

SUBJECT: PUBLIC PROTECTION PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16

MEETING: Licensing & Regulatory Committee

DATE: 13th September 2016

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: AII

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 To inform Members 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 2015/16'

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Strong Communities Select Committee received a performance report covering Public Protection Services on 21st July 2016. This was in response to a Cabinet report in January 2015 recommending this Committee monitors any changes in our performance, further to budget reductions implemented for 2014/15.
- 3.2 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. To widen Member involvement and understanding of the range of Public Protection services delivered, it also assists to report on performance via Licensing & Regulatory Committee.
- 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.
 - There has been some decline in closing complaints within Public Health, for example concerning noise and other statutory cases. It should be noted that this small team (5.5 FTE's) dealt with 1,559 new service requests (1,667 clients) in 2015/16.
 - Six monthly reports will continue to be made to this Committee to assess 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'. This will be supplemented by also reporting performance to the Licensing & Regulatory Committee.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None as a consequence of this report.

6. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 Assessments were previously completed for the Cabinet report 7th January 2015. This report only serves to update the position in relation to performance, and therefore does not require a further assessment.

7. CONSULTEES:

Previously circulated to SLT, Cabinet Membres, Chairs of Select Committees, Head of Legal Services prior to Strong Communities Select on 21st July 2016.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

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

9. AUTHOR:

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