

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

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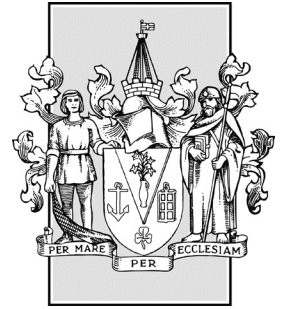
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**CABINET - TUESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 2018:
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT – AGENDA ITEM 7 – HIGH STREET SUMMIT**

Please find enclosed, for consideration at the next meeting of the Cabinet taking place on Tuesday, 6th November, 2018, at 2.00pm the following report that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

**Agenda Item
No**

7. High Street Summit (Pages 1 - 16)

Report of the Chief Executive attached

Robert Harris
Principal Democratic Services Officer
Legal & Democratic Services

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Chief Executive

To
Cabinet

On

6th November 2018

Report prepared by: Glyn Halksworth, Head of Housing &
Social Inclusion / Simon Ford, Group Manager Community
Safety

High Street Summit – Action Planning Update

Place Scrutiny Committee

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee

Cabinet Members: Councillors Lamb, Courtenay and Flewitt
Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on work being undertaken following the High Street Summit which took place on 24th September 2018, including the emerging action plan and approaches being organised through which to coordinate and drive this work.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Cabinet endorses progress being made and directs further work as required.
- 2.2 Cabinet endorses additional officer resource already aligned to support the implementation and delivery of this project.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 24th September a High Street Summit took place to consider actions that might be pursued in order to improve the current High Street offer. Concerns had been raised relating to rough sleeping and a number of aspects of anti-social behaviour, including aggressive begging and street drinking. The meeting involved representative of Southend BID and Essex Police, along with James Duddridge MP and councillors and officers of Southend Council.
- 3.2 The meeting sought to understand the differing perspectives relating to current pressures within the Southend High Street area and to agree a number of outcomes and associated actions that could be pursued to improve the current situation. A number of short-term actions were agreed including better coordination of existing support work in the town centre; a commitment to explore the feasibility of enforcement powers and to implement those

appropriate to the aims of this work; and a commitment to better coordinate and resource communications work, including support to recruit a dedicated communications lead across the partnership. Support and enforcement services were collectively tasked with effectively tackling the presence of rough sleepers, begging, street-drinking and other anti-social behaviour from the High Street.

- 3.3 The meeting agreed that a dedicated action plan would be developed through which to drive this work forwards at pace. Key responsibility for this was given to Simon Ford and Glyn Halksworth, but with a requirement that this would be supported by a broader Council and Essex Police officer group. Action has already been taken to set up initial task and finish group meetings through which to initiate and coordinate this work. In addition to this an officer within the Housing & Social Inclusion service has been tasked with overseeing this on a half-time basis for the next 3 months, with the potential for further extension. As will be seen from the attached draft action plan work is already underway in other aspects of the project.
- 3.4 The draft action plan is attached as Appendix 1 and seeks to capture all actions agreed at the Summit, as well as clarifying ownership of these, key milestones required and progress. This work is at an initial stage and further understanding needed in respect of resources that may be required to implement and deliver the agreed work.

4. Other Options

None.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 This project is recognised as strategically important for Southend, both from a business and public service perspective. The feedback received by business, the Council and Essex Police about Southend High Street has been negative in recent months and is seen to be reflective of a diminishing attractiveness of the town centre to local residents, workers and visitors. From the perspectives of economic vibrancy, our reputation as tourist and visitor destination, and the collective and individual organisational reputations about our leadership of place, this is a vital project for the town. The recommendations are made in order to secure the best chance of delivering the aims of this partnership project.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

This project supports a number of the Council's corporate priorities relating to community safety, health, and economic development.

6.2 Financial Implications

There are already known additional costs in order to support the joint provision of a communications lead for the work, and further resource may be required for officer time as well as for works such as street cleaning, hoarding shop fronts and signage. Some of this resource may be recoverable by way of charges to shop landlords. A fuller understanding of these resources will emerge in the next few weeks.

6.3 Legal Implications

Advice is being taken in respect to enforcement powers available to support the ambitions of this project, principally via the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Vagrancy Act 1824, and potential bye-laws.

