



Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee **10 March 2014**
Report of the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee

City Centre Street Cleaning Scrutiny Review - Final Report

Purpose of Report

1. This final report presents the findings and draft recommendations arising from the scrutiny review completed by the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) in support of the corporate scrutiny review into York's Night Time Economy.

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. They considered a possible review on anti-social behaviour associated with the city centre night time economy, but agreed any such review would duplicate the work of AVANTE (Alcohol and Violence in the Night Time Economy – a multi-agency task group of the Safer York Partnership),. Instead they agreed to focus their review on City Centre Street Cleaning and associated issues related to Commercial Waste presentation.

5. However, recognising the effects of anti-social behaviour on the Night Time Economy (NTE), the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee requested that Safer York Partnership provide an update on the work of AVANTE for Corporate & Scrutiny Management Committee's consideration at this meeting, so that they may be included in the overall findings for the Night Time Economy corporate scrutiny review – see report on AVANTE at Appendix 5 to agenda Item 5 on this agenda.

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 separate surveys were agreed).
7. The 'Yorkafter5' survey responses were analysed and used in support of all of the NTE reviews – see Consultation Survey Report at Appendix 1 to agenda Item 5 on this agenda.
8. Specifically in support of this review, the survey included a number of questions relating to:
 - The cleanliness and attractiveness of the city centre – see responses to questions 7a, 7b & 8.
 - Anti-social behaviour & personal safety – see responses to questions 13-18.

Information Gathered

9. Levels of littering increase during the evening/night. Main causes of littering are Nightclub flyers, broken glass, takeaway wrappers, and the 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'.
10. 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 reduce if Takeaways were more compliant with licensing conditions and health and safety issues.

11. 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.
12. **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.
13. 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 charges 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
14. 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.
15. 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.

16. 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.

Analysis

17. 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 suggested options for reducing the impact of both i.e. the introduction of a 'no flyer zone' and a By-law to control the presentation times of commercial waste by city centre businesses. 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.
18. 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 to identify the times they are actually in the city centre collecting waste as it would appear that some may not be collecting until after 9am, which would allow their customers to present their waste at the beginning of their working day rather than at the end.

Members would also have liked to engage with city centre businesses to gather their views.

19. 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

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

Review Recommendations

21. In an effort to improve the city centre aesthetics and help reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour, and in light of the fact that the Committee did not have sufficient time to investigate the options, they agreed to recommend that:
 - i. Officers in Public Realm, Safer York Partnership, Waste Services and Legal Services work together to identify an optimum way of preventing city centre businesses from presenting their commercial waste on the streets between 7pm and 6am.
 - ii. In regard to flyers, officer in Public Realm identify the best option for York - either a flyer consent scheme or a No-flyer Zone

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

Implications & Risk Management

22. Assuming the above recommendations are approved by Cabinet as part of the final report arising from the Corporate Scrutiny Review on York's Night Time Economy, the implications and risks associated with managing commercial waste presentation and the use of flyers will be identified as officers investigate the available options, and will be reported on when officers present their future recommendations.

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Report Approved



Date

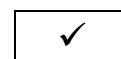
24 February 2014

Specialist Implications Officer(s) - N/A

Wards Affected:

For further information please contact the author of the report

All



Background Papers: None

Annexes: None

Abbreviations:

CSMC - Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee
AVANTE - Alcohol and Violence in the Night Time Economy
NTE - Night Time Economy
CYC - City of York Council
LATS - Landfill Allowances and Trading Scheme