

City Centre Street Cleaning Scrutiny Review Report

Purpose of Report

1. This scoping report presents initial information on city centre street cleaning and asks the Task Group to identify a number of objectives for the review and agree a methodology for completing the review work.

Background to Review

2. At a meeting of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) on 24 June 2013, members agreed a corporate scrutiny theme for this municipal year around the city's night-time economy, noting its connection to a number of the Council's key priorities in its Council Plan 2011-2015.
3. CSMC agreed it would be possible for each overview & scrutiny committee to identify an appropriate night time economy related topic which would support their individual terms of reference. They tasked each committee with completing its night time economy review in time for the presentation of their review final report to the meeting of CSMC in March 2014. In turn, CSMC agreed they would collate the findings and recommendations arising from each review and present them to Cabinet by the end of the municipal year.
4. In September 2013 The Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a briefing paper on a number of possible topics for review in support of the night time economy corporate theme, and as a result agreed to focus their review on City Centre Street Cleaning.

Review Remit

5. The general aim of review agreed by the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 10 September 2013 was 'To reduce ASB across the city through the introduction of improved collaborative working methods'. However, no firm remit was set for the review so it would be helpful initially if this Task Group agreed some

objective for this review in order that the work on the review could remain focussed and be completed in line with the timeframe set by CSMC.

Consultation

6. To support the Night-Time Economy corporate theme it was agreed that an online survey 'Yorkafter5' be undertaken. This ran between 14 October 2013 and 29 November 2013. The survey included a number of generic questions in support of all the reviews except the health related review for which a separate survey was carried out.
7. Specifically in support of this review, the survey included a number of questions relating to the attractiveness of the city centre and perceptions of personal safety – see Appendix A.

Information Gathered

8. Levels of littering increase during the evening/night. Main causes of littering are Nightclub flyers, broken glass, takeaway wrappers, and scattering of commercial waste (as a result of anti-social behaviour). Staff are on duty from 05.30 each morning in order to clear away litter and debris etc before the city 'awakes'.
9. i) Staining of Pavements & Littering
In the city centre there is a particular issue with takeaway food stains. Neighbourhood Pride Services has recently invested in a machine to aid the removal of stains from pavements. However the amount of litter and staining on city centre streets could be reduced if Takeaways were more compliant with licensing conditions and health and safety issues.
10. The issue with flyers is specific to certain areas of the city centre. Proactive enforcement through the regulation of leafleters (nightclubs and bars) would help to reduce the problem. The Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005 enables a Local authority to designate land upon which the distribution of free printed material or matter is illegal without consent i.e. relevant land of the authority and/or all or part of any relevant highway for which the authority is responsible.
11. **Leeds City Council** have used this to introduce a scheme to prevent designated areas of Leeds being blighted by litter and stickers, including the city centre. The scheme is designed to help control litter problems caused by the distributors of free printed matter which is often discarded by persons to whom it is given. Printed matter includes any materials produced for distribution which have been subject to a printing process,

and includes flyers, leaflets, cards, papers, containers and any similar items. The scheme does not support or allow the distribution of stickers under any circumstances. This includes self adhesive, gummed or glued materials. If people are found distributing such materials, they are treated as distributing without consent, resulting in prosecution or a fixed penalty notice. In addition, all consent badges for those consent holders found distributing such materials are immediately revoked.

12. Applicants must apply from a Leeds based address, or provide a statement detailing how the applicant proposes to ensure that there is local management and accountability to prevent litter occurring as a result of flyering, and to remove litter should it occur. Consent can be applied for on an annual or monthly basis, and applicants can apply for as many badges as they need. Leeds City Council charge the following fees:
 - Monthly Authorisation badge £50
 - Annual – 1st Authorisation badge applied for £75
 - Annual – 2nd Authorisation badge applied for £100
 - Annual – 3rd Authorisation badge applied for £150
 - Annual – 4th and subsequent Authorisation badge applied for £175
13. Officers in the City of York Council (CYC) Public Realm would welcome the introduction of a 'No Flyer Zone' in York city centre or alternatively, a consent scheme suggesting that applicant fees could be used to provide additional funding for city centre street cleaning.
14. ii) Commercial Waste Presentation
CYC Waste Services has historically enjoyed a good market share of York businesses with its main focus being on the smaller independent retailers located within the city centre. However, in recent years this area of work has become much more competitive with a number of local and national operators moving into the area. This has resulted in business customers in York having a wider choice of suppliers, and suppliers adopting pricing strategies to build their customer base. Due to legislative constraints in recent years (LATS) CYC Waste Services recognise that their service has now become expensive and uncompetitive. As a result their customers continue to be lost to the private sector.
15. CYC Waste Services has arrangements with its city centre customers to ensure that the waste they are responsible for is collected in a timely manner and not left on the street for longer than is necessary. However, for those customers of private sector suppliers (of which there are 8),

due to customer opening times and their suppliers collection times not being aligned, their waste is often left on the city centre streets for long periods. In fact, evidence suggests that the waste from a majority of customers with private sector suppliers is left on city centre streets overnight. This detracts from the aesthetics of the city centre and also causes problems with litter associated with anti social behaviour.

Progressing the Review

16. In late January 2014 members of this Committee met with Public Realm officers to discuss the ongoing issues around flyers and commercial waste collections and the additional work they generate for the city centre street cleaning teams. Officers were able to suggest options for reducing the impact of both i.e. the introduction of a 'no flyer zone' and a By-law to control the collection times for commercial waste within the city centre. Officers confirmed that as yet these ideas had not been progressed although they were planning to commence discussions and work with other council departments and retailers to further investigate these options.
17. The committee members agreed that if sufficient time was available for their review, these would be the right issues to focus on to generate improvement in the aesthetics of the city centre and help reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour. As part of their review the Members would have liked to facilitate meetings with the other city centre waste services providers, and engage with city centre businesses.
18. However, in light of the limited time available for the review, those Members who attended the meeting with officers acknowledged the only option at this stage would be to recommend this work be undertaken as a matter of priority by Public Realm officers working with CYC Waste Services and Safer York Partnership.

Council Plan 2011-15

19. This review relates to the Council's corporate priority to create jobs and grow the economy.

Risk Management

20. There are no known risks associated with the recommendation in this report. Future reports will include an analysis of any associated risk as appropriate.

Recommendations

21. In an effort to improve in the city centre aesthetics and help reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour, the Committee are asked to
- i. Consider the survey results shown at Appendix A
 - ii. Identify suitable recommendations to address the issues around flyers and commercial waste presentation so that they may be included in this report (together with information on any associated implications), prior to the report's presentation to CSMC in March 2014.

Reason: To conclude this review in line with scrutiny procedures and protocols, and the committee's workplan.

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Specialist Implications Officer(s) - N/A

Wards Affected:

For further information please contact the author of the report

All

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Report on 'York After 5' survey results