

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE PRIORITIES FOR 2012/13

Public Realm

- in line with the Administration's manifesto commitments around 'Quality of Life', and in recognition of the importance of providing free, high quality and year-round amenities, we will upgrade play facilities in St Thomas and Heavitree parks and progress the refurbishment of Flowerpot skatepark.
- in order to provide a more effective and seamless service to residents, enhance community safety and respond to a wider range of public concerns, we will work towards the integration of the parking enforcement and community patrol teams to create a new community safety & enforcement team.
- we will enhance the range of services provided by the Bereavement & Cemeteries team which will include extending Higher Cemetery Garden of Remembrance, developing natural burial options and organising a programme of memorial and other events in the city's three cemeteries throughout the year.
- we will undertake a systems review of the parks & open spaces function to ensure it is meeting customer demands as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Environment

Sustainability & Environment

- We will proactively manage and reduce the amount of business miles our fleet operations carry out in order to reduce carbon emissions from our vehicles, promote more sustainable forms of transport and help reduce the impact on air quality.
- In order to promote waste minimisation and enhance our recycling, we will survey a cross-section of Exeter citizens to establish attitudes to recycling and use this information alongside operational data, to help reduce the amount of rubbish produced and collected per household in the City.
- At our Bring Banks, we will extend the range of items that can be recycled and diverted from landfill, such as small electrical goods and textiles, and seek to improve the attractiveness of such sites to users.
- We will continue to support our successful 'Green Team' partnership initiative in schools, extolling waste minimisation and recycling, and build upon it to reach out to other groups, particularly the younger generation.
- We will introduce a greater range of domestic waste receptacles, encouraging householders to down-size their bins and minimise their waste, as well as providing sea-gull proof sacks to protect and contain bagged waste, and help prevent spillage and litter from rubbish.
- We will seek to reduce fly-tipped rubbish by better targeting resources and improved working with partners, landlords and residents to bring about sustainable resolutions.
- To support greener transport, we will introduce a policy that encourages taxi proprietors to replace their taxis with vehicles that have lower emissions.

- We will submit an Air Quality Action Plan to Defra which details actions to be taken to improve the air quality in Exeter and seek to increase awareness of the health impacts of poor air quality, as well as identifying synergies between improving air quality and other Council objectives, such as carbon management and sustainable development.

Support for Business

- When regulating businesses we will seek to engage with them in a positive manner and assist them in achieving compliance to ensure that their premises are safe places for people to work and visit, and that their business processes do not harm the environment.
- Through training, advisory visits and production of guidance documents, we will provide businesses with the tools to assist them to meet their legislative requirements.
- We will build upon the success of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, and work closely with businesses to engender a positive increase in the number of higher-rated food premises.
- We will use Exeter City Council's expertise to support businesses in complying with relevant legislative requirements. Operating nationally, on behalf of signed up businesses, as the Primary Authority.
- We will work with partner agencies and businesses to help reduce the negative impact of alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour and disorder, and ensure that existing and new licensing tools are used proportionately and effectively.
- Through the new Taxi Forum, we will seek to strengthen our policies in order to improve and enhance taxi provision for the travelling public in Exeter.

Leisure

- Drive forward the feasibility and project planning work for a new swimming pool, leisure centre and quality public space as part of the redevelopment of the bus station.
- Leisure contract - develop a level of service and customer experience which exceeds that as set out in the contract with Parkwood Leisure.
- RAMM - look to gain as much benefit for the city following the very successful first months of its operation from continued high numbers of visitors, and its contribution to the image and cultural life of the city.

Cllr Greg Sheldon
22 May 2012