

**At a meeting of the ECONOMIC PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor David Snowdon in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Curran, M. Dixon, G. Galbraith, E. Gibson, Porthouse, Taylor and Turner.

Also in attendance:-

Councillor Dianne Snowdon, Vice Chairman of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee  
Ms Michelle Coates, Principal Policy Officer, People and Neighbourhoods  
Mr Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer  
Mr Stuart Douglass, Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety  
Mrs Christine Tilley, Community Governance Services Team Leader

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves to one another.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Marshall and W. Turton, together with Councillor N. Wright, Chairman of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

**Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

A copy of the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Siglion – Progress Report

Councillor M. Dixon asked that the cost of the lift be clarified with Siglion.

Mr Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer advised that he would try to ascertain this information and provide it to Councillor Dixon. It was also agreed that Mr Diamond circulate Mr Seager's contact details, including his email address to Members of the Committee, should they want to get in touch with him.

## January Meeting of the Committee - UK City of Culture Bid 2021 – Progress Report

Mr Diamond referred to the above meeting where Members had received an update on the UK City of Culture Bid. He reported that in response to Councillor Turner's enquiry concerning representation from the Coalfield on the team who was developing Sunderland's City of Culture Bid, that Ms Ball the Bid Director had advised that the Coalfield area of the city was not represented however, she would rectify the situation.

### **Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **Public Spaces Protection Orders – Introduction**

The Director of Partnerships, Strategy and Transformation submitted a report (copy circulated) reporting on the outcome of the consultation exercise for the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Sunderland City Centre.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Stuart Douglass, Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety briefed the Committee on the background to the proposal to introduce the PSPO and the findings of the consultation undertaken which was set out in paragraph 3 of the report. He highlighted paragraph 3.5 showing the percentage of people who agree individual prohibitions should be included and the online petition submitted by the Green Party in relation to the removal of the bin raking and begging prohibitions which had received 1105 signatures. Mr Douglass drew attention to the evidence offered by the Police in support of the bin raking and begging prohibitions set out in paragraph 3.8.

Mr Douglass also pointed out the concerns raised by Cycling UK and that discussions had taken place to reassure Cycling UK that the Council was not banning the use of cycles but would be looking to tackle those who were using them anti-socially and causing damage as a result.

Ms Michelle Coates, Principal Policy Officer, People and Neighbourhoods advised that the City Centre PSPO was due to go live within two weeks, however signage was awaited which needed to be installed in key locations first.

Ms Coates advised of the plans to enforce the PSPO which included working with the Police. Officers would issue fixed penalty notices on the occasion of the second offence. The CCTV Control room would manage the process and be able to advise that this was the case. Training packages were currently being finalised for staff and would be rolled out. A publicity campaign was planned for the introduction of the City Centre PSPO. The effectiveness of the PSPO would be reviewed after six months and reported back to the Cabinet and this would be a determining factor as to whether to extend the initiative to other areas of the city. There was also an agreement that until the capacity of an Enforcement Team was developed, that Local Services staff who during the course of their duties became aware of anyone

committing any of the actions prohibited, would call them in to the Control Room or the Police to issue a fixed penalty.

Mr Douglass advised that discussion would come back to the Scrutiny Committee on the next steps. He highlighted that the existing Designated Public Places Orders and Dog Control Orders would be defunct in October and work needed to start with what would replace them.

Members were agreed in that there needed to be a deterrent in place and that it needed to be enforced, expressing some concern at the level of enforcement that would be available. There also needed to be buy-in from residents if the prohibitions were to be successful and a change of mind set in some cases.

In response to Members questions, Mr Douglass commented that Northumbria Police was very keen on the introduction of PSPOs, seeing it as another tool in the box to tackle anti-social behaviour. Council Officers were watching very closely where PSPOs had already been introduced in other cities and where they were having teething problems to learn from them. There was a need now to determine what was appropriate for the rest of the city, prohibitions could only be included where there was evidence of a problem. Most areas for example would have had an issue with motor/quad bikes and would also want to include prohibitions in order to protect play areas.

There were other issues which were specific only to a particular area or areas, such as campers and travellers where another course of action may be more appropriate. The other issue Councillor Taylor had mentioned related specifically to Washington where lorry drivers/delivery drivers were 'living' in their vehicles for a time and were behaving in an anti-social manner.

Mr Douglass emphasised that the intention was to consult Area Committees on localised issues to ensure any PSPO for that area was appropriate.

In response to Councillor Dixon, Ms Coates advised that skateboarding had been identified as an issue for the Sunnyside area in the city and signage would be put up in that location.

In response to the Vice Chairman, Councillor Galbraith, Mr Douglass advised that where patrons of licensed premises were standing outside the premises drinking and this area was not designated and included as part of the licence, they were effectively on the public highway. This behaviour could therefore be prohibited and included in any PSPO, if there was evidence that the behaviour or activity was causing a nuisance or having a detrimental effect on the quality of life in that location.

Ms Coates advised that there were plans for a PSPO email to be set up which all partners and businesses could feed in through. Mr Douglass added that another option would be to use the 101 telephone number to report any instances of anti-social behaviour.

In summing up, the Chairman re-iterated the concerns expressed by Members over the potential ability to enforce the prohibitions of the PSPO due to capacity as Council resources were limited and Police resources were already stretched.

In response to the Chairman, Ms Coates informed that revenue from any enforcement action carried out in respect of PSPOs would come back to the Council.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the outcome of the consultation process and the proposals submitted to Cabinet regarding the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order in the city centre be received and noted and a report be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee in six months' time providing a review of the Order and measuring its impact.

### **Annual Work Programme 2016/17**

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated), attaching for Members' information, a copy of the current work programme for the Committee's work during the 2016-17 Council Year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer advised that in view of the recent changes at the top of the organisation a report on the Business Improvement District (BID) had been deferred and was now scheduled to come to the Committee at its June meeting. A report on Sunderland Music and Arts Centre scheduled for the April meeting would now also be coming to either the June or July meeting, together with a report on the Local Plan which was also proving very difficult to programme onto the Committee's work plan.

Mr Diamond advised that the Scrutiny Debate in May would look at issues to go on the work programme and better reflect the concerns and interests of Members.

3. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme and detailed above, be received and noted.

### **Notice of Key Decisions**

A report providing an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 (copy circulated), was submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr James Diamond, Scrutiny Officer invited Members to raise any issues on the items coming forward to the Cabinet for consideration and he would endeavour to provide further information.

Councillor Blackburn referred to item no. 161020/123 'To approve in principle the establishment of a new police led Road Safety Partnership (Northumbria Road Safety Partnership) embracing the Northumbria Force area.'

Members also referred to item no. 160104/48 'To consider the freehold acquisition of two properties to provide children's services accommodation.'

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the Notices of Key Decisions be received and noted;
- b) Mr Diamond make enquiries about item no. 161020/123 to enable Members to determine whether it was something they would wish to follow up; and
- c) Mr Diamond make enquiries as to the addresses of the two properties referred to in item no. 160104/48.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance.

(Signed) D. SNOWDON,  
Chairman.