



SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION

Date:	18 February 2013
Name of person proposing topic:	Councillor Barbara Driver
Contact:	01242 243862
Suggested title of topic:	Hidden deprivation in our town centre
What is the issue that scrutiny needs to address?	
<p>As elected members of the council we are aware that there are areas of multiple deprivation in Cheltenham. Parts of St. Pauls, St. Marks and Hesters Way are in the 10% most deprived areas nationally and parts of Oakley are not far behind.</p> <p>I am becoming increasingly aware of the issues of deprivation that affect those people living in the town centre – though as the numbers are much smaller, this does not get picked up in the maps of deprivation. Hence the title – “hidden deprivation.”</p> <p>I feel that living conditions in the town centre might be characterised by the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crime and disorder associated with the night-time economy. ▪ Transient communities which can impact on community resilience and cohesion. ▪ Residents living in private rented accommodation in buildings that have been sub-divided into houses in multiple-occupation or in flats above shops. ▪ Higher than average unemployment rates ▪ Poor physical and mental health. <p>I would like to use the latest census data to understand more about living conditions in the town centre and also take time to interview local residents, businesses and other public sector partners (like the police) to build up our knowledge.</p>	
What do you feel could be achieved by a scrutiny review (outcomes)	
<p>At this stage, we would like to understand the issues facing people living in the town centre; we will bring our findings back to Scrutiny in July to get a steer on the next stage of the review.</p> <p>Having a better understanding of the issues may assist the council and partners in considering how services are delivered to people living in the town centre; and make changes so we are not disadvantaging these residents.</p>	
If there a strict time constraint?	No
Is the topic important to the people of Cheltenham?	Yes
Does the topic involve a poorly performing service or high public dissatisfaction with a service?	No
Is it related to the Council’s corporate objectives?	Yes
Any other comments:	

OFFICER IMPLICATIONS (for office use only)

Date:	1 Feb 2013
Officer name:	Richard Gibson
Officer title:	Strategy and Engagement Manager
Contact:	01242 235354
Please give your comments on this proposed topics, for example is there any other similar review planned or in progress, are there any potential resources constraints etc	
<p>Officers would support this review; and research carried out by the task group will help us with the planned commissioning review of private sector housing.</p> <p>Also, local partners have identified that there are large numbers of vulnerable people living in private rented sector accommodation and are willing to support the council take action to understand and do something to help.</p>	

DRAFT

Proposed boundary for Scrutiny Review of hidden deprivation

