

TASK GROUPS

Title	Taxi and Private Hire
Who attended	<p>Councillor Lacey and Mrs Pooley Head of Environmental Health Mr M Nicholson, Chairman, Eastbourne Sensory Disability Forum Mr M Chant, Chairman, Radio Cars Mr B Thomas, Licensing Enforcement Officer Environmental Health EBC Mr A Attwater, Independent Hackney Carriage Proprietor Mr N Kinnish, Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities Eastbourne Borough Council Mr I Millar, Chairman, Eastbourne Hotels Association Mrs C Purkess, Eastbourne & District Chamber of Commerce Mr R Cussons, Director of Tourism & Leisure, Eastbourne Borough Council Mr D Stone-Cox, Chairman Eastbourne and Country Group Mr C Islip, Managing Director, Sussex Cars Mr D Lindsay, Commercial Services Manager Environmental Health Eastbourne Borough Council</p> <p>Attendance at Committee CI Martin Stevens, East Downs Division, Sussex Police, Mr Chris Islip, Managing Director Sussex Cars, Mr David Stone-Cox, Chairman, Eastbourne and Country Group, Mr Mike Gillman, Manager, Kings Nightclub</p>
Primary Goals / objectives	To assess the working relationship between EBC and the taxis and private hire companies.
Methodology	A Task Group was formed to hear individual representations from a range of interested parties. The sessions were held on 21 st and 22 nd August. The Head of Environmental Health attended the sessions to take notes to facilitate and to provide additional information or clarification as required.

	<p>A letter inviting each person set out the following issues which were to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vehicle livery • fares, including the rates charged at different times • meters, and • the general usefulness to the town in terms of availability and level of service provided
Final Recommendations	That Cabinet consider the agreed findings and endorse the production of an Officer action plan to develop the 'way forward' issues identified in the report.
Monitoring	Monitoring report due in July 2006

Title	Elections and Voter Turnout
Who attended	Councillors Leggett and Mrs Murray Peter Finnis, Head of Democratic Services David Robinson, Members Services Manager Tracey Pannett, Electoral Services Manager
Primary Goals / objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To review existing mechanisms and make further proposals on increasing electoral turnout. 2. To make clear recommendations on actions to educate and promote participation in Local Democracy. 3. To review how to make the most effective use of Councillors' time, in particular to look at the balance between engaging the local community and attending Council meetings. 4. To assess and make clear recommendations on the use of Information Technology in Democratic Services. 5. To develop a means of assessing the success of local democracy with particular reference to community participation.
Methodology	<p>The Review Team looked at comparative turnout figures between Eastbourne and a random selection of other Local Authorities. This included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Authorities on the same election cycle as Eastbourne (Adur, Elmbridge, Maidstone and Reading). (b) Authorities with whole Council elections every four years (Lewes, Mid Devon, Oadby & Wigston and Staffordshire). (c) Authorities that have undertaken all postal vote pilots (Blackpool, Brighton & Hove, Chorley, Gateshead, Lincoln City, North Lincolnshire, Stevenage and Trafford). (d) Authorities that have undertaken electronic voting and other pilots (Bolton, Newham, Stratford, Swindon and Windsor & Maidenhead). <p>Finally, the Review Team looked at Eastbourne's 2003 turnout in a national context. A local survey exploring the issues of voter awareness, motivation and turnout was conducted. This covered all households in the Borough.</p>

Final Recommendations	To recommend the Council to approve the Action Plan appended to this report.
Monitoring	Monitoring report due in July 2006

Title	Wheeled Bin Collections
Who attended	<p>Councillors Skilton and Elkin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the Project Management Board • Members of the Project Management Team • Representatives from Residents Groups • Representative from the Voluntary Sector <p>A written response was requested from a representative of Otto (UK) Ltd. (Wheeled bin supplier and deliverer); and the Editor, Eastbourne Herald.</p>
Primary Goals / objectives	<p>The review was limited to the period February 2003 to the end of November 2003, which is the main period for the planning and implementation of the wheeled bin and recycling collection services.</p> <p>The following topics were also considered;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Service • Response • Green Waste • Reviews • Press • Elected Members • Residents • Contractors • Staff • Performance Indicators • Commercial Waste • Equalities

Methodology	<p>Interviews were conducted over 2 half days in January/February 2004. It was agreed that no more than ten interviews, using set scripts, would take place. The Review Group agreed that the interviews would take place in private. A Forum to which Community and Voluntary representatives were invited to attend was also arranged.</p> <p>Additionally, a notice was published in the newspaper and on the Council's website advising of the review, giving an opportunity to residents to contribute to the review.</p>
Final Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the work currently being undertaken by the Cleansing Contracts Manager to introduce recycling facilities within blocks of flats should continue to ensure that all residents of the Borough have the opportunity to recycle their waste as soon as possible. 2. That the work currently being undertaken by the Cleansing Contracts Manager to address wheeled bins (and recycling boxes) that are left out by residents on the highway be continued with. 3. That the delivery of lids for recycling boxes and wheeled bin 'change overs' should be completed. 4. That the Council should consider further the introduction of a green waste collection service for residents of the Borough. 5. That the Council should consider the development of its curtilage recycling service to collect plastics and cardboard and/or to provide suitable containers within its 'bring sites' to receive such commodities. 6. That the Council provides information, in addition to that currently on the Council's website, through its Cleansing Community Forum on street cleansing frequencies. 7. That the Council ensures that the momentum for waste reduction and recycling is maintained through education and community involvement.
Monitoring	<p>Carried out in 2005/06 with a recommendation that a press release be provided by the Assistant Director - Amenities and Contract Management highlighting the work of the Task Group and progress to date.</p>

