

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION FOR URGENT IMPLEMENTATION

(Decision either included or not included on the current Forward Plan but needs to be implemented immediately by virtue of the urgency of the actions that need to be undertaken. This decision will not be subject to call-in.)

ORIGINATOR'S DETAILS

Name & Contact details: Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities
020 7525 0886

DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Title and brief description of the nature of the business to be considered:

Establishment of a Southwark Youth Violence Panel

To establish a cross party Member-led "Youth Violence Panel" to lead and co-ordinate evidence gathering of the current status of youth violence and knife crime in Southwark and to use this evidence to inform the council's response to tackling youth violence and knife crime.

- *Why has this decision been delayed until now?*

Following the May 2018 local elections, the Leader of the Council appointed a new lead Cabinet Member for Community Safety. The commitment in the Council Plan to 'work with communities to find local solutions that help young people stay away from knives' was agreed by Cabinet on 26th June 2018. The Southwark community has also been shaken by recent violence. The initiative to establish a Panel and the form it should take follows this commitment and the recent knife crime tragedies in the borough and across London.

- *Why can't the decision be reasonably deferred?*

Youth Violence is an issue of growing concern and importance at national and local level. The recent escalation of violence has demonstrated the need for a cross party Member-led panel to enable the Council to understand the current status of youth violence and knife crime in Southwark.

A date of the 13 December has been identified for the first meeting to take place, ahead of the Christmas period and the decision to establish the panel needs to be taken under the provisions of urgent implementation to enable the necessary arrangements to be made in time for the first meeting which will be used to discuss and establish how it wishes to gather evidence and direct officers accordingly in preparation for further meetings of the Panel.

- *How long has the department known the decision was to be taken?*

The department has been working towards the establishment of the Southwark Youth Violence Panel for over a month but has only in the last two weeks become clear on the shape the panel is to take and the arrangements for the first meeting. Until this point it was not possible to prepare a report for decision.

- *If scheduled on the forward plan for a particular period, what's changed to make it so urgent now?*

The decision was not scheduled on the forward plan.

- *Why is it important that this decision is taken now?*

The Council is keen to have the panel up and running as soon as possible to enable the evidence gathering to commence. If the decision is not taken now the first meeting of the panel will not be able to take place until mid January (due to the Christmas period) which will delay the council's response to tackling youth violence and knife crime.

- *What is the potential cost to the council if the decision is delayed?*

The council is unable to respond properly to the issue of youth violence and knife crime in the borough until it has a clear understanding of the factors that are driving the problem. The sooner the council can start this process the earlier it can start to work with communities to find local solutions.

Date decision to be taken by: 4 December 2018

Urgent implementation notice cleared by: Michael Scorer

Chief Officer / Director

Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation

Date

26 November 2018

Declaration

I agree/~~disagree~~* with the Chief Officer/Head of Service that the proposed Decision is reasonable and that it can be treated as a matter of urgency.

Signed

Bill Williams

Dated

27/11/19

Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee/Mayor/Deputy Mayor*

* delete as appropriate

Please note reasons for refusal, additional points or further action required (as appropriate)

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Email: constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk