



**PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25 JULY 2023**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR N H PEPPER (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors M R Clarke, Mrs N F Clarke, A Dani, A M Key and E J Sneath.

Councillors: C Matthews (Executive Support Councillor NHS Liaison, Integrated Care System Registration and Coroners), A P Maughan (Executive Support Councillor Fire and Rescue and Cultural Services) and D McNally (Executive Councillor Waste and Trading Standards) attended the meeting as observers remotely, via Teams.

Councillors S P Roe (Executive Support Councillor Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration) and Mrs S Woolley (Executive Councillor NHS Liaison, Integrated Care System, Registration and Coroners) attended the meeting as observers.

Officers in attendance:-

Mark Baxter (Chief Fire Officer), Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Katrina Cope (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Louise Egan (Library and Heritage Client Lead), Fiona Fielding (Senior Commercial and Procurement Officer), Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), Will Mason (Head of Culture), Martyn Parker (Assistant Director Public Protection), Lee Sirdifield (Assistant Director – Corporate), Paul Smith (His Majesty's Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire), Ryan Stacey (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), Zoe Walters (Community Strategy Co-Ordinator), Rob Hook (Enforcement Delivery Manager, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership), Daniel Lowbridge (Tobacco Control Officer, Safer Communities), Lisa Merriman (Community Safety Strategy Co-ordinator – Safer Communities) and David Stocking (Coroner's Services Manager).

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A M Austin, Mrs J Brockway, W H Gray, K E Lee and A N Stokes.

12 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor A M Key wished it to be noted that for Item 5 – Anti-Social Behaviour Community Trigger, his wife was an anti-social behaviour officer at one of the district councils in Lincolnshire.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25 JULY 2023**

13 MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2023

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20 June 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND CHIEF
OFFICERS

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended his congratulations to Paul Smith on his recent appointment as His Majesty's Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire, a well-deserved and long anticipated appointment.

The Chairman advised the Committee that this would be the last meeting for Kiara Chatziioannou, as supporting Scrutiny Officer. The Chairman extended thanks to Kiara for her excellent contributions to the Committee.

No Executive Councillor announcements were received.

The Assistant Director of Public Protection advised the Committee that on 17 July 2023, the Ministry of Justice had formally published the business case that set out the merger for what was being looked at within Lincolnshire for the Greater Lincolnshire Coronial Service. It was noted there were two competing bids, bid one was the merger between Lincolnshire, North, and North East Lincolnshire to create the Greater Lincolnshire Coronial area; and the second bid was between North, and North East Lincolnshire combining with West Riding and Hull Coronial area to make a Humberside Coronial area.

It was highlighted that the business case was currently out for consultation until 16 August 2023. The Committee was advised that consultees that sit within Lincolnshire included local MP's, the Leader of the Council, and the Executive Councillor/Support Councillor for NHS Liaison, Integrated Care System, Registration and Coroners, funeral directors, pathologists, police, and health.

The Committee noted that bid one formalised the ambition around the greater linkage and mayoral future for Lincolnshire and the three unitary authorities. It was noted further that there was full support from North, and North East Lincolnshire to join Lincolnshire County Council in terms of providing the services of the coronial.

15 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR COMMUNITY TRIGGER

SITTING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report from Martyn Parker, Assistant Director Public Protection, Adult Care and Community Wellbeing, which provided the Committee with information relating to the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Community Trigger and the countywide process established in Lincolnshire by the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP) Anti-Social Behaviour Core Priority Group (ASB CPG).

The Chairman invited Lisa Merriman, Community Safety Strategy Co-Ordinator – Safer Communities to present the report, which provided the Committee with a better understanding around the Community Trigger as being an effective tool to support victims of persistent anti-social behaviour where a local threshold had been met.

Details of the threshold for Lincolnshire was shown on pages 19 and 20 of the report pack.

It was noted that the responsible authorities for this provision were police, district councils, registered social housing providers and Integrated Care Boards. It was noted further that each district council administered the process on behalf of the responsible authorities.

Details of the Community Trigger process were contained on page 19 of the report pack.

In conclusion, it was noted that the Government had recently announced through the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, that the Community Trigger would be formally renamed as the Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review.

