

Community and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

The council is now holding virtual meetings. This plays a part in helping us to maintain the safety of the public, staff and councillors.

The City Mayor has asked that, as far as possible, there is still public involvement and input into the decision-making process.

Therefore, should you wish to raise a question or comment on any of the items listed, which will be presented at the meeting on your behalf, you can do so in writing, by sending an email to the address at the bottom of this agenda.

Please do this by 4.30pm on the day before the meeting is due to take place.

Further information on the coronavirus and what it means for Salford can be found on the council website - <https://www.salford.gov.uk/coronavirus>

DATE: Monday, 21 September 2020

TIME: 2.00 pm

VENUE: Microsoft Teams Meeting

AGENDA

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING CAN BE VIEWED ON THE DAY VIA THE FOLLOWING LINK:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjBiNzJlZDEtZmQ5YS00OWE2LTk0MjYtMTk5MmZkNWQyNzlh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2268c00060-d80e-40a5-b83f-3b8a5bc570b5%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22573d04a0-0ae6-41ac-938f-3d1aa4fc5fd1%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3a%22true%7d

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Declarations of Interest**
- 3 **Minutes of meeting held on 17 February 2020 and matters arising** (Pages 1 - 4)
- 4 **GMP Update (verbal/be tabled)**
- 5 **Nitrous Oxide - Briefing Note** (Pages 5 - 10)
- 6 **Work Programme 2020/21** (Pages 11 - 14)
- 7 **Any other business**
- 8 **Next Meeting - 19 October 2020**

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Agenda Item 3

COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

17th February 2020

Meeting commenced: 2.00 p.m.
“ ended: 3:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Burch - in the Chair

Councillors Barnes, Fletcher, Humphreys, Mullen, Ryan, Walker, Joan Walsh and Warner.

Councillor David Lancaster - Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety

OFFICERS: David Seager - Assistant Director, Operational and Commercial Services

Jeanette Staley - Head of Community Safety

Mike Relph - Senior Democratic Services Adviser

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Karen Garrido, Mullen and Turner.

2. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 20th January, 2020, were approved as a correct record.

3. PLACE DIRECTORATE BUDGET 2019/20 MONITORING

The Strategic Director for Place, submitted a report providing an update in relation to the budget position of his service groups, with specific reference to the following:-

- Revenue Budget 2019/20
- Capital Programme 2019/20
- Progress made towards the agreed savings programme 2019/20.

The Panel gave consideration to those particular elements of the wider Place Directorate Budget which fell within their particular scrutiny remit.

Reference was made to charges made for pest control services. Councillor David Lancaster commented these had previously been reluctantly introduced as part of the City Council's wider budget process, but remained competitive with comparable charges introduced by neighbouring local authorities in Greater Manchester

RESOLVED: THAT the report, specifically the Revenue Budget 2019/20, Capital Programme 2019/20, progress in achieving agreed savings for 2019/20, and further

measures to bring forecast expenditure back in line with the budget, be noted.

4. EMERGENCY PLANNING AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY APPROACH UPDATE

The Director for Place submitted a report providing an update on progress made jointly, by Salford's emergency planning lead and AGMA CCRU (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Civil Contingencies Resilience Unit) in relation to emergency preparedness and business continuity since January 2019. The report also detailed further work undertaken during the same period, to further develop the necessary skills and expertise to effectively discharge duties such as those highlighted under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

Members raised issues and commented on, and noted them, as follows:-

(a) Was there an ability to recoup costs incurred as result of power failures caused by utility companies? Such compensation was administered by Electricity North West and wherever feasible, the City Council took every reasonable action to recover any costs, which had been incurred as a result of emergencies.

(b) What were the nature of the emergency planning exercises undertaken? These were wide ranging and extensive. Often these took a desktop form, but on occasions could have a live incident simulation element.

(c) Was there any responsibility for emergency planning in schools? While links were made with schools and appropriate reasonable support provided, they were generally responsible for their own emergency planning.

(d) Thanks were extended to City Council officer's response to a recent event in Barton.

