

Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 4 October 2016

Agenda item 6 - Questions to Cabinet Members

1. Councillor Michael Weinhonig, Chairman, on behalf of panel members:
Question to Councillor David Smith (Planning and Environment)

Would the Cabinet member provide an update on the progress of the litter/enforcement pilot working group?

Summary of reply from Councillor Smith:

The Environmental Enforcement Pilot has now been operating for nearly a year. During this time, 1,535 fixed penalty notices have been issued to people seen dropping litter or not clearing dog fouling. Of those issued, 883 have been paid, with a discharge rate of 73% and 336 are being prepared for prosecution.

Despite the initial teething problems, the Pilot is now considered a success and 3GS are now widely supported by local businesses, Council officers and network groups across the town. The Code of Conduct has been effectively used to engage with businesses on what they can expect from 3GS officers and signage has helped to raise awareness of their activities for the public.

We are planning to introduce an additional six duties to the remit of the pilot before Christmas as follows:

- A. Exposing vehicles for sale on the road
- B. Repairing vehicles on the road
- C. Fly-posting
- D. Graffiti
- E. Painting or inscribing upon the surface, a tree, structure or works on the highway
- F. Failing to comply with Community Protection Notice (CPN)

As the Members Working Group are now satisfied with the effectiveness of the Pilot, we are planning to run a full procurement process early in 2017.

2. Councillor Michael Weinhonig, Chairman, on behalf of panel members:
Question to Councillor Jane Kelly (Regeneration and Public Health)

Boscombe Regeneration is benefitted by the work of Operation Galaxy - what are the successes and the future of Operation Galaxy?

Summary of reply from Councillor Kelly:

Operation Galaxy has been a very successful multi agency project which has now been running in various forms since 2012. The project, now in its second phase,

has been staffed for the last 18 months and this has enabled the team to increase their scope and outcomes achieved. Galaxy covers a defined area of Central Boscombe, proactively inspecting identified problematic Houses in Multiple Occupation. The team comprises of a Police analyst working alongside Enforcement Officers and the Neighbourhood Policing team.

From January to August 2016 126 individual units of accommodation were inspected. Outcomes from this work include improvements to housing standards, vulnerable tenants moved on in to more suitable accommodation, referrals to safeguarding teams and other support agencies have been made to improve outcomes for tenants and landlords and enforcement action has been taken where required. Overall, the evidence based multi-agency collaborative approach to the project has resulted in improvements to target properties and the communities around them.

The funding for Operation Galaxy will end in November 2017. The Council is considering the implementation of a Selective Licensing scheme for Boscombe and the surrounding areas using powers contained within the Housing Act 2004 which would enable the extension of the approach taken within the Galaxy pilot. An options appraisal is currently being undertaken which will determine the proposals to be made within a public consultation to be carried out over a 16-week period.