During consideration of this item, some of the following comments were noted:

- Members welcomed the report and the clarification of what and how the Community Trigger worked;
- Clarification was given that the figures shown in Appendix B on Page 22 were for a one-year period (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023). It was noted that the previous year figures had been 17 and then 16, and prior to those figures they had been 5 and 6 for a year period. It was noted further that these figures had been disappointing and that was why steps were being taken to improve the figures;
- Confirmation was given that publicity was done through district council websites, but there was recognition that there was more to do regarding accessibility, as not everyone had access to online;
- Some concern was expressed to the lack of knowledge of the Community Trigger in the general population nationally (only 6% of people had heard of it). A suggestion was made for better communication by way of a paragraph being included in a letter during their complaint advising them about the Community Trigger. The Committee noted that some professional training was being undertaken to make sure that all agencies were aware and understood the Community Trigger. Officers agreed raise the issue of including a paragraph in a letter, to ensure that the same message was

being delivered with the Core Priority Group. Some members of the Committee also confirmed that they were unaware of the Community Trigger and that more need to be done to publicise it generally;

- Unfortunately, Officers presenting were unable to advise of local and national figures in relation to anti-social behaviour, however, the Committee noted that the number of incidents were reducing overall. It was reported that the anti-social behaviour rates were down within the county last year by 34% compared to the previous year. The Committee noted further that this year's situation would continue to be mapped to correlate local Community Triggers to what was happening nationally, and that further information regarding numbers and volumes could be brought back to the Committee at a future meeting;
- One member enquired if there was to be a sudden influx of reviews, whether there were enough resources available to deal with them. Reassurance was given that the policy in place would ensure that Community Triggers were dealt with, along with having a dedicated Co-Ordinator and also a group of independent chairs to support the process;
- Reassurance was given that the needs of the victim were put first, but it was also important to note that expectations were managed, if any actions were set as a result of the trigger;
- The Committee was advised that the Community Trigger was led by district councils and that they worked very closely with the police;
- The Committee noted that on an initial report of anti-social behaviour, whilst the review was taking place there was an option to refer to Victim Support services. It was highlighted that at present due to the Ministry of Justice funding, there was not a dedicated Victim Support Service for anti-social behaviour, which there had been in the past. However, Victim Support Advocates were now being utilised in the high risk, complex cases of unsocial behaviour;
- A request was made for future reports to provide an explanation where necessary of items that would not be known to a member of the public, an example given was what was a section 21 notice; and
- A request was made for a progress report to be received in 12 months' time.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended his thanks to the Community Safety Strategy Co-Ordinator – Safer Communities for her presentation.

RESOLVED

1. That Community Safety Strategy Co-Ordinator – Safer Communities and the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership team be thanked for their detailed and comprehensive report.
2. That the comments raised in relation to this item be received.
3. That the report presented be endorsed, that the Committee's satisfaction be recorded on the activity undertaken by the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership and the

Anti-Social Behaviour Core Priority Group in raising awareness of the Community Trigger.

4. That a further report be received in 12 months to update the Committee on the progress achieved against set targets and the overall developments on the delivery plan.

Note: The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee ended at 10:35am.

16 CORONERS SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

SITTING AS THE PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report from Paul Smith, His Majesty's Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire, which provided an annual overview of the Lincolnshire Coronial Service and advising of the successes and challenges of the past year as well as future plans.

The Chairman invited Paul Smith, His Majesty's Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire to present the report.

The Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison, Integrated Care System, Registration and Coroners expressed her delight that Mr Paul Smith had been successful in becoming the Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire.

It was reported that 2022 had been a busy year for the service, full details of the Coroners Statistics for 2022 were detailed at paragraph 1.5 of the report presented.

Some of the statistical information highlighted included: referrals had increased by 85% to a figure of 3,229; post mortem examinations had increased by 8%; the number of inquests completed had increased by 17% year on year 2022 against 2021; that at the end of June 2023 this year quarter 2 a further 299 inquests had been completed, an increase of 14% on the figures recorded in the previous year; that timeliness to inquest remained above average at 37 weeks.

