

# Place Scrutiny Committee

## 30 January 2020

### Review of Place Enforcement Activities

#### For Decision

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr A Alford, Customer, Community and Regulatory Services

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** John Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

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**Report Status:** Public

#### Recommendation:

Your committee is asked to agree the scope of the review of Place enforcement activity.

#### Reason for Recommendation:

Your committee has asked for a review of Place enforcement activities to ensure that resources are being used efficiently and effectively and that we embrace best practice and innovation. The review will be undertaken over the coming months and the findings reported to your committee.

#### 1. Executive Summary

The Council has statutory duty to enforce a wide range of legislative provisions that safeguard people; public health and the environment from harm. Many of these provisions fall within the remit of Place Services and Place Scrutiny Committee has requested an early review of enforcement activities principally in relation to 'streetscene' services. The findings of the review can be used to shape the future development of services in the early life of Dorset Council.

## **2. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications at this stage.

## **3. Climate Implications**

Dorset Council declared a climate emergency at its first meeting on 16 May 2019, and in December 2019 a Climate and Ecological Emergency. The Council is mindful of the environmental impact of its work, and in making decisions it is required to consider the impact on the climate and ecology. In reviewing services we will be mindful of this and look for opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of enforcement activities.

## **4. Other Implications**

None identified.

## **5. Risk Assessment**

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

## **6. Equalities Impact Assessment**

It will be appropriate to undertake an EqIA as part of the review of enforcement activities if changes to current policies and services are proposed.

## **7. Appendices**

Nil.

## **8. Background Papers**

Nil.

### **Footnote:**

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

## **9. Introduction**

- 9.1 A range of streetscene related enforcement services are undertaken through Place based services originating from functions previously undertaken by predecessor councils. These include;
- Car parking
  - Dog control
  - Waste storage; fly tipping; littering; abandoned vehicles
  - Planning
  - Highways
  - Environmental Health
  - Trading Standards
  - Licensing
  - Community Safety
- 9.2 Your Committee has asked that a review be scoped for your comment and approval, the outcome of which will be to provide officers with guidance in developing these services within the new council.
- 9.3 It is proposed that the services listed above together with any other related enforcement activity that you may identify, are included in the review which will be sponsored by the Corporate Director for Place Services. The review process will be managed by the Head of Community & Public Protection. The review is predicated on support from relevant senior managers across the directorate, and members of the Place Scrutiny Committee.
- 9.4 The purpose of the review is proposed as *‘to ensure that streetscene enforcement services are organised and delivered in ways which maximise effectiveness and at best value to the Council.’* Much work is going on at present to converge and harmonise services brought together from the predecessor councils, but it is recognised that yet more work is required to ensure that Members transformational ambitions are realised. This review will help to inform that work. In particular, the review will help us understand the potential for multi-disciplinary enforcement officers and the review will explore best practice and innovative approaches from elsewhere as part of the review.
- 9.5 The stages of the review are proposed as;

## **10. Mapping**

- 10.1 To determine what services are delivered; the policy framework; the resources employed; the benefits realised to communities and the Council together with a SWOT analysis for each. It is proposed that mapping should be extended to any services outside of Place which are clearly linked to the purpose of the review.

## **11. Analysis**

11.1 To identify synergies; opportunities and comparison to how services are structured and delivered in other councils – best practice and innovation. To look at how policy may need to change (where not dictated by statute) to provide a more flexible operating and adaptable environment.

## **12. Recommendations**

12.1 May cover issues including;

- Policy development
- Service groupings and combined services/roles
- Level of resources
- New ways of working
- Use of technology

12.2 It is proposed to complete this review within 6-months with an interim report to your Committee at the halfway stage. Resources will be drawn from the relevant services, Place Scrutiny Committee members, and a project manager will be sought from the Transformation Team.

## **13. Other Considerations**

13.1 The Government's Better Regulation initiative aims to improve the relationship between business and regulators and reduce regulatory burden. Whilst this review is primarily focused around streetscene enforcement, regard will be had to implications for Dorset business and opportunities taken to support business growth.

13.2. The opportunity for closer partnership working with town & parish councils will also be explored. In dog control, the Council already has joint enforcement arrangements with Lyme Regis Town Council and five parish councils in the east of Dorset. In addition, a Dorset Council led multi-agency funded Community Safety Accreditation Scheme in Weymouth delivers 4 uniformed patrol officers working across a range of ASB related enforcement activities.