

Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time finished - 7.45 pm

**COMMUNITY COMMISSION
23 JULY 2007**

Present: Councillor Bayliss (in the Chair)
Councillors Gerrard, Jackson, Jennings, R Khan, Redfern and
Troup

In attendance: Councillor Graves and Nath

14/07 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Berry.

15/07 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items

16/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

17/07 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18/07 Call – In

There were no items.

**19/07 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the
Commission**

The Commission agreed to consider this item in conjunction with minute number 20/07.

Items for Discussion

20/07 Section 30 Dispersal Areas and Alcohol Free Zones

The Commission received a presentation from Chief Inspector Gary Parkin on the Section 30 dispersal Areas and Alcohol Free Zones. Chief Inspector Parkin stated that there were currently three Section 30 dispersal orders in operation. These were in the city centre; Mackworth, Morley and Markeaton and in the Chellaston Ward. There were also six alcohol restricted zones. These were at:

North Parade
Allestree Park
Oakwood
Chaddesden
Normanton
and city centre.

Alcohol restricted zones

These provided discretionary powers with the ability to act immediately such as taking away alcohol from the offenders. The zones were established based on intelligence such as number and types of incidents and following discussions with partner organisations. Assessment was made on whether the alcohol restricted zone would make the area better to live, work and visit.

Section 30 orders

Chellaston was the latest area to have a Section 30 order and it became a designated zone on 25 May. The area was assessed over a three month period, during which it had received 120 complaints and 51 warnings were issued. Section 30 orders were established based on detailed intelligence and working closely with partner organisations such as the Youth Service. Section 30 orders were not a long term strategy but part of tactics used by the Police to address a particular set of problems such as dispersing youths away from a particular area. It was possible to cover the whole of the city with Section 30 orders but this would not be effective as the Police would not be able to disperse the groups to other areas.

There was a correlation between alcohol and anti social behaviour problems and there had been recent issues about selling alcohol to under age people which had been looked into. The issue about gathering timely and relevant evidence before using this tactic.

CI Parkin said he would support the fast track model to reinstate Section 30 Orders that had appropriate checks and balances.

Resolved to note the presentation

21/07 Derby Playhouse

The Commission received an update on the funding arrangements for the Derby Playhouse from Councillor Graves – Cabinet Member for Leisure and Direct Services. The Cabinet Member informed the Commission of the Derby Playhouse's grant income from the Arts Council and how this compared with Leicester and Nottingham.

The Arts Council funds the three cities in the following amounts:

Leicester £1.5m
Nottingham £1.3m
Derby £0.704m

The funding was based on outputs, which included more than just the number of people visiting the theatre. It also included, for example, support provided to amateur groups. Nottingham and Leicester City Councils gave similar proportion to their theatres, around 12-15% of their income. It was stated that the City Council gave the

Playhouse a grant of £395,000 in 2007/08 under a new funding agreement. There was a funding agreement with the Playhouse to determine what the Council would get from them in return.

Resolved

- 1. To defer consideration of the Playhouse until next year.**
- 2. To review the Council's funding agreement with Derby Playhouse at the next meeting.**

22/07 Housing and Council Tax Benefits Claims

The Commission considered a report from the Assistant Director Customer Services on the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Service Performance. The report identified performance up to the end of June 2007. It was stated that we processed all new claims on average within 58 days during 2006/07 and this had been further improved by 10 days to the end of June. A new target of 34 days had been set for the end of the year.

Members were not satisfied with current times for processing claims and felt waiting for 48 days for benefit claims to be processed caused hardship for the applicants and in some instances might affect their tenancies.

Resolved to receive an update at the next meeting on how the new arrangements were bedding in and whether they were having an effect on the performance.

23/07 Neighbourhood Working and Forums

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the area and neighbourhood working arrangements which would replace the five Area Panels with one Neighbourhood Forum for each ward. The report had been considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 3 July and was referred to the Commission for its views on the implementation of the new arrangements.

Councillor Nath, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Social Cohesion and Housing Strategy, advised the Commission that Council Cabinet and Council had approved in principle the transformation from Area Panels into Neighbourhood Forums as part of the new framework for neighbourhood working. The Council now needed to look at the details, including the financial and constitutional implications. Any issues or questions raised by the Commission would be taken back and considered as part of the review.

The Commission asked for further information on constitutional arrangements and whether there was any degree of flexibility in operating the arrangements in each ward. The Commission also advised producing a Good Practice Guide to enable regular updates to be made to the working practices but without needing to amend the constitution every time. As this information was not available at the meeting the Commission agreed to hold a special meeting at the end of August to enable them to consider these additional pieces of information with the report. Councillor Bayliss suggested that all Councillors be invited to attend this meeting.

Resolved

- 1. To hold a special meeting of the Commission at the end of August to consider Neighbourhood working and forums and invite all Councillors to the meeting.**
- 2. To request information on constitutional arrangements, flexibility and a Good Practice Guide to be provided before the special meeting.**

24/07 Performance Management – Annual Indicators 2006/7

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services detailing the annual performance indicators for 2006-7.

Resolved to note the annual indicators for 2006-7.

25/07 Focussed Scrutiny Items

There were none.

26/07 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were none.

27/07 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission examined the items on the Forward Plan which were relevant to the Commissions remit.

The Commission identified the following items from the Forward Plan for discussion at a future meeting.

83/05 – Older Persons Housing Strategy

65/06 – Rosehill Housing Market Renewal Project.

28/07 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were none.

Minutes End