The Committee was advised that the reasons for the improvements had been as a result of the commitment of everyone in the team, and to the current structure of the service which was now thought to be correct. Significant credit was extended to James Chappell as Head of Service in bringing about the improvements to the service.

In conclusion, the Committee noted that the issue of premises remained unresolved, but it was hoped this would be resolved in the near future; that later in the summer there would be an open competition for a second full time coroner and an area coroner. It was hoped with a full complement of coroners, further progress would be made. Reference was also made to the consultation concerning the merger of Coronial Services.

During consideration of this item, some of the following comments were noted:

- The need to bring postmortem services back into Lincolnshire, as this was upsetting for families not knowing where their deceased relatives were at times. The Committee noted that postmortems currently were carried out at Hull, Leicester and Peterborough, as there was unfortunately a national shortage of pathologists. His Majesty's Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire Support was also supportive for this to happen;
- In response to a question regarding the possibility of increasing the number of days assistant coroners sitting to help deal with the backlog. The Committee was advised that reference to the assistant coroners sitting approximately 20 days was a baseline figure, as all of them had other roles, and all of them gave time when they could. The Committee was advised further that it was not just simply getting the assistant coroners in, it was also a question of getting files prepared and having sufficient court rooms to hold cases in. It was highlighted that based on the figures from the first six months of the current year, it was apparent that the service was making significant progress in reducing the backlog;
- For clarification purposes, the Committee received a legal definition of what was classed as an accident and a misadventure;
- The Committee noted that the Area Coroner pack was due to be launched at the start of August, followed by interviews towards the end of September, then, once a decision had been made, this would need to be verified by the Chief Coroner and the Lord Chancellor's Department. It was expected that the successful applicant would then join the service in early January 2024;
- It was noted that train accidents within the county would be suicides, rather than accidents;
- One member enquired as to why there had been an increase in the number of deaths by accident or misadventure. The Committee was advised that there was no known reason, however, it was speculated that as the figure for death from natural causes was now lower than the national average, it was felt that the answer could relate to the more elderly population, who when they passed, often died because of a number of factors. For instance, often a fall and broken bone was a factor, and that the personnel hearing of those cases making particular reference to the fracture of the bone, rather than the underlying medical conditions; and
- In response to a question regarding the increasing number of suicides, it was reported that the rationale was not known, as the service only provided data to the appropriate agencies with a view for the enabling services to then reduce the number of suicides to be targeted.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended his thanks to His Majesty's Senior Coroner for his presentation.

RESOLVED

1. That the comments made by the Committee be recorded.

2. That the Coroners Service Annual report be received, and that the Committee's satisfaction be recorded on activity undertaken by the Coroners Service throughout 2022.
3. That a further report be received in 12 months' time.

17 SERVICE LEVEL REPORTING AGAINST THE SUCCESS FRAMEWORK 2022-2023
QUARTER 4

The Committee gave consideration to a report from Martyn Parker, Assistant Director – Public Protection, Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer, Nicole Hilton, Assistant Director – Communities, Steven Batchelor, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Senior Manager and Lee Sirdified, Assistant Director Corporate, which summarised the Service Level Performance against the Success Framework 2022-2023 for Quarter 4 for Community Safety, Trading Standards, Fire Safety, Libraries and Heritage, Road Safety and Volunteers.

Ryan Stacy, Assistant Chief Officer, Will Mason, Head of Culture and Rob Hook, Enforcement Delivery Manager, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership were also in attendance for this item.

During consideration of this item, some of the following comments were raised:

Community Safety

- The Committee noted that the increase in the number of Ending Domestic Abuse Now (EDAN) phone calls had been due to the fact that the service was now recording contacts better;
- There was recognition that there needed to be more narrative in the report concerning Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), as to how individuals were being supported within the process, and how effective MARAC was working. The Committee noted that reporting and metrics were being reviewed around domestic abuse to make sure it was more meaningful to the Committee and also to members of the public;
- It was highlighted that in the domestic reporting section, this year domestic abuse to be reported had been removed, as the Committee would now be receiving a report at the end of the year;
- The Committee was advised that a rise in the number of people supported by EDAN in quarter 4, as shown in the graph on page 32 of the report was because it was thought that this was an accumulative figure for the year;
- Some guidance was given as to how to deal with a challenging situation from a member of the public perspective; and
- Confirmation was given that for a case to go forward, a person consent was not necessary where there was sufficient evidence to go the Crown Prosecution to show

that an offence had been committed. The Committee noted that there were other non-criminal processes that could be put in place to protect victims who were not engaging.

