

# Crime and Disorder Select Committee

A meeting of Crime and Disorder Select Committee was held on Thursday, 15th October, 2015.

**Present:** Cllr Paul Baker(Chairman), Cllr David Wilburn(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Julia Whitehill, Cllr Barry Woodhouse

**Officers:** Mike Chicken (Economic Growth and Development Services Division), Jimmy Jones (Principal Trading Standards Officer), Peter Kelly (Director of Public Health), Margaret Waggott (Head of Democratic Services), Graham Birtle (Scrutiny Officer), Jenna McDonald (Governance Officer)

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** Cllr Ken Dixon

## **1 Evacuation Procedure**

The evacuation procedure was noted.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3 Minutes for signature - 30 July 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2015 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AGREED that the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **4 Draft Minutes - 17 September 2015**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2015.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

## **5 Scrutiny Review of River Tees Crossing Infrastructure**

Members were presented with a summary of the findings/discussions from the meeting held on 30 July 2015 relating to the Review of River Tees Crossing Infrastructure.

The following points were highlighted:

- As a result of an inspection carried out on the existing River Tees Crossing, it was revealed that the structure was not fit for purpose. Members noted that the conditions of a bridge/structure could only be identified through inspections which were therefore vital.

- Work being carried out on the Teesside Park access was almost complete. It was highlighted that a settlement programme had not yet been achieved

however, the life span of signal controls was extended as a result of the work carried out

- The work carried out on the Teesside Park access caused a very low amount of issues for those accessing due to work being carried out during the night time
- Discussions were taking place for work which was due to be carried out on signals and controls of the New Market roundabout
- With regard to asset management, Members noted that work had taken place to consider the use of Ice Guard on bridges and structures. It was highlighted that while this could be an option, a range of machinery was required to apply Ice Guard which SBC did not currently own
- Members were informed that in order to avoid corrosion, salt would be removed from bridges across the Borough at the end of the winter period
- It was highlighted that a review would take place on bridges and structures across the Borough that were redundant with a view of disposal if feasible and cost effective

The following points/questions were raised by the Committee:

- Concerns were raised around the building of bridges on a sand foundation; Members suggested that an alternative underfill was considered.
- Members raised concerns that SBC would face many financial implications should the access sink due to the sand foundation. Members noted that an alternative access would be required in order to avoid financial impacts on Teesside Park shops and leisure facilities whilst works were being carried out.
- The Committee were keen to understand whether the Teesside Park access was entered onto the Corporate Risk Register and whether a budget was in place should a problem occur. It was highlighted that the Teesside Park access was included on the Corporate Management Register however finances were not in place.
- It was noted that once works were finalised, annual monitoring would take place in order to assess how bridges and structures changed over time. It was highlighted that identifying conditions of bridges and structures played a vital role in preparing for funding and costs. The Committee suggested that the monitoring took place twice per year as opposed to annually.
- Members raised concerns around the growth of the Borough without infrastructure.

AGREED that the information be noted.

## **6 Work Programme**

The Committee gave consideration to the work programme 2015-16.

Members agreed that consideration be given to school site visits as part of the

Review of School Parking.

AGREED that the work programme be noted.

## **7 Annual Overview of the Trading Standards & Licensing Service**

Members were provided with the Annual Overview of the Trading Standards and Licensing (TSL) Service.

The following points were highlighted:

- The TSL Service was responsible for undertaking activities such as; market surveillance work, advice and support services, specialist advice and information, responding to complaints from consumers and processing/issuing licences
- The Performance Report 2014/15 revealed that satisfaction levels remained high with users of the Consumer Advice Service. Members heard that 100% of users were fairly or very satisfied with the service they received
- It was highlighted that it was important for businesses to be aware that random inspection visits often took place.
- The Committee was informed of the future challenges faced by the TSL Service, some of which included; Tobacco Control, Consumer Rights Bill and Food Information Regulations 2014

Members raised the following points/questions:

- Were Facebook pages, particularly those selling cigarettes monitored by TSL? It was noted that Facebook pages were monitored and in the past have revealed both illegal and legal cigarettes. It was heard that TSL experienced difficulties with the level of information which Facebook were willing to release on site owners.
- The Committee raised questions around the legalities of the sale of new/unused furniture in a charity shop. It was noted that if the furniture complied with legal requirements, this was legal.
- Members were keen to understand the legalities of advertising and selling vehicles from the grounds of a residential property. Officers highlighted that when selling a vehicle, the seller must declare whether the sale was a private sale or a trade sale. The Committee was informed that if the status of sale was declared and the car was road worthy, this was legal. It was noted that if the mentioned vehicles were causing problems/obstructions, Enforcement action could be taken.

AGREED that the information be noted.

## **8 Chair's Update**

Members were asked to consider a revised schedule of future meetings for the Committee.

AGREED that

1. Committee meeting dates remained as scheduled
2. Discussions would take place outside of the meeting to consider alternative venues across the Borough for future Committee meetings.