

Social and community group

Responsibilities

The group is responsible for supporting the social well being of the town which contributes to the quality of life for the individual, which can range from CCTV cameras through to the provision of affordable housing. The group supports the vision as set out in Our future, our choice, the community plan for Cheltenham, with particular reference to the priorities of living life to the full and a decent standard of living.

The group is made up of five divisions with the following responsibility:

- Public protection - responsible for environmental health such as food premises inspection, licensing, contaminated land and air quality monitoring and community safety.
- Health and wellbeing - responsible for leisure facilities, art gallery and museum, youth issues, health, and arts development
- Community services - monitors the housing contract with Cheltenham Borough Homes, and is responsible for community development and support for the voluntary sector, homelessness, supporting people and community alarms.
- Neighbourhood regeneration - responsible for housing grants, disabled facilities grants, housing strategy and partnerships with registered social landlords.
- Entertainment and tourism - responsible for supporting the cultural activities in the borough including the town hall and pump rooms, the entertainment programme, and tourism promotion and marketing and the tourist information centre.

Issues

The challenges facing the group include the provision and support for affordable housing and trying to facilitate a balanced housing market within the borough. The group is keen to ensure that there are a range of leisure and cultural facilities accessible by all. The group is supporting the research into the provision of arts facilities within the town resulting from a review of cultural provision. Community safety is always a high priority with the public and the group will need to ensure that its functions contribute towards a vision where everyone feels safe in their homes and on the streets.