Trading Standards

- The Committee noted that electrical goods and furniture seized from a business in Boston had been because the electrical goods had not complied with electrical safety regulations, the non-compliance generally identified was around labelling. It was noted that the electrical goods had been submitted for testing, some of which were found to be safe and other were removed from the market and disposed. Regarding the furniture referenced, the Committee noted that a lot of the products had been household goods such as rugs and flat pack furniture. Again, there had been a problem with labelling, some because safety reasons; and that work had been undertaken to make sure the labelling was brought up to a standard for the items to be released for sale;
- One member enquired when a high-risk premises was inspected by trading standards whether liaison was taking place between the county council and district councils as highlighted at an earlier Committee meeting, and likewise, where a district council found a food premises having a zero star or one star hygiene rating, were district councils contacting trading standards. Confirmation was given that this had been actioned and was now in place; and
- The Committee was advised that weigh bridge inspections had not been able to take place due to problems regarding the availability of equipment for hire. Some members felt that this matter need to be considered further at a future meeting.

Fire Safety

- Some clarity was sought as to what was a response time. It was reported that a response time was from when a call was received; and then from there other performance measures were in place regarding how long it took call operators to speak to the person calling and then for them to dispatch their nearest asset. Another area that was monitored was the time taken at on call stations, for officers to respond and to allow the fire appliance to be mobile. With the final part of the measure being the distance from leaving the station to actually arriving at the incident;
- The Committee noted that the proposed changes to Sleaford Fire Station had been delayed to allow time for thorough consultation with staff and also some ongoing analysis. The Committee was advised that the new pattern was due to start on 1 January 2024, following which performance and the impact of the changes would be monitored. Reassurance was given that response times would not be affected;
- It was noted that there had been a significant improvement in the number of home safety visits in the last 12 months. Confirmation was given that the reasoning behind the stretched target was because the service recognised that there was a

disproportionate ageing community within Lincolnshire. The Committee was advised that the target was stretched but there was a very good reason for it; and

- That the SHERMAN campaign remained relevant with a meeting having taken place on 4 May 2023.

Libraries and Heritage

- The Committee was advised that Lincoln Castle ground had made it into the top 20, free visited 320 attractions in the entire country.

Road Safety

- The prominence of Lincolnshire in the killed or seriously injured graph on page 50 of the report pack. The Committee noted that the council had no control over the statistical members shown;
- What further measures could be included in a village with a very busy main road, who had a very active speed watch group, and reactive speed cameras already installed. The Committee noted that generally the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) would monitor traffic volume and speed to obtain information as to the flow of traffic through the village and the levels of speed. With regard to enforcement the LRSP could only use speed cameras, if certain criteria was met. It was highlighted that the police could do additional enforcement; and once the assessment was done the Accident Investigation Partnership from the County Council could be asked to look to see if any additional work that could be done regarding signage etc. A further suggestion made was the positioning of village gates, which seem to focus drivers that they are entering a speed limit;
- Whether the figures for killed and seriously injured were able to differentiate and highlight the number of motorcycles. Officers advised that this figure was not to hand but could be obtained. It was noted that the number of motorcycle collisions were down on the previous year's figures; and
- Officers agreed to look at speed limits on Bridge Street in Boston. It was however noted that the LRSP were not responsible for setting speed limits, they would however look to see what traffic surveys were available.

Volunteers

- The Committee was advised that the role of the County Council was to support the framework across Lincolnshire for volunteer provision, which ensures that appropriate training was in place, and that there was a hub for exploring volunteering opportunities. It was noted that as an organization, the council had a number of volunteering placements for example within the library services, heritage services, all of whom were supported through internal policy and through some of the work the voluntary sectors provide. It was highlighted that the community hub libraries were almost entirely run by volunteers, providing services to local communities, with volunteers then gaining experience, skills, and confidence in return.

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The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended his thank to all presenters.

