

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

23 April 2019

Task Group and Programme Boards Representatives Updates

Purpose

To provide an update on recent task group and programme board activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

1. Homelessness Strategy Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Matthew Dean

Cllr David Halik

Cllr Deborah Halik

Cllr Gordon King

Cllr Pip Ridout

Cllr Tom Rounds

Cllr Graham Wright (Chairman)

Supporting Officer: Natalie Heritage

Terms of Reference:

1. To support the development of a Homelessness Strategy which aims to prevent and reduce homelessness in Wiltshire by considering:
 - a) Partnership working arrangements - which can help to facilitate a holistic response to the causes of homelessness and the accessibility of advice and information around homelessness and housing options
 - b) Projections of homelessness in the county
 - c) The availability of suitable and appropriate accommodation
 - d) Provision for the needs of vulnerable groups deemed as most at risk of homelessness
 - e) The reasons why individuals become either at risk of or homeless
2. To meet every 8 weeks or on an ad-hoc basis as appropriate, until the conclusion of the Cabinet's work in in drafting a Homelessness Strategy September 2019.

Recent activity:

The Task Group met on 11 March 2019, to discuss findings from independent interviews that they had conducted with letting agents and private landlords in their division. The meeting showed that demand for rental properties appears to outstrip

supply and that partnership working between the Council and private rented sector could be improved. The Task Group are due to meet with the Executive on 15 April to discuss their evidence and how this could be incorporated into the Homelessness Strategy.

Separately, in consultation with the Chairman, it was agreed that Cllr Walsh step down from the Task Group.

Proposal

For the Environment Select Committee to endorse the stepping-down of Cllr John Walsh from the Homelessness Strategy Task Group, and the Group continuing to operate with seven members, as follows:

- **Cllr Matthew Dean**
- **Cllr David Halik**
- **Cllr Deborah Halik**
- **Cllr Gordon King**
- **Cllr Pip Ridout**
- **Cllr Tom Rounds**
- **Cllr Graham Wright**

2. Late-Night Taxi Fares Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Derek Brown OBE

Cllr Brian Dalton

Cllr Matthew Dean

Cllr Peter Evans

Cllr Ian McLennan

The Late Cllr Graham Payne (Chairman)

Terms of Reference:

In the context of the Salisbury recovery effort and reports of high late-night fares being charged in the Salisbury area,

1. To investigate whether the current schedule of late-night tariffs for Hackney carriages, as adopted by the Licensing Committee in 2014,
 - a) Is supportive of Wiltshire's night time economy (NTE)
 - b) Is comparable to, and competitive with, night time centres in adjoining counties
 - c) Provides a fair system across all parts of the county.
2. To make any evidenced recommendations for improvement as appropriate.

Recent activity:

As resolved at 8 January 2019 Environment Select Committee, the Licensing Committee considered the Task Group's final report at their 11 March 2019 meeting.

The Licensing Committee agreed to set up a working group to consider the taxi tariffs across Wiltshire and members hope that this exercise can be concluded swiftly. The Committee signalled that they would now take ownership of the matter.

For information - the full minute from Licensing Committee can be accessed [here](#).

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