



## **CABINET – 4TH MARCH 2015**

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT POLICY**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER**

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- 1.1 The attached report, which sought the views of Members on a revised Public Protection Enforcement Policy, was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 17th February 2015, prior to its presentation to Cabinet.
  - 1.2 It was explained that the Public Protection division has a major regulatory role in protecting the environment and ensuring a safe, healthy and prosperous community for citizens, business and visitors. This role includes the enforcement of numerous statutes, many of which include criminal and other sanctions on those who infringe the law. In order to ensure a fair and consistent approach to their enforcement responsibilities, the Public Protection division developed an Enforcement Policy, which was last approved in 2011. This policy now requires updating due to changes in legislation and the range of sanctions available to the division.
  - 1.3 The Enforcement Options section of the existing Policy has been expanded and updated in a number of areas, with the revised Policy attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The Policy will be reviewed annually with a report on compliance and enforcement action submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committee. Once approved, the Policy will be bilingual, published on the Council's website and be made available in hard copy and other formats. In addition, Service Standards (attached as Appendix 2 to the report) have also been established in line with the Regulators' Code and The Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) toolkit and will be published on the Council's website.
  - 1.4 Discussion of the report ensued and Officers responded to general queries regarding enforcement options, processes and principles contained within the revised Policy. A query was raised regarding the sustainability of the revised Policy if staffing levels reduced in future years, and it was confirmed that the Public Protection division would prioritise the delivery of regulatory functions accordingly. Officers also clarified procedures relating to cost recovery and shared enforcement roles with other agencies and authorities
  - 1.5 Following consideration of the report, the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein, the revised Public Protection Enforcement Policy be approved.
  - 1.6 Members are asked to consider the recommendation.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 17th February 2015  
– Agenda Item 8