RESOLVED

1. That comments made be received.
2. That the Service Level reporting against the Success Framework 2022/223 – Quarter 4 be received.
3. That the Performance Indicators for Public Protection and Communities as shown in Appendix A to the report be received.

18 **PERFORMANCE OF THE LIBRARY SERVICE CONTRACT - 7 YEAR REVIEW REPORT**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the performance of the seventh year of the outsourced Library Service Contract delivered by Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL).

The Committee noted that the report had been produced on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director – Place, rather than Glen Garrod, Executive Director - Adult Care and Community Care as published.

Appendix A to the report illustrated the elements GLL had been contracted to deliver and Appendix B provided details of the social impact of the library contract; and Appendix C detailed the actual performance against the eleven Key Performance Indicators for 2022/23 for the Committee to consider.

The Chairman invited Louise Egan, Library & Heritage Client Lead and Nicola Rogers, Partnership Manager at GLL, to present the item to the Committee.

It was reported that it had been another successful year across the library service, with some reference being made to:

- The number of activities and events held by the library service;
- That the service had received over 200 compliments and that Lincolnshire had received the highest score across all of GLL partnerships with regard to customer satisfaction;
- The social value impact of the service, it was reported that in the region of 24 million had been generated with regard to the social value, further details in this regard were provided in Appendix B;
- Performance measures - It was noted that there had been growth in the number of physical issues and physical books; there had also been an increase in the amount of viewers using digital services; that the number of visits had not achieved the target in year seven, however, it was noted this figure had increased by 65% on the previous

year's figure, which showed that there was a steady increase year on year as the service recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic;

- Strong partnership working;
- The successful implementation of the business bubble at two core sites; and work with the Data Bank scheme; and
- The success of community groups, and their valuable service to residents; and the invaluable support of the 700 volunteers that managed sites on behalf of the council.

During consideration of this item, the following comments were noted:

- Congratulations were extended to the success of the library service and for the excellent report presented;
- That the summer reading challenge was delivering in partnership with the reading agency. That the challenge was aimed at primary school children, children aged 4 to 11. It was highlighted that there was also a mini challenge for pre-school children. It was noted that if older children wished to take part they could. The Committee noted that all local schools were contacted to promote the challenge, as well as activity groups. It was noted further that this year there was also a dedicated web page, and it was also publicised through GLL and LCC media channels;
- The success of the Data Bank scheme –the success of the scheme was highlighted to emphasis the successful partnership working between the local authority, commissioned and service providers. It was reported that the scheme was delivered by an organisation called the Good Things Foundation, to whom a bid was made, and as a result the library service was accepted as a gift partner to work with O2, Vodafone and other phone providers. It was highlighted that the current scheme was due to finish at the end of 2023, and that at the moment it was not known whether the scheme would be reprised. Officers advised that information relating to the take up of the Data vouchers was not readily available at the meeting but could be made available to members of the Committee after the meeting;
- The Committee was advised that of the following opening times for library services. Of the 15 core libraries, 10 were classified as being tier one opened between 45 and 48 hours per week; and then the tier two libraries opened approximately 20 hours per week;
- The importance of the library service, and the community hubs and to the fact that the service was developing and moving forward to meet demands;
- Confirmation was given that libraries held a range of materials in differing languages. It was highlighted that stock was offered in a range of different languages, based on the community languages in the area. It was reported that getting hold of items in community languages was challenging and therefore limited as to what could be provided. The Committee noted that readers were also signposted to free digital resources;
- What practical help was provided to hubs. The Committee was advised that there were four library development officers across Lincolnshire who visited hubs sometimes on a weekly basis, sometimes every day, if a new initiative was being set

up. If hubs were to get new volunteers, then someone would go out and deliver training, and then refresher training would then be provided periodically throughout the year. It was noted that training could be operational, how to use the library management system to search for books, how to help with printing, it could be GDPR, safeguarding etc. It was noted that each piece of training was tailored to meet the needs of the individual hub and their requirements;

- It was reported that libraries provided an access service which enable those with mobility issues, or access issues, regardless of age to have books delivered to their door;
- For IT and upskilling support, the Committee was advised that ‘Buddy’ sessions were provided across all sites and some of the community hubs across the county. It was noted that there were also additional sessions for members of the public to via Learn My Way, which was deliver by the Good Things Foundation, which was a course that could be worked through at the individual’s own pace, as well as short sessions from one of the councils’ learning providers on 365 on line courses, as well as numeracy courses; and
- The Committee noted that all the core libraries had a core programme of activities that happened weekly, fortnightly, and that all the core libraries had at least four sessions per week solely for children, and that for the school holidays additional sessions were arranged, as had been mentioned earlier, reference was made to the summer reading challenge.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extend thanks to the presenters.

