associated with the night-time economy.
3. The emerging outcomes for the Late Night Levy and any funding allocations reflect the need to reduce the impact of night-time economy on local residents.
4. The council develops a more collaborative approach to tackling drug dealing through joining up enforcement and support agencies working on identified hot-spots
5. The council moves to licence all private rented sector accommodation in the borough accompanied with a pro-active approach to enforcement and brings forward plans to do this via the public protection and private sector housing commissioning review.
6. The council ensures that residents are aware of and can access housing advice provided by CCP at Cheltenham First Stop.
7. The council introduces a more pro-active enforcement regime to protect the environmental quality of the town centre – including planning enforcement, housing enforcement and street-scene - and brings forward plans to do this via the public protection and private sector housing commissioning review.
8. The council and the Joint Waste Team look into the possibility of installing more communal waste and recycling collection points across the town centre.
9. The council and the Joint Waste Team provide information on waste and recycling services in different languages and distribute these to houses and shops in the area.
10. The council, the Joint Waste Team and Ubico explore how best to provide information to take-aways and shops in the area about trade waste collection arrangements.
11. The Public Protection team work with the Town Centre NCG to support community-led action environmental action in the town centre such as community litter picks.
12. The Town Centre NCG continues to act as a forum for integration and cohesion for residents and businesses in the town centre and that a presentation is made to Overview and Scrutiny after the community event on 7th June 2014.

Cabinet Recommendations agreed 14 October 2014

1. Cabinet supports the O+S committee's proposal that the recommendations relating to the work of the Town Centre Neighbourhood Coordination Group (NCG) (1 and 12) are passed to the Group coordinator to action;
2. Cabinet supports the O+S committee's proposal that the recommendations relating to the reducing alcohol related violence (2) and the late night levy (3) are passed to the Cabinet Member Development and Safety to action;
3. Cabinet recognises that the action relating to developing a collaborative approach to drug dealing (4) is already a commitment within the 2014-15 corporate strategy with the Deputy Chief Executive being the lead officer;
4. Cabinet supports the O+S committee's proposal that the recommendation in respect of greater promotion of housing advice services (6) is passed onto the Housing and Communities Manager to action;
Cabinet recommends that the Scrutiny Task Group's proposals to licence all private rented sector accommodation in the borough (5) and introduce a more pro-active enforcement regime (7) are passed to the Cabinet Member Development and Safety and the Cabinet Member Housing to action within the scope of the commissioning review looking at Environmental and Regulatory Services and its work-strand looking at private-rented sector housing;
5. Cabinet recommends that the Scrutiny Task Group's proposals in respect of Ubico operational matters (8,9 and 10) are passed to the Joint Waste Team and Ubico to investigate and they report back to the Cabinet Member Clean and Green Environment on their feasibility within existing operational budgets.
6. Cabinet thank the scrutiny task group for their report and do not request O&S to do any further work at this stage.