
**SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - REDUCING DRUG RELATED LITTER IN
SOUTHAMPTON**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2017

Present: Councillors Coombs, Fitzhenry, Fuller, McEwing, Noon and Vassiliou

Apologies: Councillor Whitbread

Also Present: Councillor Shields, Cabinet Member Health and Community Safety

1. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

The apologies of Councillor Whitbread were noted.

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Councillor McEwing be elected as Chair for the Municipal Year 2017/18; and
- (ii) Councillor Fuller be elected as Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

3. **INQUIRY TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Panel considered the report of the Service Director, Legal and Governance setting out the terms of reference and the project plan for the Inquiry.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the terms of reference as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted; and
- (ii) that the outline inquiry project plan as set out in the terms of reference be approved.

4. **DRUG RELATED LITTER IN SOUTHAMPTON - INTRODUCTION, CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND**

The Panel considered the report of the Service Director, Legal and Governance setting out the introduction, context and background to the issue of drug related litter in Southampton.

Following discussions with invited representatives the Panel concluded that:

- Southampton has a proactive and largely effective approach to removing drug related litter in public places. Litter is usually removed before it is found by the general public. It is hoped that the new City Welfare Wardens will further improve the position.

- The approach to recording and sharing data on drug related litter is positive and not followed by all local authorities.
- There is an opportunity to include Housing Association data within the drug related litter statistics.
- The impact of the night time closure of SCC car parks on drug related litter, and the potential to displace the problem is not known.
- The process by which drug related litter is reported to the Council by members of the public and agencies needs to be reviewed to ensure that it is simple and understood.
- The main health risk from injury due to drug related litter is likely to be from stress and psychological trauma.
- The majority of drug related litter disposed of irresponsibly in public places is by rough sleepers and those not resident in the city. The number of people thought to responsible for this drug related litter is between 20 and 50.
- The Needle Exchange service is a cost effective harm reduction service that provides an entry point to treatment and support.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the comments from the Cabinet Member for Health and Community Safety, outlining the Executive's position on reducing drug litter in the city and residents of Southampton who had been invited to provide the Panel with an insight into the impact that drug related litter had had on them and their communities be noted and used as evidence in the review;
- (ii) that the presentations received from the Service Director – Transactions and Universal Services and the Street Cleansing Manager, providing the Panel with an overview of drug litter finds in Southampton as well as a presentation detailing an understanding of the approaches employed in Southampton to reduce drug related litter, what appeared to be effective and where improvements could be made were also used as evidence in the review.