RESOLVED

1. That the comments received in relation to this item be received.
2. That the Performance of the Library Service Contract – Year 7 be endorsed, and that the Committee’s satisfaction be recorded on activity undertaken in year 7 of the contract and that the comments and views in relation to priorities for year 8 be shared with relevant officers and GLL partners for consideration.

19 TRADING STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION UNDERTAKEN IN RESPECT OF VAPES 2022-23

Consideration was given to a report, which highlighted the work undertaken by Lincolnshire County Council Trading Standards during 2023/23 to tackle an increase in the availability of non-compliant disposable vapes, and their sales to young people under 18.

The Committee noted that this item had been previously requested by Councillors N F Clarke and A Dani.

The Chairman invited Mark Keal, Head of Trading Standards to present the report.

The Committee was introduced also to Daniel Lowbridge, Tobacco Control Officer, who was in attendance for this item.

During consideration of this item, the following comments were noted:

- Whether training could be increased in view of the seriousness of the problem. The report had highlighted that from January to March 2023, 50 workshops had been delivered regarding vaping. The Committee noted that the delivery of the training programme was currently under review by public health, and that more would be known after the summer holiday;
- The Committee noted that there was no evidence that vapes could kill and that the message currently being promoted was that it was better to vape than it was to smoke, as tar was not being inhaled as it would be with tobacco. It was however highlighted that the longer effect of vaping was not known.
- Some clarification was given that media reports being highlighted were often linked to illegal vapes;
- The regulations all e-cigarettes must comply with (Details shown on page 78/79 of the report pack);
- The increase in the number of noncompliant disposable vapes. Pages 79/80 of the report highlighted the number of noncompliant vapes seized by trading standards and examples were provided on the typical labelling found on noncompliant disposable vape packs;
- The increase in underage sales in Lincolnshire and the steps being undertaken by trading standards to mitigate those sales, with reference being made to underage sale programme; and the team continuing to give out business advice. The Committee was advised that the situation was being closely monitored and that more work was needed to schools to help address the situation and that training standards was working very closely with public health colleagues in this regard; and
- Reassurance was given that work was being undertaken in the Boston area regarding illegal trading.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended his thanks to the presenters.

RESOLVED

1. That the comments made in respect of this item be recorded.
2. That the Trading Standards Enforcement and Education undertaken in respect of Vapes in 2022/23, as presented be received and that the Committee's satisfaction be recorded on the delivery of the enforcement and education measures in respect of vaping concerns undertaken by the Trading Standards Service in 2023/23.

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3. That further briefing updates be received by the Committee in the coming months.

20 PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report from Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, which invited the Committee to review the work programme, as detailed on pages 90 to 92 of the report pack and to highlight any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme.

The Scrutiny Officer briefed the Committee on the items scheduled to be considered at the 19 September 2023 meeting.

During consideration of this item, one member suggested that further information was received regarding the number of premises visited by trading standards and the outcomes thereafter as a result of the visits as part of the performance reporting for trading standards.

RESOLVED

That the work programme presented as detailed on pages 90 to 92 of the report pack be received.

21 CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that if they were present there could be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

22 RE-PROCUREMENT OF CORONIAL POST-MORTEM AND MORTUARY CONTRACTS

Consideration was given to an exempt report concerning the Re-Procurement of Coronial Post-Mortem and Mortuary Contracts, prior to a decision being taken by the Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison, Integrated Care System, Registration and Coroners between the 31 July and 4 August 2023.

RESOLVED

That the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee unanimously supported the recommendations as detailed within the exempt report.

The meeting closed at 12.55 pm.

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