

Overview and Scrutiny Newsletter

Issue 4 November 2005

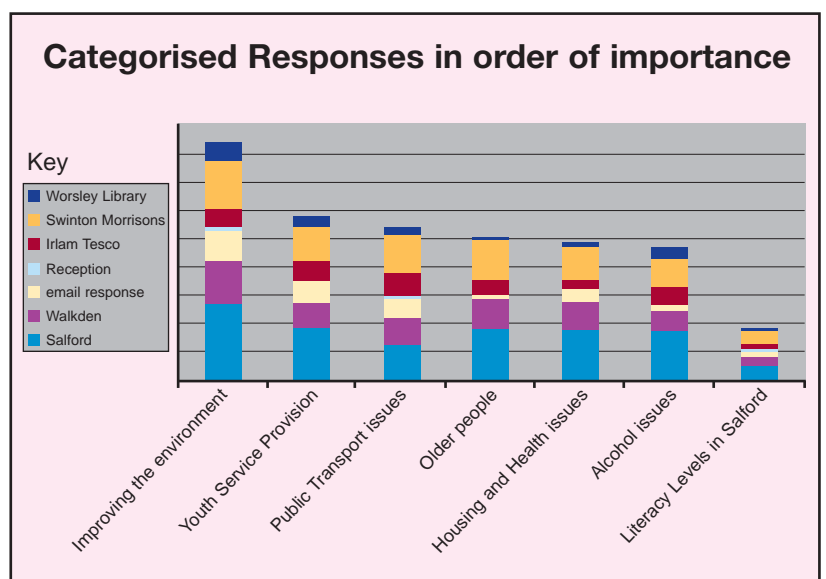
Have Your Say – What you said!

You may remember that in the last edition, we reported on the work programme event held in May and the “Have Your Say” questionnaire which we had produced to find out public views on the priority issues for overview and scrutiny over the coming year.

A range of methods was used to circulate the questionnaire:

- Council’s website and intranet
- Scrutiny newsletter
- Displays in council reception area
- Distribution to Community Committees and libraries
- Direct approach at a range of local shopping centres and supermarkets (Salford, Swinton, Walkden and Irlam) and a coffee morning at Worsley Library.

The graph above shows the overall responses in order of importance.



Whilst the issues identified at the work programme event were not felt to be any great surprise, the consultation process gave us the opportunity to do a “reality check” – were the issues that had been identified of importance to the public? Were any additional issues missing? Were there particular aspects of these issues which caused concern – for example, “alcohol issues” elicited concerns about youths drinking on the street, binge drinking and impact on crime and disorder, rather than any focus on health impacts.

Whilst no additional specific issues were identified, there were a number of general comments made which should help inform and shape the reviews in question and further analysis will be carried out on these.

Having considered the results of the consultation, the Scrutiny Chairs Group agreed the following actions at their meeting in September 2005.

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Have Your Say – What you Said!

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Improving the Environment

Piece of work to be developed under Environment, Housing and Planning Scrutiny Committee

Youth Service Provision

Referred to Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Public Transport Issues

To organise a stakeholder event to gather baseline information on current work in this area to identify scope for a scrutiny commission.

Older People's Services

A detailed review to be undertaken by the Community, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Housing and Health Issues

To be determined as appropriate by relevant committees

Alcohol

A commission to be established to carry out an in depth review

Literacy levels

To be monitored as appropriate by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Parenting

Scrutiny Commission on Corporate Parenting

During December 2004 a scrutiny commission was set up to look at how the council and its partners fulfil their responsibilities as Corporate Parents. Since then the commission have met with a wide range of people including directors, elected members, social workers, foster carers and young people. The commission also took evidence of good practice from Bolton MBC and Knowsley MBC.

The Corporate Parenting Commission have now produced a report on the work they have been undertaking which contains 23 recommendations which centre around 6 key themes:-

- Placement stability
- Education and employment opportunities
- Employment and training opportunities
- Pre and post care issues
- Health and well-being
- Structural issues

On 2 November a formal launch of the report was held at Swinton Park Golf Club. The event, which was chaired by Councillor Bernard Pennington, was well attended by over 70 people from a wide range of backgrounds and interests including foster carers and young people. The launch was formally opened by the Mayor and there were several speakers – the guest speaker was Phil Frampton, who as a child spent all his time in care and has written for the local and national press and been a member of the Cabinet Office advisory group on the education of young people in care. Phil highlighted several of the recommendations as crucial in making a difference to children and young people in care in Salford and endorsed the work of the commission as an excellent example of how the council will hopefully come together with its partners to improve the lives of children and young people in its care.

The hard work really starts now. The Cabinet are currently looking at the report to see which of the recommendations can be undertaken in the short term, medium term and long term and are expected to report back their findings during November/December of this year. A sub-group is to be established to monitor the implementation of the recommendations and to ensure that they are acted upon. The sub-group will also be undertaking further work in relation to after care provision for children looked after and out of borough placements.