6.4 People Implications

Existing officer resource has been aligned to the project. Additional officer resources both directly employed by Southend Council and commissioned support services will be coming on stream in respect of rough sleeping and community safety in the next 3 months. Further resource may be required and this will be understood in the coming weeks.

6.5 Property Implications

None identified.

6.6 Consultation

No discrete consultation has been undertaken at this stage other than work delivered in support of Southend 2050, and housing / homelessness strategic projects.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

The objective of this project is to ensure that Southend High Street is an inclusive place and that the needs of vulnerable groups are met in such a way as they get the support needed to desist from rough sleeping, street-drinking, drug use, begging and anti-social behaviour. Equally the project seeks to ensure that the High Street is accessible to residents, works and visitors and that the street scene is not a deterrent to this. An Equality Analysis of the project has not been undertaken at this point but equality implications will be considered as the project develops.

6.8 Risk Assessment

No separate risk assessment has been conducted at this stage. Dynamic risk assessments will be undertaken during street-based elements of the project.

6.9 Value for Money

No analysis of this has yet been undertaken.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

As indicated above many elements of this project relate to anti-social behaviour. There are also links to drug-related crime and gang activity within the town centre foot print which have contributed to the negative environment being addressed. This project is intended to positively impact both these areas. Additionally a proactive approach to the removal of discarded / abandoned property such as sleeping bags and rucksacks is consistent with the management approach required to combat security risks.

6.11 Environmental Impact

The project will positively impact the High Street environment, including through the increased cleaning of shop doorways and other areas associated with rough sleeping.

7. Background Papers

7.1 None.

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Southend High Street Action Plan V7.

**Southend High Street Summit
Action Plan
2018**

Outcome (a): Rough Sleeping: End rough sleeping in the High Street

Action: Ensure structures are in place to end rough sleeping in High Street **(medium and longer term outcomes to be added)**

Owners: Glyn Halksworth/ Simon Ford

Timeframe: By 31/10/18

Resources required: TBD/ Pending RSI additional outreach etc.

Tasks	Deadline	Milestones / updates	Status
1. Improve our understanding of best practice and enforcement options.			
1.1. Identify best practice	08/10/18	25/9/18- Commissioned library brief from the House of Commons library	
1.2. Identify national guidance	08/10/18	08/10/2018- Correspondence received from HoC library which refers to a number of briefing documents which may be of assistance.	
1.3. Raise at House of Commons	08/10/18	to be arranged	
1.4. Commission legal understanding of enforcement actions	08/10/18	20/9/18- Internal legal guidance commissioned regarding enforcement options/suitability	
1.5. Invite Minister to visit and witness local issues.		to be arranged	
2. Visible multi-agency patrols			
2.1. Continue current commitment and increase frequency	Ongoing	27/9/18- Joint High Street outreach conducted 28/9/18- Rough Sleeper count conducted 14/10/18- Town Centre Multi-Agency Day Of Activity booked for November which will also include the Joint High Street Outreach Team (multi agency approach) 19/10/18- Frequency of Joint High Street outreach patrols increased to every 2 weeks. Future dates confirmed.	

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Tasks	Deadline	Milestones / updates	Status
2.2. Ensure Street Ranger Support contributes to visible multi agency patrols	08/10/18	08/10/2018- Street Ranger contribution agreed for future visible multi- agency patrols 12/10/18- Communications set up for outreach services, patrols and other relevant agencies to liaise on a daily basis, including up to date information as to number of emergency bed spaces available for rough sleepers.	
2.3. Operation Reflex (Police)	Ongoing	Ongoing Operation	
3. Street Scene/Maintenance issues			
3.1. Board up recesses of dormant Units	08/10/18	26/10/18 - work commenced with new occupiers of vacant units in the High Street regarding use of artworked boards in the short term and will develop a brief for wider uses and animation of the High Street. LGF3b bid submitted today, investment panel meets 8th December. A positive outcome would fund some activity.	
3.2. Advise and seek permission from retailers	08/10/18	11/10/18 Action completed - list of business giving permission now supplied. Key locations are included within this.	
3.3. Maintain/clear rubbish from doorways	08/10/18	25/9/18- Additional Clearance undertaken by Veolia. 26/10/18 - Veolia involved in process for removal of abandoned items.	
3.4. Invoice landlords of work conducted with empty units			
3.5 Explore options for widening access to DISC		Work ongoing	
3.6. Evaluation and Monitoring of above activity		Impact evaluation to follow once maintenance work as been completed	
4. Unattended rough sleeper belongings and tents			
4.1. Clarify/understand legislative powers to remove, store and return abandoned property (PSPO?)		8/10/18 (see also above actions (sn 1) 4/10/18 (see also actions under development by T&F Group) 26/10/18 - Process for removal / storage of abandoned items drafted with Legal input. Anticipated to be implemented w/c 5th November	
4.2. Commission notices to sticker abandoned property		11/10/18 To follow outcomes from T&F Group. 26/10/18 - Included in the process for removal / storage of abandoned items	

