

Report Title:	Resident Scrutiny Suggestion – Bike Thefts at Windsor Leisure Centre
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Meeting and Date:	Place Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 14 September 2023
Responsible Officer(s):	Andrew Durrant, Executive Director of Place Services Alysse Strachan, Head of Neighbourhood Services Andy Aldridge, Community Safety Manager
Wards affected:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

- The report outlines a suggested topic submitted by a resident for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Topics can be suggested by residents and then considered by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel for further consideration (criteria outlined in paragraph 1.1.) Residents are able to access the criteria on the [council's website](#).
- Details of the resident who has submitted this topic have been anonymised.
- The suggested topic received as follows: “Bike thefts are occurring in broad daylight outside Windsor Leisure Centre. This is worrying and children are having their bikes stolen.”
- It is recommended that this topic is considered by the Place Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Place Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the report and considers whether any further scrutiny is required.

2. CRITERIA OF ASSESSMENT FOR SUGGESTED TOPICS RECEIVED BY RESIDENTS

2.1 Residents should only submit topics that relate to a **service, event or issue** which affects the social, environmental or economic wellbeing of a group or community of people in the Borough.

2.2 What makes a good scrutiny topic?

- **Scope** – is it an issue of concern to our local communities and other associated organisations?

- **Significance** – could a review of this issue improve the Council’s (or other organisations) processes or performance and make a positive difference to the lives of our residents?
- **Appropriate** – is this review timely and does it avoid duplicating other work?

2.3 Items that will not be considered include:

- Individual service complaints for which there is a corporate complaints procedure (please click [here](#) for more details)
- Topics outside of the remit of the council or where the council has no powers or influence to change an outcome
- Issues which scrutiny has considered in the last 12 months
- Areas relating to quasi-judicial functions e.g. planning, licensing and standards

3. INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF SUGGESTED TOPIC

Scope:

- 3.1 The Windsor Leisure Centre is located on Stovell Road in Windsor. The centre is run by Leisure Focus on behalf of the council. A number of cycle spaces are available for users of the leisure centre.
- 3.2 The council have been successful in securing funding from Active Travel England to build the borough’s first secure public cycle parking garage.
- 3.3 This is planned to be located near the leisure centre to enhance provision and security for cycle parking for visitors and staff while also linking in with the recent street improvements. It is hoped that this will improve accessibility to the leisure centre and encourage physical activity.
- 3.4 The new cycle storage facility is currently in the process of being designed and submitted for planning approval before being implemented.
- 3.5 The Community Warden team are aware of the issue and have been making regular patrols outside the leisure centre to deter thieves and provide reassurance.

Significance:

- 3.4 Early engagement was carried out in spring with local cycling organisations like the Windsor Cycle Hub and Windsor Ascot & Maidenhead Active Travel to understand the requirements, and this has supported us in working with Cyclepods (supplier) to finalise the design.
- 3.5 The structure will have an entry system provided by Spokesafe. This system is instantly bookable via an app and provides both access and customer service 24/7. All members who access Spokesafe locations complete an ID verification process which includes email and telephone number verification and an ID Check to ensure that we know the true identity of users who are

accessing spaces. Spokesafe will charge members a small fee to use the facility. This facility also includes CCTV with 24/7 monitoring.

- 3.6 The cycle parking will include 36 cycle parking spaces with options for two tier racks, Sheffield stands, cargo stands and a pump and repair stand. There will be lockers provided for cyclists to store helmets and belongings.
- 3.7 Officers have also liaised with Thames Valley Police to advise them of the proposal, they are supportive of the proposed plans.
- 3.7 The planning application process has commenced and the application is due to go on the planning portal in the next few weeks. Approval is expected around mid-October and scheme construction is proposed to start in January.

Appropriate:

- 3.8 The creation of the proposed new cycle storage would improve the situation and ensure that bikes from users of the leisure centre are safely secured.
- 3.9 Organisations such as the Windsor Cycle Hub have been consulted on the proposals and have been invited to the meeting to provide their feedback on the proposals and what more could be done to improve bike safety and security at Windsor Leisure Centre.
- 4.0 Work is being done by the council to solve the issues of bike crime and the Place Overview and Scrutiny Panel are asked to consider whether there any further improvements which could be made.

4. CORPORATE PRIORITY AREAS

- 4.1 When assessing a topic it is important to understand whether this item would fall under one of the key objectives set out in the Corporate Plan 2021-2026, which has the overarching vision of 'Creating a sustainable borough of opportunity and innovation'. It has been assessed that this topic would fall under the following objectives and priorities:
 - **Inspiring Places:** Supporting the borough's future prosperity and sustainability.
 - Quality infrastructure that connects neighbourhoods and businesses and allows them to prosper.

5. CONSULTATION

Name of consultee	Post held
Andrew Durrant	Executive Director of Place
Alysse Strachan	Head of Neighbourhood Services
Andy Aldridge	Community Safety Manager
Michael Shepherd	Sport and Leisure Service Manager
Dug Tremellen	Transport Policy Manager
Rajpreet Johal	Project Management Officer

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
For the Panel to consider if further scrutiny is required.	No	No

Report Author: Mark Beeley, Principal Democratic Services Officer –
Overview and Scrutiny
01628 796345
mark.beeley@rbwm.gov.uk