

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD	AGENDA ITEM: 12
<p>DATE OF MEETING: 7TH FEBRUARY 2011</p> <p>REPORT AUTHOR: ANGELA FRASER, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COORDINATOR</p> <p>SUBJECT: FINAL REPORT OF THE TACKLING ALCOHOL-RELATED CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP</p>	

PURPOSE:

1. To present the final report and recommendations of the 'Tackling alcohol-related Crime and Disorder' Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

2. The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to approve the Final Report of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group that is attached as an Appendix and to consider and agree the recommendations below, for submission to the Executive meeting on 14th February 2011 and the Community Safety Executive meeting on 10th February 2011.

The recommendations:

3. **The Council's Executive and Community Safety Executive should provide their full support to Luton's bid for Purple Flag status and set up without delay a strategic group of high level officers and stakeholders from the commercial sector and elsewhere in the community to develop a vision for Luton's town centre night-time economy. (Page 7)**
4. **The Council's Executive should reinstate the post of the Town Centre Manager who duties should include the development of a strategic plan for the regeneration of the town centre economy, with particular emphasis on the development and management of the night-time economy, and the coordination of policing and council enforcement resources. (Page 7)**
5. **The Council's Executive should instruct the Children and Learning Department to carefully examine the proposed design and operation of the new 'TOKKO' youth centre in Gordon Street, with a view to ensuring full consideration is given to the safe management of the facility and the welfare of users and staff. (Page 8)**

- 6. The Overview and Scrutiny Board and Council's Executive should acknowledge the financial contributions made by the Community Safety Executive and the Council towards the initial set up and maintenance costs of the SOS Bus. The NHS as a key beneficiary (namely; the East of England Ambulance Service and the Accident and Emergency Department at Luton and Dunstable Hospital) should be encouraged to make an ongoing financial contribution towards the maintenance of the SOS Bus.**
- 7. The Council's Executive should consider, pending the introduction of any new legislation, the feasibility of encouraging, in collaboration with licensed premises, shops, supermarkets and other retail outlets, the setting of a minimum unit price for alcohol in an effort to tackle and reduce alcohol-related crime and disorder and health problems that are associated with irresponsible drinking; and should invite Luton's Members of Parliament to lobby the Government to bring in a national legal framework for the minimum unit pricing of alcohol. (Page 13)**
- 8. The Council's Executive and NHS Luton should prioritise resources towards alcohol education, prevention and treatment programmes, and should lobby Government to provide resources to at least the same level as funding available for drug treatment programmes. (Page 14)**
- 9. The Council's Executive should review licensing and planning policies in order to ensure that licensing and planning policy is joined up, and in order to diversify Luton's town centre economy. (Page 17)**
- 10. The Council's Executive should ensure that all available licensing and planning powers are used, in order to prevent the town centre being overloaded with the same type of businesses, such as licensed fast food outlets, which damage the nature appearance of the area and contribute to anti-social behaviour. (Page 17)**
- 11. The Council's Executive and the Community Safety Executive should ensure there is more visible policing and enforcement in the town centre during the day, in order to deter nuisance street drinkers.**
- 12. The Overview and Scrutiny Board should acknowledge that there are limited public resources available to fund these recommendations and to request that the Council's Executive and the Community Safety Executive should:**
 - a. Accept that tackling alcohol-related crime and disorder is a priority and target existing resources towards it;**
 - b. Explore the feasibility of developing proposals to utilise funding opportunities including for the creation of Business Improvement Districts and the new night-time economy business levy;**
 - c. Seek support from business to support and fund the development and management of the town centre night-time economy. (Page 20)**

REPORT:

13. The Final Report of the 'Tackling alcohol-related crime and disorder' Scrutiny Task and Finish Group is attached at an Appendix.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

14. There are no legal implications within this report. Agreed by Graham Cole – Solicitor, Legal Services on 26th January 2011.