

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 21 DECEMBER 2017

STARRED ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MINUTES

TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE LOCALITY COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2017

7. SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

- 7.1 There had been circulated a report from Station Manager Russell Bell, Hawick Fire Station, presenting service delivery activity in the Teviot and Liddesdale Area for the month of November 2017. In summary, the report detailed that during the period of the report there had been one deliberate house fire; two special service occurrences and 10 unwanted fire signals. Mr Bell was also pleased to report that there had been no issues in the Hawick area on bonfire night.
- 7.2 Mr Bell went on to advise that unfortunately, the Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest trial had been suspended, until national negotiations with the Fire Brigades' Union had been concluded. Firefighters in the region were disappointed with this decision, the trial's aim was to dramatically increase patients' survival chances and they had already assisted in saving a number of lives. It was hoped that the service would be reinstated as soon as possible. It was noted that at the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board meeting on 10 November, the Board had expressed their disappointment with this decision to the Chair of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Board who was in attendance at the meeting. Members agreed that the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, should also write to the Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service expressing disappointment at the decision and that it was hoped this valuable service would be reinstated as soon as possible.

DECISION

- * **AGREED TO RECOMMEND to Scottish Borders Council that the Convener write to the Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service expressing concern that the Out of Hours Cardiac Arrest trial has been suspended.**

CIVIC GOVERNMENT LICENSING COMMITTEE – 18 NOVEMBER 2017

3. TAXI DRIVER AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER MEDICAL ASSESSMENTS

There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Regulatory Services which sought approval for the introduction of a formal policy regulating the assessment of medical fitness to drive taxi and private hire cars. The report explained that the Council as Licensing Authority for the Scottish Borders area was responsible for the licensing of taxi drivers and private hire car drivers under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. In April 2016 the DVLA issued guidance to Licensing Authorities which recommended that taxi drivers and private hire car drivers should be medically assessed to a Group 2 driving licence standard as required for lorry and bus drivers. In November 2016 the Scottish Government wrote to the Conveners of all Licensing Authorities in Scotland specifically directing them to the updated guidance issued by DVLA. The recommendation contained in the report followed the conclusions of the Working Group set up to assess the need for a policy as explained in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of the report. In the event that the introduction of the policy was approved then Officers within the Council's Licensing Team would require to intimate the adoption and implementation date of the policy to the Taxi trade and to notify and liaise with the medical profession. In addition, Officers within the Council's Licensing Team would require to make appropriate amendments to the application forms and to the conditions attached to the grant of taxi driver and private hire car driver licences to make it mandatory for licence holders to report any disability or medical condition which may affect their ability to drive to the Council's Licensing Team.

DECISION

- * **AGREED TO RECOMMEND to Council the introduction of a policy requiring all taxi and private hire drivers licensed by Scottish Borders Council to be medically assessed to DVLA Group 2 standards:**

- (i) **From the age of 18 and thereafter reassessed at age 45**
- (ii) **From age 45 onwards reassessed on a five year basis.**
- (iii) **From Age 65 to be reassessed on an annual basis.**
- (iv) **In the event of a disability or medical condition which may affect an applicant's ability to drive being disclosed to the Council's Licensing Team whilst the grant of a licence is in force.**

AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 30 NOVEMBER 2017

2. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2017-2018

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of 26 October 2017, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Executive which sought approval for areas for Scrutiny review as part of a future Scrutiny work programme to be approved by Council. The report explained that as detailed in the Scheme of Administration, the Audit and Scrutiny Committee was required to develop an annual programme of work for approval by Council. There were a number of ways in which the Audit and Scrutiny Committee could proceed with reviews – either by Information Briefing, Hearing, or Working Group review. The final proposed work programme was detailed in the Appendix to the report and while it was normal practice to submit an annual work programme to Council, it was proposed that due to the timing of the proposals, the work programme take place over 15 months. Any other areas submitted for review in that period would be considered by Audit and Scrutiny Committee and approval sought from Council for inclusion in the work programme as appropriate. The report detailed the proposed reviews and there was some discussion about the prioritisation of reviews. Members agreed that the Home Schooling Update and the 2G and 3G Sports Pitches Update be considered first as these were the two which had been outstanding the longest and that the remaining reviews be considered in the order detailed in the Appendix.

DECISION

AGREED:-

- (a) **the Scrutiny review work programme as detailed in the Appendix to this Minute;**
- * (b) **to recommend approval to Council of the Scrutiny work programme from January 2018 to March 2019 as detailed in the Appendix to this Minute;**
- (c) **to consider in future - as appropriate - additional items for inclusion in the Scrutiny work programme, with Council approval, up until March 2019; and**
- (d) **that the Home Schooling Update and the 2G and 3G Sports Pitches updates be considered as a matter of priority and the remaining programme of reviews be undertaken in the order detailed in the Appendix .**

Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19

	Review subject	Outcome/Lead Officer
1	Home Schooling Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation giving an update on any legislative or guidance changes to home schooling requirements from the previous Scrutiny review carried out in February 2017. (Lead Officer: Donna Manson, Service Director Children & Young People)
2	2G and 3G Pitches Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation giving an update on 2G and 3G artificial pitch provision in the Scottish Borders from the previous Scrutiny review carried out in February 2017. (Lead Officer: Martin Joyce, Service Director Assets & Infrastructure)
3	Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater understanding of how the Integration Joint Board is delivering the Health and Social Care Strategic Plan to improve the lives of Borderers and meet the growth demands in the care sector. (Lead Officer: Rob McCulloch-Graham, Chief Officer, H&SCI)
4	SB Cares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The performance of SB Cares in relation to the aims and targets set within SB Cares Business Plan. (Lead Officer (SB Cares): Philip Barr, Managing Director, SB Cares)
5	Delivery of the IT Strategy and Plan within Scottish Borders Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm the deliverables set out in the ICT programme are in place to deliver the business transformation programme and other corporate plan outcomes (Lead Officer: David Robertson, Chief Financial Officer)
6	Community Access to Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure community groups and the public make full use of availability of infrastructure in schools for learning, leisure and sport. (Lead Officer: Martin Joyce, Service Director Assets & Infrastructure)