Title	Abandoned Vehicles
Who attended	Councillors Taylor and Mrs Bannister
Primary Goals / objectives	Include a review of the Council's response to Abandoned Vehicles, particularly since April 2004 since when the Council has participated in a joint initiative with Sussex Police and other Councils of East and West Sussex known as "Operation Crackdown" (Crackdown). It also provided an understanding of the way in which reported abandoned vehicles were responded to by the Council. And, also, to help understand improvements to the service that may, or may not, have come about since the Council joined Crackdown in April.
Methodology	<p>In August 2002 the Assistant Director – Amenities & Contract Management prepared a Briefing Note on Crackdown for the Review Group.</p> <p>Additionally, the Review Group decided that the review would be determined through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • survey with tenants and residents groups/associations; • online survey through the Council's website; • interviews with key personnel in the Council's Cleansing Group responsible for dealing with abandoned vehicles; • interviews with key personnel from the Sussex Police Authority responsible for Crackdown; • an understanding of online reporting through the Sussex Police website and Crackdown website • an understanding of online reporting through the Council's website • a review of Crime and Disorder Data Information Exchange (CADDIE); • visit to the Council's Cleansing Group Office to see Crackdown in operation; and • visit to H Ripley & Co, vehicle breakers at Hailsham, East Sussex <p>The Review Group also received a presentation by Sussex Police on Operation Crackdown which included a video entitled "Operation Crackdown".</p>
Final Recommendations	<p>(a) engage with partners in a publicity campaign to encourage the owners of old and potential abandoned vehicles to dispose of them direct to a vehicle breaker;</p> <p>(b) arrange for a vehicle amnesty through which residents may have vehicles collected and disposed</p>

	<p>of at nil cost;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) promote an awareness of Operation Crackdown with residents and Community Groups within the Borough through Council’s Cleansing and Highways Forum; (d) monitor the position on End of Vehicle Life Directive for potential increase in abandoned vehicles; (e) monitor activity with regard to abandoned vehicles and to report any significant increase in activity to Cabinet with an appropriate recommendation; (f) joint initiatives that could take place further to the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership remit. This request would be taken forward by the Assistant Director of Amenities to the Crime Reduction partnership, vehicle crime group presuming that this group will continue after the ECRDP had reviewed its priorities for the forthcoming year; and (g) the Council should lobby the Government to the effect that the Council should receive a contribution from Government relating to its contribution to the unofficial collection of taxes associated with the identification of vehicles which do not display a valid road fund licence
Monitoring	<p>Carried out in 2005/06 with a recommendation that a press release be provided by the Assistant Director - Amenities and Contract Management highlighting the work of the Task Group and progress to date.</p>

Title	Gypsies and Travellers
Who attended	Councillors Taylor and Mrs Healy
Primary Goals / objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a Gypsies and Travellers Strategy – Public Land. 2. Consult on the strategy with residents groups affected, including the Compton Estate and the Gypsy and Traveller community, Sussex Police, County Council
Methodology	On going
Final Recommendations	
Monitoring	

Title	Disabled Access
Who attended	Councillors Marsh and Mrs Howlett and representatives from The Blind Society, The Society for the Deaf, The Eastbourne Access Group and the MS Society.
Primary Goals / objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding of how Council is dealing with the DDA 2. Views of tenants groups on access to Council buildings 3. Views of residents groups on access to Council buildings <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. and to provide an understanding of the way in which Access for the Disabled is responded to by the Council through the Access to Services Delivery Plan and to understand how improvements to access are perceived by the public.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determining progress of the Access to Services Action Plans. • a survey distributed to groups and associations representing the interests of disabled people; • a meeting of representatives from these groups.
Final Recommendations	The Review Group recommend that the issue of access for all is given a higher profile. To achieve this it is proposed that a Councillor Champion be appointed by each Party, to act as a point of contact in all access issues. The Champions are to stand for a period of one year and report directly to Scrutiny Committee.
Monitoring	To be monitored during the 06/07 Annual Programme Year

Title	Airbourne
Who attended	Councillors Belsey and Slater
Primary Goals / objectives	Review to establish the true value of Airbourne to both the Town and Eastbourne Borough Council including research on how the event is perceived
Methodology	On going
Final Recommendations	Due to be reported in September 2006
Monitoring	

Title	Coaching Industry
Who attended	Councillors Mrs Sims and Taylor
Primary Goals / objectives	Arising from Brighton University research – To analyse long term facilities for coaches and drivers (over the next 20 yrs), promotional ideas and the development of economic opportunities
Methodology	On going
Final Recommendations	Due to be reported in September 2006
Monitoring	

Title	Back Alleys
Who attended	Councillors Mrs Bannister and Warner
Primary Goals / objectives	The production of a leaflet giving residents guidance on the maintenance and ownership of Back Alleyways, rather than identifying individual ownership.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) review detailed plans of alleyways in the Devonshire Ward (b) consider a draft information leaflet entitled 'Alleyways' (c) agree consultation to take place on the information leaflet (d) agree a draft consultation letter (e) agree a format for consultation on the Council's website (f) agree the programme for consultation (g) agree critical dates in the programme to enable a report to be presented to Scrutiny Committee on the 5 December 2005.
Final Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) endorse the Information Leaflet entitled 'Alleyways'; and (b) recommend to Cabinet that the Information Leaflet entitled 'Alleyways' is made available to the public in Council Office reception areas; on the Council's website; and that it should be sent to residents in response to correspondence received on such matters.
Monitoring	To be monitored during the 06/07 Annual Programme Year