

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC PROTECTION 2019/20 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**MEETING: Strong Communities Select Committee**

**DATE: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All**

**1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 To undertake scrutiny of service delivery across Public Protection services for the financial year 2019/20, with comparison to previous years. The Public Protection division comprises of Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Animal Health and Licensing.
- 1.2 For Members to understand the active role taken by Officers in the Division in response to the current pandemic, and how this has impacted on day-to-day services.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 To consider and comment on the contents of the attached reports –  
Appendix A - entitled 'Public Protection Performance Report 2019/20'.  
Appendix B – entitled 'Public Protection Covid related Response to 30/9/20'
- 2.2 Members confirm future performance updates will consist of:-  
- one annual performance report, to revert to May of each year, starting 2021.  
- any supplementary topic-specific report, to be determined by Members of this Committee.  
This will help inform service priorities going forward.

**3. KEY ISSUES:**

- 3.1 In January 2015 Cabinet requested that Public Protection performance was reviewed regularly by this Committee to assess any negative impacts. Six monthly reports have been provided to Strong Communities Select committee previously, to enable Members to scrutinise service performance. One annual report was agreed by this Committee last year. This report has been postponed in 2020 as a consequence of work pressures on all Public Protection teams, dealing with our response to the current pandemic.
- 3.2 The attached report, Appendix A, summarises performance for the twelve month period of 2019/20, and highlights the following -
- The four service teams, for the vast majority of the services they deliver, met the Authority's legal obligations in relation to Public Protection services.
  - As detailed in Appendix A, most proactive and reactive work is being carried out professionally, within prescribed response times. There are only a few exceptions - due to

the reactive nature of most of the services – these being some slippage in housing visits, private water inspections and animal health visits.

- Annual reports will continue to be made to this Committee to assess performance over time, and help inform future priorities noting the competing demands.
- Services may struggle to take on any new statutory duties that protect the public and the environment, and therefore funding must be sought to support any new work.
- Future strategies for sustaining Public Protection services will be developed, (to include further income generation and collaboration), locally, regionally and nationally.
- **Covid response** – Appendix B outlines specific work undertaken by the teams. Some of this response has inevitably impacted on the day-to-day services provided, notably proactive visits. Prioritisation of services has been communicated to Governing bodies, so there is recognition the 20/21 year will be very different from typical years in relation to overall performance.

#### **4. REASONS:**

- 4.1 The Cabinet decision log from 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015 stated:- ‘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’. As per 3.1 above, this has altered to one annual report with the recommendation to compliment with a topic-specific report when Members request it.
- 4.2 It is timely to update Members on the active role of the Division in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, noting how this has impacted on our normal working practices.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

None as a consequence of this report.

#### **6. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS, (incorporating Equalities, Sustainability, safeguarding and corporate parenting).**

Assessments were previously completed for the Cabinet report 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. This report only serves to update the position in relation to performance four years on, and therefore does not require a further assessment.

#### **7. CONSULTEES:**

Public Protection service managers  
Chief Officer, Social Care, Safeguarding & Health

#### **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Report to Cabinet, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015, entitled ‘Review of Service Delivery in Public Protection Department’.

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