RESOLVED: THAT RESOLVED: THAT the report be noted, particularly:-

- The enhanced resilience to Salford City Council emergency planning and response capability since January 2019
- The robust programme of continuous maintenance, learning and improvement in place
- The breadth of incidents dealt with by Salford City Council and the learning identified;
- The forward plan for 2020
- The work underway around Business Continuity Planning

5. GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE AND CRIME PANEL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROGRESS AGAINST THE DEPUTY MAYORS STANDING TOGETHER PLAN EMERGENCY PLANNING AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY APPROACH UPDATE

The Director for Place submitted a report indicating in November 2019, the Chair of Panel, together with Salford's Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety had been invited to attend a meeting with the Greater Manchester (GM) Deputy Mayor for Policing, Crime, Fire and Criminal Justice, in order to highlight the

role of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel in scrutinising the work of the GM Deputy Mayor. In addition, the GM Deputy Mayor shared with them, progress reports in respect of the three priorities of the “Standing Together” plan, which was the GM Deputy Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan. This report provided details and summaries of the information which had been provided at this session, so it could now be shared with the other members of the Panel.

Members raised issues and commented on, and noted them, as follows:-

(a) The Panel’s role in considering the policing precept on the Council Tax set in Salford.

(b) The increase in domestic abuse incidents. It was acknowledged there was a slight increase, but this could be attributed to a greater willingness of victims of such abuse, to report it, arising from campaigns to raise public awareness of the issue and the support available.

(c) Reference was made to the statistic that, only 59% of people surveyed had confidence in the way Greater Manchester Police (GMP) dealt with emergency incidents. It was commented that the survey findings could be subjective on the part of respondents, as a result, the GM mayor had committed to review data on a quarterly basis and to assess this, against the actual circumstances of reported incidents, rather than purely on the perceptions of responders. It was commented a common perception amongst the public, was police services were under resourced. This was a major factor which potentially skewed feedback, but nonetheless remained relevant. The recent budgetary restraints which had seen reduction in GMP personnel, both police officers and support staff, despite best efforts to mitigate them, also had to be recognised as having a detrimental impact on the delivery of services and ultimately the public’s perception of them.

(d) Continuing problems following the introduction of the GMP iOPS computer system, particularly the sharing of information and crime statistics with elected members at a ward level. It was indicated this had caused some problems in this regard, but ward councillors continued to be kept up to date with regard to local matters, as well as provided with the supporting data, though not necessarily in the formats previously used. Work continued to resolve the problems with iOPS, which in turn would allow members to receive an enhanced level of briefing on local matters relevant to them.

(e) The use of nurses in police stations, particularly able to deal with persons suffering with mental health issues. This was a Greater Manchester wide initiative, which had recently begun to be rolled out.

(f) It was anticipated that each ward within Salford would each have a specific named police officer and police community safety officer, with the intention these would become the first point of contact for members of the public for non-emergency issues, in turn developing closer links between the local community and the police.

6. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

Members gave consideration to the Panel's Work Programme for 2019/20.

It was suggested that consideration be given to a visit to a school in Salford to observe the school meals service

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the Panel's Work Programme for 2019/20, be noted.

(2) THAT an update on the activities of the Environmental Protection Team in terms of tackling anti-social behaviour, be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Panel.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Details were provided of promotional material encouraging the correct disposal of chewing gum, preventing the anti-social problem it could cause.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday, 16th March, 2020, commencing at 2.00 pm.

Part 1: Open to the Public – Item No.

