

SUBJECT:	PUBLIC PROTECTION PERFORMANCE REPORT
MEETING:	Strong Communities Select Committee
DATE:	14TH September 2015
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To undertake scrutiny of service delivery and performance across the Public Protection division, which comprises Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To consider and comment on the contents of the accompanying report entitled 'Public Protection Performance report for the year 2014/15 and Quarter One 15/16'

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Strong Communities Select Committee received a performance report covering Public Protection services in November 2014. This was in response to a Cabinet report in March 2014 that recommended budget reductions to these services. Those recommendations included a £140,000 budget reduction for 2014/15, representing a 7.2% staff decrease.
- 3.2 The impact of this reduction was scrutinised by Strong Communities Select in November 2014 and reported to Cabinet on 7th January 2015. Cabinet requested regular six monthly reports to Strong Communities Committee to monitor performance over time. In this way, any negative impacts could be assessed and acted upon if necessary.
- 3.3 The attached report summarises recent performance and highlights the following:-
- The four service teams, for the vast majority of services they deliver, meet the Authority's legal obligations in relation to Public Protection services.
 - Some proactive work, for example animal health visits and housing inspections, has decreased as a consequence of prioritising reactive work. 3145 new requests for service were responded to in the 2014/15 year.
 - Line managers will need to monitor workloads, prioritise and respond as necessary. Team performance is highly dependent upon the continued hard work, professionalism and good health of its staff.

- Six monthly reports will continue to be made to this Committee, to review the impact of budget reductions on Public Protection performance.
- Recent audits, by Wales Audit Office and Food Standards Agency Wales, indicate current performance is satisfactory within Environmental Health, but the service would struggle to take on any new statutory duties that protect the public and the environment.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 The Cabinet decision log from 7th January 2015 states:- 'Noting the continually changing legislative landscape in the future, it was decided Strong Communities Select Committee would receive six monthly performance reports on Public Protection services'.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None as a consequence of this report.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The 'Equality Challenge' was completed for Cabinet on 7th January 2015, together with the 'Equality Impact Assessment' and 'Sustainable Development Checklist' forms. This report only serves to update the position in relation to performance, and hence does not require a further assessment.
- 6.2 As per 3.2 above, the impact on Public Protection service recipients will be reviewed and reported to Strong Communities Select committee every six months.

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications in this report concerning safeguarding and corporate parenting.

8. CONSULTEES:

SLT
Cabinet Members
Chairs of Select committees
Head of Legal Services

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Report to Cabinet, 7th January 2015, entitled 'Review of Service Delivery in Public Protection Department'.

10. AUTHOR:

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