

COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY PANEL

21 September 2020

Meeting commenced: 2.05 p.m.
“ ended: 4:10 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Burch - in the Chair

Councillors Barnes, Fletcher, Karen Garrido, Humphreys, Mullen, Ryan, Turner and Joan Walsh.

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

John Wooderson - Head of Service, Urban Renewal

Tom Martin - Chief Inspector, Greater Manchester Police

Mike Relph - Senior Democratic Services Adviser

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Walker, Warner and Wheeler

2. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 17th February, 2020, were approved as a correct record.

3. NITROUS OXIDE

The Assistant Director Healthcare Public Health submitted a report indicating there had been local intelligence the use of nitrous oxide was an increasing concern for Salford residents. The public health team in response, had coordinated a response in collaboration with Early Break (young persons' substance misuse service) and the Big Life assertive outreach team, from which it had been ascertained:

- users were predominantly teenagers and young adults who had a licence to drive
- location of use was chiefly in empty car parks at night
- users either left the used nitrous oxide cannisters in the car park or fly tipped
- significant litter was left in public places as a result.

The public health team had placed an article in the August 2020 Salford Life magazine and continued to work with Early Break to ensure public health social media messages were being communicated. The Substance Misuse CSP (Community Safety

Partnership) group was also being re-instated, with an initial meeting held with GMP on 8th August 2020.

Details were also provided about the enforcement action undertaken by the relevant teams of the Regulatory Services division, but this was generally limited by the powers available to them under current legislation and those which applied to the sale of nitrous oxide and its use.

Following consultation with the Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety, support was 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.

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

(a) As it had a legitimate use in the catering industry, there were currently no restrictions on the amounts of the product which could be purchased.

(b) It was agreed that misuse was a common and growing problem amongst people in their 30s.

(c) The urgent need to for the revision of current legislation with regard to sale and use of was recognised.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the report be noted.

(2) THAT the Lead Member for Environment and Community Safety decision for Salford City Council to support current national campaigns seeking a review of current legislation in relation to the sale and use of nitrous oxide, together with the matter being raised with the local members of parliament and requesting they raise the matter with H.M. Government, be endorsed and the Panel be committed to provide any practical backing for this as allowed by its remit.

4. GMP (GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE) UPDATE

Tom Martin provided an update and general overview of GMP activity in Salford over the past 12 months in relation to the following key areas/themes:

- key issues/priorities (what types of crime/ASB which were the most prevalent and the focus of activities)
- summary of all crime/ASB types
- challenges
- successes/achievements
- staffing/establishment in the Salford Division and any pressures on this and other resources
- issues specifically arising during the Covid-19 Emergency
- future activities/plans
- crime involving young people, particularly that which seen as “gang” orientated and how this was being dealt with, together with

preventative/intervention work to discourage young people now involved in low level and nuisance crime, moving onto more serious criminal activity.

The update was broken down to reflect the North East (Broughton, Kersal Trinity, Swinton and Pendlebury), North West (Little Hulton, Walkden, Worsley, Boothstown and Ellenbrook), South West (Eccles, Barton, Monton, Winton. Irlam and Cadishead) and South East (Ordsall, Langworthy, Claremont, Weaste, Irlam O' th Heights and Salford Quays) areas of Salford.

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

(a) What impact would current Covid-19 social distancing regulations have in terms of misuse of fireworks and an increase in private bonfire celebrations. It was acknowledged this was likely to be an increased problem this year and would present a new challenge and different focus for the annual Operation Treacle campaign, which took place during October and November and aimed to address anti-social behaviour, particularly amongst young people and generally arose from both Halloween and November 5th Bonfire celebrations.

(b) Problems arising from young people gathering in the vicinity of the shopping precinct in Little Hulton would be referred to local officers for investigation.

(c) The potential and benefits in using drones as a crime prevention tool.

(d) On going issues with the GMP iOPS crime data recording system and resulting sometimes limited or outdated information provided to local ward councillors.

(e) While an even distribution of officers and other resources across Salford was the aim, the changing demands arising from individual areas of the City and emergencies would result in their redistribution.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT Chief Inspector Martin be thanked for his comprehensive update, the contents of which were noted.

(2) THAT the Panel thanks and appreciation be extended to all GMP staff in Salford for their work on behalf of the residents of Salford.

5. WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

Members gave consideration to the Panel's Work Programme for 2020/21.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the Panel's Work Programme for 2020/21, be noted.

(2) THAT the following issues be incorporated into the Panel's Work Programme 2020/21 and arrangements made for them to be considered at a future meeting(s):

- Dog Fouling - renewal of existing Public Space Protection Orders
- Pest Control Update specifically extent of rat problem

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday, 19th October, 2020, commencing at 2.00 pm.