For a copy of the report or for further information please contact Amanda Carbery on 0161-793 3316 or a copy can be downloaded from the scrutiny website www.salford.gov.uk/scrutiny

Access to GPs

The Community, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub Group are currently undertaking a piece of work looking at how people access the services of their local GPs in Salford. There has been a lot in the press lately about government targets and changes in the way doctor's appointment systems are operated.

Currently you should be able to make an appointment to see a doctor within 48 hours if you need to. You should also be able to make an appointment more than 2 days in advance if this suits your needs.

What do you think?

We are interested in hearing the views of local people about this issue, in particular:

- When making an appointment did you manage to get one in 2 days?
- Could you book an appointment more than 2 days in advance if required?
- Was your booking experience a positive one?
- Do you know who to complain to if you have any problems?
- Do you have any practical idea as to how access to GPs could be improved?

You can send your views by email to scrutiny.support@salford.gov.uk or by writing to Councillor Jane Murphy, who chairs this group, care of the Scrutiny Support Team at the address below:

Freepost
NWW1358
Swinton
M27 7BD

Alcohol Commission

A Scrutiny commission to investigate alcohol related issues is to be launched on the 7th December 2005. As highlighted during the recent consultation exercise reported earlier, the public have raised various concerns regarding alcohol; for example young people drinking on the streets, shops selling to under age youths, alcohol fuelled behaviour and concerns about the extended licensing laws. As a commission we want to consider present strategies and policies, the work undertaken by the city council and partners as well as taking on board the comments of members of the community and voluntary organisations.

If you would like any further information please contact Karen Lucas on 0161 793 3318 or by email karen.lucas@salford.gov.uk

Recycling, Waste Management and Green Procurement

The recycling commission have been working with representatives from WRAP (Waste Resource and Action Programme) to look at the paper contract for the authority, in order to change to recycled paper. This contract is currently out for tender and will be agreed shortly.

The chair of the recycling commission, Cllr Roger Lightup will be attending Cabinet to receive their response to the report submitted at a previous meeting.

Members have received positive feedback from the companies who have received Fast Track visits from Envirowise – this visit outlines environmental savings that can be made by the company e.g. in terms of water and electricity. The commission will arrange a further event with Envirowise early in 2006 to encourage more suppliers to take part in this work and help prepare for the Environmental Procurement Policy and reduce the environmental impact of their business.

The next issue to be considered by the recycling commission is waste minimisation within the authority.

If you would like to be involved in this work or would like further information please contact Linda Sharples on 0161 793 3324

Crime and Disorder Sub Group

Achieving a reduction in crime is one of the biggest challenges facing Salford. It is recognised that crime and disorder and the fear of crime have a significant and damaging impact on our city and its various communities.

The sub group is presently considering how we educate young people on what behaviour is acceptable and taking responsibility for one's own actions. The meetings take place on the second Monday of the month at 2.00pm. (venue to be confirmed.)

In July 2005 the sub group Chair, Councillor David Lewis, presented a report to Cabinet detailing their findings following a piece of work on anti social behaviour. A copy of this report is available to download from the scrutiny website www.salford.gov.uk/scrutiny

If you are interested in becoming involved in this sub group or would like further details please contact Karen Lucas On 0161 793 3318 or by email karen.lucas@salford.gov.uk

Community Facilities work

We are establishing a local scrutiny initiative within the Swinton area focusing on community facilities in terms of need and capacity. The idea is to use this as a pilot with a view to extending across other areas in the city.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this initiative or would like further details please contact Jenna Lancaster on 0161 793 3538 or by email jenna.lancaster@salford.gov.uk

Overview and Scrutiny

The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to look at the services and issues that effect the lives of people in Salford.

Its about listening to the concerns of local people and checking how the council and other organisations are performing and where necessary seeking improvement.

General enquiries can be e-mailed to:

scrutiny.support@salford.gov.uk.

Or write to Overview and Scrutiny Support, Salford Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton, Salford M27 5BN.

Jenna Lancaster 0161 793 3538 or Janet Taylor 0161 793 3515

Fax: 0161 794 2027

Alternatively, if you wish to raise a specific matter with a particular scrutiny committee, the individual committee contacts are:

Budget and Audit

Monitoring the council's budgetary processes

peter.kidd@salford.gov.uk, 0161-793 3322

Strategy and Regeneration

Working to make Salford a safer and more prosperous place to live and work

karen.lucas@salford.gov.uk, 0161-793 3318

Children's Services

Aiming for every child to get the best possible start in life, as well as supporting young people, they work closely with the Children's Services Directorate to oversee service delivery

amanda.carbery@salford.gov.uk, 0161-793 3316

Customer and Support Services

Working with council directorates to measure efficiency and statutory compliance, making sure that public money is spent effectively by providing value for money services

peter.kidd@salford.gov.uk, 0161-793 3322

Community, Health and Social Care

Working with the Community, Health and Social Care Directorate and NHS organisations to help make Salford a healthier city in which to live

karen.dainty@salford.gov.uk, 0161-793 2513

Environment, Housing and Planning

Works with the Environment Directorate and Housing & Planning Directorate to ensure that Salford is a clean city and that every person has a quality home. They also ensure that city planning is carried out effectively

linda.sharples@salford.gov.uk, 0161-793 3324