**REPORT OF
Assistant Director Healthcare Public Health**

**TO Community and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel
ON 21st September 2020**

TITLE: Nitrous Oxide Briefing Note

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Panel is requested to note the content of this briefing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

There has been local intelligence from our communities that the use of nitrous oxide is an area of concern for residents of Salford. The public health team coordinated a response in collaboration with Early Break (young persons' substance misuse service) and the Big Life assertive outreach team. Key findings included:

- 1) the predominant users were teenagers and young adults who had a licence to drive,
 - 2) the location of use witnessed was in empty car parks at night,
 - 3) the users either left the used nitrous oxide cannisters in the car park or fly-tipped them,
 - 4) this left litter in public places. The public health put an article in the August 2020 Salford Life magazine and continue to work with Early Break to ensure public health social media messages are being communicated. The Substance Misuse CSP (Community Safety Partnership) group is being re-instated; with a formative meeting held in August 2020 with GMP.
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

N/A

KEY DECISION:

NO

DETAILS:

Background

Laughing gas, 'hippy crack, Nos

Nitrous oxide is a colourless gas used clinically as a sedative and anaesthetic agent. It is also used in the catering industry as a mixing and foaming agent in the production of whipped cream, and is often contained in silver, pressurised containers.

Health effects

When inhaled nitrous oxide can make people feel happy, relaxed and giggly, hence the name 'laughing gas'; A single inhalation will result in effects starting almost immediately, peaking about 10-30 seconds after inhalation and then rapidly diminishing. If the dose is repeated effects reach a plateau about 30-60 seconds after the first breath. Whilst the user often feels back to normal within about two minutes after the last inhalation some users report that effects, such as a sense of well-being, can be felt for up to 30 minutes after last use. It can also lead to mild euphoria, feeling light-headed or dizzy and hallucinations. Some people experience headaches and/or nausea.

The gas is usually inhaled from a balloon that has been inflated using a whipped cream charger canister (example in picture below). A balloon may be passed around a group, with each person taking a 'gulp'.



The risk of harm from the use of nitrous oxide is generally low however Inhaling nitrous oxide can result in a lack of oxygen to the brain. This can result in a person falling unconscious and even dying through suffocation or heart problems. This risk is likely to be greater if the gas is consumed in an enclosed space.

Regular or heavy use of nitrous oxide has been linked to a deficiency in vitamin B12. This can lead to nerve damage which causes pain and tingling in the toes and fingers. Studies have also linked heavy use of the gas to some forms of anaemia.

The latest national figures for nitrous oxide deaths was published in 2017 with an average of 3.1 deaths per year. No deaths related to nitrous oxide were reported in Salford during this period. For comparison, over the same decade deaths from alcohol were of the order of 50,000 in the UK. From 1993 to 2015 there were 22 nitrous oxide related deaths reported in the UK; about one per year.

Legal Status

Nitrous oxide is not covered under the Misuse of Drugs Act. However, it is covered by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (PSA). Possession under the PSA is not an offence except in a 'custodial institution' (prison, young offender centre, removal centre etc.).

It is an offence to be found in possession of nitrous oxide with the intent to supply, offer to supply, import or export for its psychoactive effects. 'Supply of **nitrous oxide** for recreational purposes is **illegal** under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016'. This means anyone found to be selling or giving away **nitrous oxide** for illicit purposes could face up to seven years in prison and or an unlimited fine.

It is legal to sell or supply nitrous oxide as a propellant for whipped cream or for any other industrial purpose.

Litter / Environment

Use of nitrous oxide is frequently identified by discarded cannisters left by the roadside, this has been an ongoing cause of complaints by members of our public

In addition to the littering caused by the cannisters being left behind the balloons often used with them can have a deadly impact on local wildlife Nitrogen emissions such as nitrous oxides also contribute to particulate matter and acid rain. These cause respiratory problems and cancers for people and damage to forests and buildings. Nitrogenous gases also play an important role in global climate change contribution to stratospheric ozone depletion.

Current patterns of use

Recreational use is most popular in younger adults: Latest Estimates suggest that in England and Wales 8.7% of 16 to 24 year olds had taken nitrous oxide for its psychoactive effects compared with 2.3% of 25 to 59 year olds. Salford City Council has no quantitative data on local patterns of use; nitrous oxide users rarely feel the need to access support services. The information from Early Break suggests that very few people (only 1 in Salford in 2020) report nitrous oxide as a drug used.

