

Crime and Disorder Select Committee Chair’s Update – January 2024

Scrutiny Review – Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>Following agreement of the scope and plan for this review in October 2023, the first evidence-gathering session took place in November 2023, with Local Authority officers from the Community Services, Environment and Culture directorate providing information on ‘outdoor play’ definitions / terminology, existing provision across the Borough, identified inequalities in geographical spread, maintenance and inspection policies, and the financial pressures associated with the upkeep of these sites.</p> <p>Site visits were undertaken in December 2023 where Members had the opportunity to visit several play areas – this involved ‘destination’, ‘neighbourhood’ and ‘doorstep’ provision, and enabled accompanying officers to highlight various issues and challenges associated with the current offer at these locations.</p> <p>The second evidence-gathering session was held in December 2023 and focused on a contribution from the SBC Inclusive Growth and Development department (Planning / Place Development). Information presented and discussed included local plan policies and how this influences new play / informal sport facility development, the rationale behind developers building new rather than improving existing assets, and how S.106 works and the requirements around this for play provision to new developments.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	The next evidence session is scheduled for the January 2024 meeting and will involve a contribution from the SBC Town Centres Development service.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>The following updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p><u>Bonfires on Public Land</u></p> <p>The third update on progress of outstanding actions in relation to recommendations from the Committee’s previously completed review of Bonfires on Public Land was considered in December 2023. Only one recommendation (<i>to further deter the construction and lighting of unauthorised bonfires, SBC identifies any alternative sites within the Borough where official bonfires may be able to be facilitated in the future</i>) was yet to be signed-off as complete, and the Committee was informed that no alternative sites were obvious, but that the Council would continue to</p>

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	<p>consider future options. Achievements in relation to the recent bonfire season were also relayed, culminating in reductions in the occurrence of deliberate primary fires and no reported incidents of violence towards staff on bonfire night. Members subsequently agreed that the Action Plan approved by the Committee following the original review could now be signed-off as complete (no further updates required).</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Asset Management (TBC – early-2024) • Fly-Grazed Horses (TBC)
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Work Programme 2023-2024: An additional '<i>Other Information Sources / Updates</i>' section had been added to the Committee's work programme document – this reflected some key crime and disorder / community safety issues (with links included providing more detail) which the Committee may be interested in scrutinising further (outside of any ongoing in-depth review work). Members were encouraged to contact either the Chair / Vice-Chair or Scrutiny Officer if they had queries on any of the stated topics.</p>
Requests for more information	None

Remaining 2023-2024 Scrutiny Reviews

- Access to and Impact of Vaping

Remaining 2023-2024 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)

Thursday 25 January 2024 Thursday 22 February 2024	Thursday 21 March 2024
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