

DRAFT MINUTE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT) – 9th January 2018

CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT POLICY

With the aid of a report by the Head of Community (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Corporate Enforcement Policy was presented to the Panel.

Members were given a brief introduction to the report and were informed that the Policy will outline a number of regulations that individuals and business are required to adhere to and states the sanctions if they are breached.

Following the introduction of the report, the Panel stated that they welcomed the approach of working across services. A Member added that they would like the Policy to specifically mention fly posting, unauthorised A Boards and Estate Agent signs. In response, Members were informed that the offences mentioned could be included as part of environment crime, although the Council has to balance what offences are a priority.

In response to a question regarding the handling of a fly tipping report by the Call Centre, the Panel was informed that the report would be forwarded to two departments, one to enforce and the other to clear up. The matrix within the Policy defines which department is responsible to respond.

Following a question on how the Council would enforce the Policy, the Panel was informed that ensuring that it is enforced consistently is important. The Policy has to be concise and understandable to residents and businesses. It also needs to be an effective deterrent. Members were informed that public reporting is crucial to the success of the Policy and publicising the Council's successful enforcement is important for public confidence in the Policy and the Council.

In response to a question about collaboration with other local authorities, in regards to persistence offenders, the Panel was informed that where possible the Council does share information with other local authorities however it is not a systemic as it could be.

Following a question regarding abandoned vehicles it was clarified that a report of an abandoned vehicle would be responded to within three days but it wouldn't necessarily be removed.

The Panel commended the Policy and stated that the Policy is what is expected but urged that the Policy specifically states the offences of fly posting, unauthorised A Boards and Estate Agent signs.