



**Service Delivery  
Committee**

**13 October 2015**

**Matter for  
Information**

Title: **Corporate Enforcement Update**

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## **1 Introduction**

This report is intended to provide an update on the corporate enforcement activity of the Council.

## **2 Recommendations**

To note the contents of the report, which is presented for information only.

## **3 Information**

A Corporate Enforcement Officer was recruited in March 2015 and to date the work carried out by him has been predominantly in relation to planning and building control issues. There has not yet been a need for prosecution on any of these matters although notices continue to be served where appropriate.

Benefit fraud continues to be investigated and there have been 3 successful prosecutions since the last report, all of which have been reported in the local press. One Defendant was fined, one was sentenced to carry out community service and the other was given a suspended custodial sentence with community service attached. The next edition of Letterbox will also detail the success of these prosecutions so that the local community is aware. Three further cases are due to be heard at the end of October 2015.

Environmental Health have served a number of noise notices and are maintaining a review via a noise management plan. Prohibition notices have also been served in relation to fire safety at a privately rented dwelling within the Borough. The backlog of food safety inspection is still being undertaken.

A graffiti protocol prepared by the Operations Manager is attached as an appendix to this report.

The intended PACE training and training about the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices has had to be postponed however it is hoped that this can be carried out for relevant officers before the end of the year.

The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is in the process of being drafted with a view to introducing the PSPO in designated public spaces within the Borough. Again, it is hoped that this will be completed before the end of the year.

Other regulatory areas (Building Control, Planning) have not warranted any prosecutions, although notices have been served where appropriate in relation to offences committed under the relevant legislation in those areas. A detailed report of planning enforcement matters is reported separately to the development control committee.

The issue of Empty Homes has been discussed and it is intended that the Community Team will review and progress this further following the Corporate Enforcement Officers primary area of concentration being on planning matters at present, until the Head of Service returns to manage the service area in line with the corporate enforcement vision that was intended.

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<b>Implications</b>	
Equalities (CA)	None
Financial (PL)	Successful prosecutions will continue to achieve a reimbursement of the Council's costs and revenue will be increased once the training of relevant officers has been concluded and the PSPO has been introduced
Legal (CA)	Strict statutory time limits must continue to be met and complied with so as to ensure that the Council is not time barred from any enforcement action.
Risk (CA)	CR4 – Reputation damage; CR6 - Regulatory Governance