

Subject:	Neighbourhood Enforcement Teams		
Date of Meeting:	20 July 2015		
Report of:	Director of Public Health		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Peter Castleton	Tel: 292607
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to launch the process of reviewing the enforcement functions of the council with the intention of making them more neighbourhood focussed.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That a review of existing enforcement functions across the council is undertaken.
- 2.2 That options are drawn up for reconfiguring enforcement functions to be more efficient with a neighbourhood focus utilising officers who are already in neighbourhoods and communities. A report will be brought back to the committee for consideration.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The council has a number of services where enforcement is an integral part of regulation or problem solving. These services include teams within Regulatory Services, Housing, Cityclean, Cityparks, Highways and Community Safety. Sanctions range from fixed penalty notices through to criminal proceedings.
- 3.2 Police are directly involved in the enforcement of criminal matters. The council also has a range of powers to enforce both criminal and civil matters.
- 3.3 Officers are expected to account for their performance in relation to work that includes enforcement to their managers and also, often, to those impacted on by enforcement and regulation including citizens and communities. The courts will also play a role in vetting enforcement either through an appeal process or, where there is no statutory provision, by way of judicial review.
- 3.4 A small number of areas in the country have trialled high profile joint enforcement teams. These range from a well-established uniformed patrol scheme in Nottingham jointly delivered with the police through to a current pilot in Reigate and Banstead where a small team have a joint patrolling function several days a

week. These teams patrol in the town centres and neighbourhoods and are targeted by intelligence reports and community concerns.

- 3.5 Opportunities are now coming to light that will enable the consideration of how voluntary active citizens could be involved in low level enforcement.
- 3.6 Co-location of staff from different teams in the past has led to greater collaboration manifesting in improved information sharing and a more holistic response to issues.
- 3.7 Consideration should be given to what council, police and partner resources are already on the streets and in neighbourhoods and whether they could be used for broader roles encompassing enforcement.
- 3.8 The move towards a neighbourhood centred model of delivering services to communities will enable the targeting of resources to where there is the greatest need. This will also ensure communities have a say in where resources are directed.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 A high profile uniformed service would require capital investment; developing neighbourhood enforcement using officers who already embedded in neighbourhoods would be efficient.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 No formal consultation has taken place at this stage.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The scoping and consideration of options for a neighbourhood enforcement team will need the co-operation of key managers involved in enforcement or who have officers already in neighbourhoods from across the council, the police and other partners.
- 6.2 Moving forward with this work will require stakeholder teams to agree to input manager's time. This will enable them to recommend options for neighbourhood based enforcement including options for pooling resources to move to an effective neighbourhood focussed model.
- 6.3 Enabling communities to be involved through in resourcing and directing a neighbourhood enforcement team is likely to increase trust and confidence and would be a realisation of active citizenship.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The consideration of options for reconfiguring enforcement functions to be more efficient and neighbourhood focussed will be delivered within existing resources. Options proposed for enhanced neighbourhood enforcement once developed will be financially assessed against available budgets (Council and partners) and reported to a future Neighbourhood, Communities and Equalities Committee.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 9/7/2015

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 As this is an investigation to consider options there is no legal implications at this stage. Should there be a more substantive recommendation, then there will be legal considerations such as delegated authority and consideration of issues such as the Equalities Act.

Lawyer Consulted: Simon Court

Date: 9/7/2015

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 An equality impact assessment will need to be carried out to consider where there may be unintended adverse impacts in the most deprived communities.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 Any revised ways or working need to be sustainable and deliverable in the long term. Reducing an enhanced model of neighbourhood enforcement will have an immediate effect on public confidence.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 7.5 Enhanced neighbourhood enforcement is likely to have a positive impact on crime, the fear of crime and on anti-social behaviour.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None