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Action Plan
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Tasks	Deadline	Milestones / updates	Status
4.3. Agree process for storing removed items		(See above)	
5. Better coordinate town centre support and enforcement activity			
5.1. Establish Task and Finish group (See Tab T&F Group)	08/10/18	4/10/18 T&F group held (powers and processes) - actions under development. Next meeting due 2/10/18	

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Action Plan
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Outcome (b): Begging: Reduce, begging and associated ASB

Action: (In addition to actions already described under rough sleeper element of this plan): Use available schemes/enforcement to manage begging

Officer/Inspector Neil Doney/ Superintendent Nick Morris

Timeframe: November 2018

Resources required: TBD

Tasks	Deadline	Milestones / updates	Status
1. Develop alternative giving platform			
1.1. Explore possibility of development of a 'community chest' to receive donations, which can then be disseminated to appropriate projects who work in support of the town centres' needs, including rough sleeping etc.	15/10/18	To be linked to Support Southend website / don't give campaign. 18/10/18- Research and best practice has been sought from other authorities - development under way 26/10/18 - Campaign now agreed as 'Make a Change'. Developed for launch w/c 29th October	
2. Explore enforcement powers			
2.1. Ensure full understanding of available powers and of resource required to utilise these (ASB legislation, Vagrancy Act 1824)	19/10/18	(See Tab T&F Group- actions being developed) - this has informed the work around potential use of Public Spaces Protection Orders.	

**Southend High Street Summit
Action Plan
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Outcome (c): Communications: Improve communications to ensure a consistent approach and enable better understanding of key issues

Action: Improve key messages and communications strategy to the wider community including local residents and businesses

Owners: Adam Keating

Timeframe: 30.11.18

Resources required: TBD

Tasks	Deadline	Milestones / updates	Status
1. Tackle the common assumption that people who are begging are also homeless by communicating key messages about engagement/enforcement with the wider community including local residents and businesses			
1.1. Visual impact posters around ATMs		26/10/18 - 'Make a Change' campaign agreed & due to be launched w/c 29th October	
1.2. Launch the 'Make a Change' campaign		26/10/18 - 'Make a Change' campaign agreed & due to be launched w/c 29th October	
1.3. Literature- Echo blog		to be developed	
2. Public relations/communication management.			
2.1. Recruit a Joint dedicated communications resource for 12 months	30.11.18	Agree investment from partners; recruit; worker in place.	

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Tasks	Deadline	Milestones / updates	Status
2.2. Partnership approach to engage with members of the community who want to help rough sleepers, encourage to work with us to enable 'buy in' to the strategic approach being led by the council and its partners	30.12.18	1. Set meetings with soup kitchen providers to agree Council operational requirements and promote 'buy in' to Make a Change campaign 2. Meet with all commissioned homelessness and related support services 26/10/18 - 'Make a Change' campaign to be launched w/c 29th October	