Qualitative intelligence about young people's use in Salford

Based on information from Early Break who interviewed local young people in two areas of Salford on the night of Friday 10th July 2020 along with the outreach team from Big Life, they have summarised their understanding as:

- Key users appear to be young adults who can drive.
- Drivers stop their car and empty cannisters onto the road.
- Most young people using nitrous oxide are not known to the substance misuse services
- Young people use nitrous oxide as “a bit of a buzz”
- Older youths who drive come later in the night, use the cannisters and often leave them in car parks.
- The Early Break team found evidence of discharged cannisters corroborating with what the young people were saying.
- Young people identified at least one alleged local supplier of nitrous oxide
Work with Trading Standards and GMP is essential; consideration that this situation potentially creates an opportunity for grooming and or exploitation is imperative. The information was shared with colleagues in Trading Standards and GMP and the following update has been provided;

Action to address nitrous oxide Use in Salford

The substance misuse lead in the Public Health department has been working with our comms team on an approach based on:

- An article in Life magazine in August
- Posters distributed to shops, fast food outlets and possibly pubs via our Neighbourhood Managers
- A web page on the council website
- A message to parents to be shared via high schools and partners to their staff
- Early Break continues to drive communications via social media routes to warn about harms to health related with recreational use of nitrous oxide.

Additionally, the CSP-Substance Misuse Working Group is being re-established and will meet in September. Some of these issues will be discussed further with partners from GMP, Community Safety, Neighbourhood Managers and Trading Standards to ensure the issues around supply and littering are addressed.

Following consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety support is to be given to ongoing national campaigns seeking a review of current legislation in relation to the sale and use of nitrous oxide as well as raising the matter with the local members of parliament and requesting they raise the matter with H.M. Government.

KEY COUNCIL POLICIES:

Community Safety Plan

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

ASSESSMENT OF RISK:

Low

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS Supplied by:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Supplied by:

N/A

PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS Supplied by:

N/A

HR IMPLICATIONS Supplied by:

N/A

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS Supplied by:

N/A

OTHER DIRECTORATES CONSULTED:

Place, GMP

CONTACT OFFICER:

TEL NO: 603 4171

Nicky Herne / May Moonan

WARDS TO WHICH REPORT RELATES:

All

Community and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2020/21

SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE DATES & AGENDA ITEMS		
Date	Topic/Action	Responsible officer(s)
21 st September 2020	GMP Briefing/Update Nitrous Oxide	Jeanette Staley/GMP
19 th October 2020	Waste Strategy and GM Contract - Update	David Seager
16 th November 2020	Citywide Commercial Catering (focus on school meals service) - Update Bereavement Services - Update	Dominic Clarke Dominic Clarke
<i>December</i>	<i>No meeting</i>	-
18 th January	TBC	

Community and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2020/21

ABEYANCE LIST

ABEYANCE LIST	
Protocol for Managing Unauthorised Encampments - current legislation and requirements of local authorities (<i>information provided further consideration by Panel required to be confirmed</i>)	Stephen Kearney/ Peter Openshaw
Greater Manchester Fire Plan (<i>consultation currently postponed</i>)	
GMFRS Programme for Change	
Update on disabled access to cemeteries and surrounding grounds (TBC)	
Unreported crime and its impact in resulting discrepancies in GMP crime statistics (TBC)	
Salford City Council Call Centre Performance (TBC)	

Community and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2020/21

Portfolio of the Board	Membership
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Safety 2. Communities and Neighbourhoods 3. Regulatory Services (including Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Licensing) 4. Operational Services (including Citywide, bereavement, operational transport, refuse and street cleansing, parks management, grounds maintenance) 5. Salford Community Leisure Client 6. Cultural strategy 7. to be the designated Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee 8. To scrutinise the council's business plan and budget in this functional area. 	<p>Councillor Burch (Chair) Councillor Karen Garrido (Deputy Chair) Councillor Barnes Councillor Fletcher Councillor Humphreys Councillor Mullen Councillor Ryan Councillor Turner Councillor Walker Councillor Joan Walsh Councillor Warner Councillor Wheeler</p>

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