

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**UPDATE FROM CABINET TO
ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT & PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Submitted by: Cabinet

Portfolios: All

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide a response to the Scrutiny Committee on items previously raised by Committee Members at the last meeting on 18th June 2020.

Recommendation

That the response from Cabinet be received and noted.

1. **Police Presence In The Town**

The Chair, Councillor Gary White asked for feedback on engagement with the Police.

Response from Cabinet:

Newcastle Borough Council will continue to work in partnership with Staffordshire Police to ensure that any identified community safety matters are addressed in the form of supportive interventions and enforcement where necessary, whilst instilling community reassurances. Any enforcement measures shall be dealt with on a partnership basis assessing both need for criminal and civil enforcement for any individuals acting in a disorderly fashion. This is already ongoing and will continue through the period of July and thereafter following continued monitoring, reviewing and partnership consultation with other service areas and businesses.

There shall throughout the period of July be a coordinated presence within the town centre which will consist of partnership days of action / meet your local officer days / table tops in accesses and Police Community van shall be present. These shall consist of not just the Police but a range of community safety focused partners from within the Newcastle Partnership such as the BID, housing, drug and alcohol services, homelessness services, benefits support, fire and rescue, licensing and environmental services amongst a few. Services will be there to speak to members of the public regarding a variety of issues and shall be ensuring that throughout all businesses are visited. Police presence and any planned police operations will also be utilising the recently implemented CCTV throughout the town. Monitoring officers shall be involved and ensure that any concerning matters where Police presence is needed shall be contacted direct on the Police radio network to ensure resources can be implemented.

2. **Cleaning Of The Car Parking Machines**

Councillor Dave Jones asked about the frequency of cleaning the machines and Councillor Amelia Rout asked about having sight of a Risk Assessment about the sanitisation of the machines.

Response from Cabinet:

Please see PDF document attached re Risk Assessment Machine Cleaning.

3. **Footfall Into The Town Centre**

The Chair, Councillor Gary White asked for feedback on footfall in the town centre and a further update in a month's time.

Response from Cabinet:

Please see PDF documents attached.

Additionally, the following measures have been undertaken to assist Newcastle town centre to get back on track:

- Provided businesses with advice regarding Covid Secure arrangements that they would be required to implement;
- Deployed a range of signage to encourage social distancing;
- With the Business Improvement District , provided a visible presence in the town to encourage social distancing and identify any businesses which require additional advice or locations where securing social distancing is problematic;
- Provided market traders with six weeks of trading free of pitch fees;
- Offered regular market traders whose primary income is taken from Newcastle market a discretionary business grant;
- Launched a "Shop Local" campaign to encourage support for local businesses;
- Issued a range of press releases to communicate positive messages about town centre re-opening;
- Used social media feeds to share information on businesses that were trading in an adapted way or that were open in the town centre;
- Supported the #ShopSafelyinStaffs campaign including local filming in Newcastle and Kidsgrove.

Through discussions with businesses and the Business Improvement District it is felt that it is not the appropriate time to send out a survey to businesses as they are all focussed on the reopening and their new trading conditions. In addition to the support offered above the Council and the BID are working to give support in response to individual requests for help as and when they come in. The Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider further review of this with the Business Improvement District at a future committee meeting.

4. **New Recycling Service Leafleting**

The Chair, Councillor Gary White asked about the New Recycling Service Leaflets.

Response from Cabinet:

Recycling & Waste Services will be undertaking additional audits of bin and bag distribution to ensure residents have received the correct information about the new service and what they need to do in terms of their next recycling collection. These audits consist of officers from the Council contacting residents either by phone or via door knocking to check they have the correct information.