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Outcome (d). Magnetism: Make the High Street feel safer and attractive to local community and visitors			
Action: (In addition to actions already described under rough sleeper element of this plan): Make Southend an attractive place for new business and leisure			
Cooney		Timeframe: TBD	
Resources required: Community grants - High St Safety, culture; current contracts (Veolia, outreach etc.)			
Tasks	Deadline	Milestones / updates	Status
1. Raise town centre profile and improve public image of the area			
1.1. Maintain Purple Flag status		01/10/18 Re-inspection due early December 2018	
1.2. Commence community grant process to support High Street Safety at key events / night-time economy	08/10/18	01/10/18 Round one funding opportunities marketed; bids received and evaluated; projects commence; delivery ends / evaluated; round two &c.	
1.3. Commence community grant process to support cultural events to include focus on town centre offers	08/10/18	01/10/18 Round one funding opportunities marketed; bids received and evaluated; projects commence; delivery ends / evaluated; round two &c.	
1.4 Complete High Street highway inspection and safety Audit	08/10/18	04/10/2018 High Street audit completed from Pier Head to Vic Circus, no safety issues identified. Potential cosmetic improvements identified, estimated time for completion March 2019.	
1.5 Improve look of Town Centre highway.		25/10/18 - Review of the Town Centre highway / street furnitre etc agreed to be undertaken, dates to be arranged.	
1.6 Improve 'look and feel' of town centre		02/10/18 Monthly reviews to identify defects/ issues to be undertaken and a rolling log of issues will be actioned and reported monthly to Place DMT.	
2. Commission town centre events that offer a vibrant choice of leisure and entertainment for a diversity of ages, groups, lifestyles and cultures.			
2.1 Commissioning events		25/10/18 - Plans being developed for an event in 2019. Southend Safety Advisory Group involved in Event Management Plans	

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Outcome (e): ASB/Enforcement: Improve anti-social behaviour enforcement in the High Street

Action: (in addition to actions already described under rough sleeper element of this plan): Utilise pending increase in Police/ Community Safety Officers/resource, use powers of enforcement such as CBOs.

Owners: Simon Ford

Timeframe: 31.10.18

Resources required: Community safety enforcement team - investment to bring forwards

Tasks	Deadline	Milestones / updates	Status
1. Community Safety Enforcement Team			
1.1. Recruit team manager	31/10/18	Interim Arrangement in place - commenced recruitment process 1/10/18	
1.2. Recruit 6 officers	30/11/18	Completed	
1.3. Develop partnership induction /training	30/11/18	Completed	
OTHER ACTIONS COVERED ELSEWHERE			

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Outcome (f): Street Drinking: Reduced street drinking and improve interventions for street drinkers.

Action: (in addition to actions already described under rough sleeper element of this plan): Increase range and efficacy of enforcement and support interventions to street-drinkers

Owners: Glyn Halksworth

Timeframe: 31.12.18

Resources required: Rough Sleeper initiative specialist outreach workers

Tasks	Deadline	Milestones / updates	Status
1. Utilise discretionary powers to require a person to stop drinking and confiscate alcohol or containers of alcohol from people who are consuming or about to consume alcohol in public places where the order is in effect			
1.1. No drinking zone signage to be updated and installed	31.10.18	01/10/18 Signs commissioned; signs installed	
1.2. Ensure full understanding of resource required to enforce and ensure this is programmed into service delivery of Community Safety Enforcement Team	30.11.18	Completed	
2.Improved interventions provided to street drinkers (Blue Light)			
2.1. Rough Sleeper Initiative implementation	15.11.18	01/10/18 Recruit to RSI posts 05/10/18 Sit up service developed and launched (provided by HARP) Work under way to recruit to 4 additional outreach worker posts & coordinator Initial street count held	

**Southend High Street Summit
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Tasks	Deadline	Milestones / updates	Status
2.2. Develop treatment resistant drinker pathway	31.12.18	18/10/18- Research under way.	

ACTION	BY WHEN	COMMENT
Establish <i>Designated Powers</i> to facilitate CPW CPN CBO + other (FPN?)	19 th Oct	Existing powers being utilised on CBW's / CBO's. Input provided to the report prepared on wider use of Powers to include potential to utilise Public Spaces Protection Orders. To be progressed further depending on outcome of PSPO report
Establish regulations / process to engage Soup Kitchens	2nd November	Process being developed to include any relevant regulations, and to be further dicussed by Leader Group
PSPO construction covering street drinking, begging, obstruction, unattended bags, (security risk), and other relevant matters	19 th Oct	25th October - Report finalised to consider introducing a PSPO with key input from the Leader Group.
BYE LAW review e.g. highway obstruction, camping to include toilets, car parks and parks and other relevant matters	19 th Oct	25th October - Review undertaken and feeds into report on PSPO / wider powers, as well as identifying current Bye Laws available to Officers.
PROCESS to remove abandoned items (storage, notice, disposal)	31st Oct	26th October - draft process finalised for implementing w/c 5th November to include removal, notice, storage, collection and disposal of items.
Date Of Next meeting	2nd Nov 1400 (room tba)	19/10/18 Meeting held and actions progressed as above.

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