

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC PROTECTION 2016/17 PERFORMANCE REPORT,
first nine months & comparison with previous years**

MEETING: Strong Communities Select Committee

DATE: 2nd March 2017

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To undertake scrutiny of service delivery and performance across Public Protection for the first nine months of 2016/17, with comparison to previous years. The Public Protection division comprises of Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Animal Health and Licensing.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To consider and comment on the contents of the attached report – Appendix A - entitled ‘Public Protection Performance report 2016/17, (first 9 months)’.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Cabinet approved a report in March 2014 recommending budget reductions to Public Protection services for 2014/15 and the coming years. The reduction amounted to £140,000, representing about 10% of the total budget. The impact of this reduction was scrutinised by this Committee in November 2014, prior to a report going to Cabinet on 7th January 2015. At this time, Cabinet requested regular six month reports to Strong Communities committee to monitor performance and assess any negative impacts. The intention was to review progress and take any action deemed necessary.
- 3.2 The last performance report was submitted to this Committee on 21st July 2016.
- 3.3 The attached report summarises performance over the last nine months of 2016/17, and highlights the following -
- The four service teams, for the vast majority of the services they deliver, meet the Authority’s legal obligations in relation to Public Protection services.
 - There have been some notable successes in 2016/17, for example improving food safety and animal feed compliance, supporting major developments (A465) and events (Eisteddfod, Abergavenny Food Festival, etc.).
 - 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 increased demand, eg. some slippage in housing and private water inspections, which will be improved for 2017/18.

- Six monthly 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. In addition, where work is onerous on Officer time, funding will be pursued from major developers, etc.
- Future strategies for sustaining Public Protection services will be developed, (to include further income generation and collaboration), locally, regionally and nationally.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 The Cabinet decision log from 7th 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'.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None as a consequence of this report.

6. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS:

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

7. CONSULTEES:

SLT
Cabinet Members
Chairs of Select committees

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

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

9. AUTHOR:

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