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Report of: *Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee*

Report to: *Cabinet*

Date of Decision: *Wednesday 18th April 2018*

Subject: *Street Culture Report*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000		<input type="checkbox"/>		
- Affects 2 or more Wards		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to?				
• Neighbourhoods and Community Safety				
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to?				
Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee				
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? <i>(Insert reference number)</i>				
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				
<i>“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”</i>				

Purpose of Report:

A Task Group of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee was set up by the Committee after hearing from a range of partners, and service providers at a meeting to better understand Street Culture in Sheffield.

The Scrutiny Task and Finish group has now produced its final report, endorsed by Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 8th March 2018.

Drawing on the task group findings their report frames recommendations around three themes:

- Joined up provision – Education and having the right system for frontline workers
- Making more of a difference in Sheffield – Potential improvements to services and support
- Local leadership - Sharing scrutiny recommendations

This Cabinet report presents the Scrutiny Committee's report to Cabinet (Appendix 1).

Recommendations:

Cabinet is asked to:

1. Thank the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for its work in relation to finding out about Street Culture and provision of services in Sheffield.
2. Note the Street Culture Scrutiny Task Group Report that is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
3. Agree that an initial Cabinet response to scrutiny recommendations be provided to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee in July 2018.
4. Agree that Cabinet provide a Council led multi-agency written response to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee recommendations for October 2018.

Background Papers:

Appendix 1: Street Culture Scrutiny Task Group Report

Lead Officer to complete:-	
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.
	Finance: Paul Foster, Acting Finance Manager
	Legal: Andrea Simpson, Solicitor
Equalities: Adele Robinson, Social Justice and Inclusion Manager	
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	EMT member who approved submission: <i>n/a (scrutiny report)</i>
3	Cabinet Member consulted: <i>n/a (scrutiny report)</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.
	Lead Officer Name: <i>Alice Nicholson</i>
	Job Title: <i>Policy & Improvement Officer</i>
Date: 03/04/2018	

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee at its meeting on 9th November 2017 heard evidence regarding street culture and rough sleeping.
- 1.2 This evidence included a petition calling for a night café for the homeless and vulnerable, that Full Council received and debated at its meeting on 6th September 2017. The Council resolution noted that rough sleeping would be the subject of discussion at a meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee in the near future and referred the petition to that Committee for consideration as part of that discussion.
- 1.3 The Committee felt having heard evidence in November 2017 that there was more still to find out to see if the best is being done in Sheffield to make a difference to the people and place, and agreed to set up a Street Culture task and finish group to consider issues involved around street culture and report back to the Committee.
- 1.4 The Street Culture task group consider they have reached a suitable point in their evidence gathering to draw a line and present recommendations. They know there is more beyond their focus at this point, however the task group especially recognise that new collaborative ways of working need time to establish to evaluate success or improvement and feel this is a natural pause to see how these play out.
- 1.5 The task group reported that they know some of the data around the extent and nature of the issue does not chime with public perception, nonetheless street culture and its impact is an issue of safety for all using the city, the vulnerable who are part of street culture and those working in, living in, visiting and passing through the centre. In the view of the task group this makes having a system that works on the basis of collaboration and partnership working critical.
- 1.6 In reaching recommendations the task group relied on not only the evidence heard at the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 9th November, but also the further in-depth evidence gathered as part of the task group's work. The core findings are summarised in the task group report appended to this report, but not everything heard has been reflected in a recommendation. The Night Café petition is referenced in the task group report and its recommendation 4.
- 1.7 The task group reported its findings and recommendations to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on 8th March 2018. At its meeting the Committee endorsed the task group's recommendations and requested that Cabinet provide an initial response to the recommendations by July 2018 and that Cabinet lead on behalf of partners to provide a multi-agency response for October 2018. This report presents the Street Culture Scrutiny Task Group's report to Cabinet.

1.8 Street Culture Scrutiny Task Group

The Task Group's full report is attached to this report as Appendix 1. Drawing on what the Working Group found and heard their report makes recommendations across three themes:

JOINED UP PROVISION

Education and having the right system for frontline workers

- 1 *RECOMMENDATION: Support what is done now across the system. We recommend areas for improvement in education of others to improve our message about rough sleepers, and for example the relationship with begging, and particularly raising profile and awareness of "Help Us Help" through media.*
- 2 *RECOMMENDATION: Ensure the system is effective for all those involved in working at the frontline on the street and that they know how/where to get the right support for an individual, enhanced through common training & culture in frontline organisations of handling individuals.*
- 3 *RECOMMENDATION: Encourage the sharing of information and systems that support joined up provision and collaboration – both technical and relationship – and that the current good communications and relationships across agencies continue to be formalised so that they are not dependent on individuals or impacted negatively by changes in personnel.*

