

Report to Cabinet
14 November 2018
Report of Director of business services
Subject Scrutiny committee recommendations

Item

8

Purpose

To consider the recommendations from the scrutiny committees held on 20 September and 11 October 2018.

Recommendation

To ask cabinet to consider addressing the issues of County Lines through the city council's services and influence, as follows:

- 1) liaise with contractors to provide front line staff with training on safeguarding and awareness of County Lines and that there is a process for reporting incidents to contribute to intelligence gathering;
- 2) following consultation with the police, that the council explores the removal of tags which demarcate the territories of drug gangs;
- 3) review the licensing policy and procedures to ensure that County Lines' activity is captured particularly in relation to the fit and proper test in relation to licences for private hire drivers and hackney carriage drivers;
- 4) review tenancy agreements and procedures for rapid response to County Lines' activities and treatment of vulnerable tenants "cuckooed" by criminals.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet all the corporate priorities.

Financial implications

None

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Kendrick - Resources

Contact officers

Anton Bull, director of business services

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Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. The council's scrutiny committee is constituted of councillors who do not sit on cabinet. They are expected to review/scrutinise and oversee decisions made by cabinet. They can 'call in', for reconsideration, decisions made by cabinet or an officer which have not yet been implemented. The main functions of scrutiny are to hold cabinet to account by examining their proposals; evaluating policies, performance and progress; ensuring consultations, where necessary, have been carried out; and highlighting areas for improvement.
2. The committee makes recommendations for cabinet, the wider council and other stakeholders based on evidence on the issues scrutinised at their meetings.
3. The following is a summary of the topics the committee has considered with the recommendations that were made accordingly.

20 September 2018

The committee considered the following reports:

- Norwich City Council response to County Lines activity
- Update of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee representative
- Scrutiny committee work programme 2018-19

Norwich City Council response to County Lines activity

4. The committee welcomed Paul Sandford, assistant chief constable, Norfolk Constabulary and Chris Small, Norfolk Youth Offending Team.
5. The committee heard from the director of neighbourhoods, who explained the impact of County Lines activity on the city council area and the work of the Norfolk Community Safety partnership.
6. The assistant chief constable gave a presentation to the committee which explained the context of the County Lines operation and work undertaken by Norfolk Constabulary. He explained that County Lines was the dealing of class A drugs in rural areas often involving the exploitation of vulnerable individuals to sell drugs. Young people and children were brought into rural areas to deal drugs. The issue bore similarities to child sexual exploitation.
7. As a result of County Lines criminal activity there had been an increase in knife crimes and robberies in the area. These offences were largely committed between drug dealers.
8. Members heard about the practice of 'cuckooing' whereby a vulnerable person's accommodation was taken over as a base for drug dealing and the tenant was often paid in drugs or money.

9. An individual could be a perpetrator and a victim of a crime and therefore the appropriate response was often difficult to determine.
10. The assistant chief constable suggested a number of areas where the council could work in partnership with the police to combat the impact of County Lines. Members agreed to consider appropriate actions at the next meeting.

11 October 2018

The committee considered the following reports:

- Scrutiny committee work programme 2018-19
- Recommendations - The impact of Operation Gravity and organised crime in Norwich since 2016 Norwich City Council response to County Lines activity
- Norfolk County Council consultation on early childhood and family service – transforming our children’s centres

Recommendations - The impact of Operation Gravity and organised crime in Norwich since 2016 Norwich City Council response to County Lines activity

11. Members discussed how the city council could impact the reduction of County Lines activities through its services and influences.

RESOLVED to ask cabinet to:

- 1) liaise with contractors to provide front line staff with training on safeguarding and awareness of County Lines and that there is a process for reporting incidents to contribute to intelligence gathering;
- 2) following consultation with the police, that the council explores the removal of tags which demarcate the territories of drug gangs;
- 3) review the licensing policy and procedures to ensure that County Lines’ activity is captured particularly in relation to the fit and proper test in relation to licences for private hire drivers and hackney carriage drivers; and
- 4) review tenancy agreements and procedures for rapid response to County Lines’ activities and treatment of vulnerable tenants “cuckooed” by criminals.

Norfolk County Council consultation on early childhood and family service – transforming our children’s centres

12. The director of neighbourhoods, presented the report to the committee.
13. The committee welcomed county councillor’s Corlett and Morphew who explained that the consultation had not been approved by elected members of the county council’s children’s services committee or policy and resources committee.

14. Members noted that Norwich had higher levels of deprivation than the surrounding rural district areas and therefore would be disproportionately affected by the withdrawal of the service.
15. Members were concerned that no equality impact assessment had been completed and that there was no financial information analysis of the social and economic cost of closing children's centres the service.
16. Members expressed strong feelings about the consultation proposals and procedures and considered the purpose of the closure was that the budget would be halved.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) ask the chair to write to the chairs of the children's services committee and policy and resources committee to advise them of the committee's concerns about the proposals; and
- 2) note that the strategy manager will write up a detailed note of the discussion which will be used to inform the council's corporate response for consideration by the cabinet at its November meeting.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

Report author to complete

Committee:	Cabinet
Committee date:	14 November
Director / Head of service	Anton Bull
Report subject:	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations
Date assessed:	25 October 2018
Description:	A summary of scrutiny committee discussions and recommendations from 20 September and 11 October 2018

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations from impact assessment

Positive

Negative

Neutral

Issues