Present: Cllr Jeanne Alexander (Chair), Cllr Faruk Choudhury, Cllr Kashif Haroon, Cllr Jane Jones and Cllr Tony Ramsay

Apologies: Cllr Lee Waker, Cllr Simon Bremner and Cllr Hardial Singh Rai

21. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

22. Minutes (16 September 2015)

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2015 were confirmed as correct.

23. Scrutiny Review: Confidence in and Engagement with Local Police

The Democratic Services Officer presented a report on the Select Committee Scrutiny Review on confidence in and engagement with the local police.

The report encapsulated the in-depth work undertaken by the Select Committee since February 2015 and built on the outcomes of the research undertaken.

During the course of the scrutiny review the SSCSC received presentations and reports from the Police and relevant partners which provided a background on how the Police are currently engaging with the local communities. The Select Committee also received updated information on confidence levels within the Borough and how the Police were trying to improve this.

The Select Committee were asked to consider the draft report before them and make comments accordingly before a final report be presented at the meeting of the Select Committee in January 2016.

The report was noted.

24. Parking Enforcement Review

The Divisional Director Environment presented a report to the Select Committee regarding the consolidation of controlled parking zones within the Borough.

The report was the last of three reports which supported the review of the enforcement policy and focussed on the following areas:

- Are the current vouchers, permits, dispensations etc. effective and cost-effective to administer?
- To take an in-depth look at the borough's permits, reviewing their basis, criteria and effectiveness
- To examine some best practice examples from other boroughs
What are the alternatives to CPZ’s

The Select Committee were provided with details of parking zones within the borough, which included 19 parking zones to date some of which consisted of only one street. In addition there were two Restricted Zones and seven “Pay & Display” individual streets. The Select Committee also noted that parking zones covered approximately 30% of the Borough, and were focused around main town centres and areas of extensive commercial use, areas close to commuter stations or public transport hubs and amenity areas such as parks and open spaces that attracted large numbers of vehicles from outside the immediate area. Some parts of the Borough, mainly towards the North and the South, remained largely uncontrolled.

The Group Manager for Parking advised that there was a need to make amendments to the current scheme to try and reduce displacement and take account of assets, for example doctors surgeries. Some other options to control commuter/undesired parking were therefore suggested to the SSCSC including:

- Restricted Zones
- Permit Holder Parking Past This Point
- Individual Resident Parking Schemes
- No Waiting (staggered control)
- Limited Waiting Restrictions (and free shared use)
- Pay and Display (and charged shared use)

The Select Committee noted that there was a high level of interest in consolidation by residents. Consolidation of areas ensured that individual roads were not subjected to displacement and that residents received the right level of robust enforcement they were paying for via their permits.

The Select Committee considered there were various advantages of adopting a controlled parking zone consolidation strategy throughout the Borough which included:

- There would be a reduction in Implementation Costs
- Efficiencies in Enforcement: Consolidation would lead to more efficient ways of working for Civil Enforcement Officers and a more even and equitable deployment of enforcement officers
- Preparation for future developments. Consolidation would pre-empt future demand for parking which would come from the re-generation Zones and make it easier to plan new parking zones and the allocation of kerb space
- Reduction in street clutter. Consolidation would lead to a reduced requirement for the clustering of unsightly street signs
- Quicker response to resident concerns. The Council would take a more pro-active approach to listening to residents requirements
- Helps the introduction of a virtual permits system which would reduce costs further. Consolidation would lead to efficiencies in managing the permits database and in enforcement where automated methods could be used.

In considering the information before it, the Select Committee felt carers permits should be introduced in the Borough to assist those who need care at home. Although the technicalities of such a scheme had not yet been agreed, the Group Manager Parking advised that work was in progress on developing a carers
permit. The Select Committee noted that Macmillan Nurses were already in receipt of a carers permit.

25. **Report on activity to address Begging in Barking**

The Interim Group Manager Community Safety and Offender Management presented a report to the Select Committee concerning begging in Barking Town Centre. The report was requested by the SSCSC at the meeting held on 16 September 2015.

Barking Town Centre and particularly Station Parade and the railway station had historically been the Borough’s hotspot for crime and disorder due to the number of people using this area. Barking Station saw 3,448,000 passengers each year.