MAKING MORE OF A DIFFERENCE IN SHEFFIELD

Potential improvements to services and support

- 4 *RECOMMENDATION: We support and reinforce our previous recommendation that having heard testimony from a range of experts in the field of homelessness, that the excellent work by different agencies, including Help Us Help, is given the opportunity to develop further before the idea of a Night Café be considered. Further, whilst commending the intentions behind this idea, note the concerns about its safety expressed by some contributors at the committee meeting on 9th November and subsequently to the task group.*
- 5 *RECOMMENDATION: We do have some concerns about current provision, for example what are the alternatives when some provision is not there e.g. Ben's Centre on Wednesdays, and the suggestion that addiction services be offered outreach as well as drop-in, and we ask Cabinet to lead on a response to this.*
- 6 *RECOMMENDATION: We have a concern with the robustness of communication on Weather Watch, and ask that the channels of communication for informing Weather Watch is in operation be reviewed and/or monitored.*

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Sharing scrutiny recommendations

- 7 *RECOMMENDATION: We want to feed our recommendations into multi agency working for further response. For example to the City Centre task groups and into the action plan of the workshop held on 11 October 2017*
- 8 *RECOMMENDATION: We would recommend that committee findings be shared with health providers for a response. We would like to see that access to*

universal health services is not disadvantaged by being of no fixed abode or in a hostel, especially mental health services, as we believe these are essential to tackle predominant underlying issues for rough sleepers, street beggars, substance misusers.

9 *RECOMMENDATION: We seek reassurance that should the authority take the legislative route of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) where appropriate, it would be implemented proportionately. We would welcome early engagement in development of any Sheffield PSPO and ask Cabinet Member to include the Committee, or its task group, in the development process.*

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

2.1 The work and approach of Scrutiny and its task groups connect to the commitment within the priority theme of “*An In Touch Organisation*” to “*make sure we listen, understand and respond to what people are telling us, treating them with respect at all times*”. The task group was set up after Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee recognised there was more still to find out to see if the best is being done in Sheffield to make a difference to the people and place.

2.2 The findings and recommendations cut across priority themes in the Council’s Corporate Plan, especially “*Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities*”, “*Better Health and Wellbeing*” around aims such as, more people independent, safe and well in their communities; to improve community safety. The findings show how the Council is working differently across public services and with partners, a response in the corporate plan, the task group recommendations support this sharing of information and systems for joined up provision and collaboration across the city

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

3.1 The Working Group gathered evidence through a variety of activities, as detailed in its report, which informed the findings and recommendations.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

4.1.1 As a Public Authority, we have legal requirements under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. These are often collectively referred to as the ‘general duties to promote equality’. To help us meet the general equality duties, we also have specific duties. We have considered our obligations under this Duty in this report and found that there are no direct equality of opportunity implications arising as a result of this report. However, any specific changes to service delivery or policy arising in response to scrutiny recommendations will need to include the consideration of equality implications, to continue to ensure the Council fulfil our statutory obligations.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The implementation of any of the recommendations from the Committee's report may be subject to further decision making in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation. This would include any financial and commercial implications.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The implementation of any of the recommendations from the Committee's report may be subject to further decision making in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, and the legal implications of any proposal would be fully considered at that time.
- 4.3.2 Scrutiny committees have an explicit power to make reports or recommendations to the Executive under section 21(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 2000.

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 An alternative option in relation to the recommendations would be to do nothing with the Task Group Report. However, given the time and effort spent by the Task Group and contributions to the work and recommendations from organisations across the city this is not deemed a viable option.
- 5.2 An alternative option in relation to the recommendations would be to respond to the Committee's report over a much longer timescale. The Scrutiny Committee would like to maintain momentum on this issue but recognise time is required for a multi-agency response, hence the suggestion of an initial Cabinet response in July 2018 and a Cabinet led multi-agency response to its recommendations with a longer timescale of October 2018.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 To maintain momentum the Scrutiny Committee request an initial response to their recommendations for July 2018, especially those where the Council may or can lead.
- 6.2 Recognising the collaborative approach being taken in regard Street Culture and provisions in the city, the Scrutiny Committee would like a multi-agency response to its report of recommendations, and feel the Council is best placed to lead on this formal written response to the Scrutiny Committee's Street Culture Scrutiny Task Group Report and the Committee asks for this by October 2018.

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