

14 July 2011		ITEM 4
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>SEX TRAFFICKING AND THE OLYMPICS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW</b>		
Report of: The Sex Trafficking Review Panel		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-key	
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Lucy Magill, Head of Public Protection		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Bill Newman, Corporate Director – Sustainable Communities		
<b>This report is</b> Public		
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To seek agreement from the Committee on the recommendations of the Sex Trafficking and the Olympics Task and Finish Group.		

Comment [sj]: Please leave this for completion by Democratic Services

Comment [sj]: PLEASE CLICK THIS BOX ONCE and enter the title of your report (in font 16 and in capitals) – a Cabinet Report should be consistent with the wording on the Forward Plan – see Guidelines 2.3

Comment [a j]: Please enter the name and job title of the person who will be presenting the report

Comment [sj]: Please enter details of any Wards and Communities affected by the report. If this section is not applicable, you should enter "none".

Comment [sj]: Yes/No/Not Applicable – a 'Key Decision' is generally one affecting more than 2 wards or above £50,000 expenditure – see Guideline 2.7

Comment [sj]: Please state the Head of Service's name and job title

Comment [sj]: Please state Director's name and job title

Comment [sj]: State whether your report is Public or Exempt. If Exempt (i.e. not to be given to the public or discussed in

Comment [sj]: Briefly set out the purpose of your report

Comment [sj]: Please provide a summary of the key points in your report

Comment [s]: The recommendations should be set out in bold in the form of the decision that the decision-

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a task and finish panel to investigate the impact of the London Olympics on increasing human trafficking in Thurrock for purposes of the sex trade. This report outlines the work the panel undertook and the recommendations it made following its investigation, to which the Committee is asked to agree.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- i) **Essex Police liaise with specialist Met Police officers to build knowledge and capacity in order to deal with potential cases of sex trafficking.**
- ii) **Thurrock Council's Licensing Department provide advisory information on sex trafficking issues to sexual encounter establishments.**
- iii) **The Council write to local newspapers to remind them of Section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act.**

- iv) **The Council explore options and investigate costings for advertising in local newspapers to outline the law in regards to Section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act and publish the Crimestoppers phone number as an anonymous service for those wishing to report sex trafficking. These adverts should be visible on the same page as the sex trade adverts.**
- v) **The Council undertake similar investigations to recommendation iv in relation to the short term lettings sections of local newspapers to discourage sex traffickers renting properties.**
- vi) **The Council identify key individuals in relevant departments and ensure they have a clear process of monitoring and referring suspected cases of sex trafficking.**
- vii) **Essex Police ensure Tilbury Docks and the UK Borders Agency are partners in Operation Pentameter.**
- viii) **Ask Ngage to work with community forums to raise the awareness of sex trafficking and the local signs it might be occurring, encouraging residents to report any cases.**
- ix) **TRUST be asked to contribute to Ngage's work in this area as and when required.**
- x) **The Panel reconvene in January 2012 to receive an update on the recommendations made above.**

Comment [s]: You should briefly explain why the report is on the agenda - See para. 5.3 and 5.4 of the report writing guidelines.

## 2. **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 2.1 In late 2010, the South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC) contacted a number of Overview and Scrutiny Members to raise concerns about the Olympics increasing human trafficking in Thurrock for the purposes of prostitution.
- 2.2 The Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee felt that this was an issue that deserved investigation and at their 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011 meeting, they established a task and finish panel to review the issues.
- 2.3 The subsequent panel was composed of Councillors Wendy Herd (chair), Amanda Arnold, Angie Gaywood and Martin Healy.
- 2.4 Acting on a rare invitation, the Panel's first activity was to visit the Olympic site and although the format of the visit left the Panel unable to probe the issue of sex trafficking in any great detail with Olympic officials, Members were able to put the site development into context and see the amount of people the Olympics was hoping to attract and accommodate.
- 2.5 The Panel proceeded to convene a witness session which was attended by Eaves Housing (a London based charity working with prostitutes and people trafficked for that purpose) and SERICC. The Met Police and Essex Police,

both of whom had made statements to the Panel, were not able to attend the session.

**3. ISSUES AND/OR OPTIONS:**

3.1 Following the very informative witness session, the Panel agreed that the issue did not warrant a prolonged overview and scrutiny investigation. However, Members felt that sex trafficking and associated prostitution had the potential to increase in Thurrock if criminals thought the area was less regulated or enforced than other London neighbours. As a result, the Panel made a series of recommendations to ensure a strategic response.

3.2 The Panel thought it important to ensure that the Council and its partners were prepared for any eventuality in relation to this issue and that proper processes were in place.

**4. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

4.1 Key partners such as SERICC, the Police and other relevant third sector bodies were consulted and included in the review from the outset. It became apparent that other agencies, such as the Port of Tilbury and the UK Border Agency should also be involved in the response to sex trafficking but Members felt that in this initial fact finding stage it was not necessary to consult or involve these partners at an overview and scrutiny level.

**5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

5.1 The review upholds one of the key aims of the Council, namely to strive to make Thurrock a safer place and to protect the most vulnerable in society. The review was sympathetic to the wider partnerships the Council is part of and the recommendations and activities of the Panel reflect that the issue is best tackled through a partnership response rather than the Council acting alone.

**6. IMPLICATIONS**

**6.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**  
 Telephone and email: **01375 652 451 2772**  
**mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**6.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Jamie Hollis**  
 Telephone and email: **01375 652925**

**Comment [s]:** Other headings may be appropriate. The report should outline the reasoning that leads to its recommendations and **must** include:

1. a brief summary of options considered;
2. consultation outcomes
3. a risk assessment.
4. Whether the responsible cabinet members have been consulted/contributed to the report (NB professional and political advice must be clearly distinguished)

- See para.5.5 of the report writing guidelines.

**Comment [jj]:** This should include any consultation with Ward Members and Shadow Portfolio Holders, as well as any public or statutory consultation

**Comment [aj]:** Please refer to Section 5.7 of the Report Writing Guidelines

**Comment [sj]:** This section should always be completed – if they are dealt with fully in another part of the report, they also need a brief cross reference here. The names and job titles of the officers providing the implications should be

**Comment [sj]:** See Guideline 6.2

**Comment [sj]:** See Guideline 6.3

**jhollis@thurrock.gov.uk**

Human Trafficking is prohibited under international law and UK criminal law. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 provides that when the council exercises its functions, it should have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in the area – including trafficking offences.

**6.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson De'Alyn**  
 Telephone and email: **01375 652472**  
**diversity@thurrock.gov.uk**

The Panel considered equality issues of both the victims of sex trafficking but also those involved in the consultation, ensuring that a representative voice was taken from police, charity and cultural organisations. Where necessary, the Panel called upon expert witnesses to advice on equality issues relating to sex trafficking and prostitution.

**7. CONCLUSION**

7.1 The Committee is asked to agree the recommendations. If the committee endorse the recommendations, the Panel has agreed to hold another meeting in January 2012 to track the progress of recommendations and ensure a structure is in place to discourage sex trafficking in Thurrock but also to tackle it if it should arise.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT:**

- The minutes of the Sex Trafficking and the Olympics Panel, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011. (Available at <http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/>)

**APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

- None.

**Report Author Contact Details:**

**Name:** Matthew Boulter  
**Telephone:** 01375 652082  
**E-mail:** mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 6.4

Comment [sj]: This should inform the recommendations in the report

Comment [sj]: See Guideline 8. If any Papers are to be placed in the Members room that relate to this report, you should also list them here

Comment [sj]: List the Appendices referred to in the Report

Comment [sj]: Insert the full contact details of the author of the report