The Select Committee were advised that work to combat antisocial behaviour had taken place in this location in the past but complaints about street drinking, begging and other antisocial behaviour had increased in this location again in the last 6 months. The ASB Team supported by the police obtained 7 Antisocial Behaviour Injunctions against offenders who were causing problems in this area in July 2013 which expired between September 2014 and February 2015. Since the expiry of these orders issues relating to street drinking and begging had increased. The ASB Team had no complaints about ASB around the Town Centre between July 2013 and February 2015, but has received 7 complaints since February 2015. Since February 2015 to the end of September 2015 there had been 63 CAD calls relating to antisocial behaviour in Barking train station. The police team responsible for the Town Centre state that on average they were doing approximately 15 alcohol seizures a day currently but these were predominately from a group who would be classed as persistent street drinkers.

The Select Committee were advised that it was agreed that Metropolitan Police and British Transport Police would use their data and officers’ knowledge to identify the top 10 key offenders of offences which were most often reported by the public and businesses. Once the key offenders had been identified it was agreed that this information would be shared with the Antisocial Behaviour Team who would look at enforcement action to manage the behaviour of these individuals.

Twelve individuals had been identified as those most involved in the issues of street drinking, begging and violence in this location. All the individuals were known to drug or alcohol services and many received services in Barking from a commissioned Council Service. All those who persistently beg outside the station were included on this list.

The Anti Social Behaviour Team had engaged with services designed to support these individuals and assured themselves that they had all been offered support and that this would continue even while enforcement action was taken. Evidence of their antisocial and criminal behaviour had been compiled and the Anti Social Behaviour Team were about to make a joint application against all 12. If granted this order will prohibit them from entering areas of the Town Centre, including the area outside the station, with the power of arrest. These orders were being made with notice to the individuals and were expected to be concluded by the end of November 2015.

The Select Committee were pleased to note that once there was a structure in
place to manage the key offenders the Council would then explore the use of a Public Spaces Protection Order to deal with any on-going issues around street drinking and begging in this location. This would require a public consultation which would commence around December 2015. Breach of a PSPO was dealt with by way of a fine and could be enforced by police officers and civil enforcement staff.

The Select Committee were informed that BTP had just completed a customer survey with station users and this would be done again following the other work to ensure that the work done was having a positive impact on the public.

Public engagement would also be undertaken in December 2015 to consult on the introduction of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

The Select Committee thanked the Interim Group Manager Community Safety and Offender Management for the report and noted the outcomes of the consultation and BTP survey would be reported at the next meeting of the Select Committee.

26. Public Spaces Protection Orders

The Interim Group Manager - Community Safety and Offender Management, introduced a report to the Select Committee which provided information about Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). The report was originally presented to the Community Safety Partnership in August 2015, however it was considered pertinent that the Select Committee also received the information due to the previous item which considered begging in Barking.

The Select Committee noted that PSPOs were introduced by the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and commenced on the 20 October 2014.

PSPOs were designed to stop individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. The definition of a public space was very wide and included any area to which the public would have unrestricted access however they did not include registered common land and some other types of land like open moorland.

In response to questions, the Select Committee were advised that the test for a PSPO was behaviour which:

- has, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;
- is persistent or continuing in nature; and
- is unreasonable.

PSPOs set restrictions and/or requirements on people within a defined area. These could be blanket restrictions or requirements or could be targeted against certain behaviours by certain groups at certain times. More than one restriction could be added to the same PSPO, meaning that a single PSPO could deal with a wide range of behaviours.

It was an offence for a person, without reasonable excuse, to do anything that the person was prohibited from doing by a PSPO (other than consume alcohol- see
below); or fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under a PSPO.

The Select Committee were concerned that the areas around Barking Station would not be considered in the evening when there were several issues, however it was noted that the Council were working with the Metropolitan Police and the British Transport Police, which meant that there would be responses to calls made outside the office hours of the Council.

There were also concerns raised that the furniture outside of the station was attracting people to linger and therefore suggested that it should be removed.

The report was noted.

27. **Cabinet Forward Plan**

The Democratic Services Officer presented the current Cabinet Forward Plan to the Select Committee for consideration of items which the Select Committee may consider for pre-scrutiny.

Having considered the plan before them, the Select Committee requested that pre-scrutiny be undertaken on the Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 – 2021 before it is considered by Cabinet in February 2016.

The report was noted.

28. **Work Programme**

The work programme was noted, with the inclusion of the Statement of Licensing Policy to the work programme for the meeting on 13 January 2016.