

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET
THURSDAY 28th JUNE 2007

Environment Education And Enforcement Strategy

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	A Better Environment
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enabling Community Wellbeing
CORPORATE PLAN KEY PRIORITY:	The Environment
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Marcus Hart
HEAD OF SERVICE:	Head of Cultural, Leisure & Commercial Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Keith Burgess Operational Services Manager 01562 732956 keith.burgess@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 Strategy Document Appendix 2 Action Plan <i>The appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. (See front cover for details).</i>

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For Members to consider adopting the Environment, Education and Enforcement Strategy attached to this report. To ask Members to note the action plan provided in Appendix 2 which has arisen from the Strategy Document.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

- 2.1 **The Environmental, Education and Enforcement Strategy be adopted.**
- 2.2 **The Head of Cultural, Leisure & Commercial Services, in consultation with the Head of Legal & Democratic Services, be delegated to take action in accordance with the Strategy, and report any amendments and revision to the Strategy as appropriate.**

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Wyre Forest District Council acts as a regulator and enforcement body for a diverse range of Acts of Parliament, Regulations and Orders, which in turn place legal duties and powers upon the Council.

- 3.2 The purpose of the Strategy Document is to provide guidance and direction to the Council and its officers, in undertaking environmental education and enforcement action. The document will also assist in the efficient and effective targeting of resources to particular issues, the action plan.
- 3.3 The Strategy Document is attached to this report as Appendix 1. It is intended as a working document which will guide future actions and evolve as necessary. The Strategy shares a number of key objectives with other Council Policies and Plans. This is deliberate, and will encourage inter-departmental working. The Strategy understandably therefore contains a framework for delivery which includes both internal and external partners.
- 3.4 As a working strategy, it is intended to bring to Cabinet, from time to time, amendments and updates as appropriate for the Cabinet to approve.
- 3.5 The Cabinet is asked to peruse the Strategy in Appendix 1, some of the key points from the document are summarised in the body of this report.

4.0 THE STRATEGY – KEY POINTS

- 4.1 The Council supports the principles of enforcement and endorses national guidance, Codes of Practice and circulars relating to enforcement. This Strategy also sets out the standards the Council applies acting in it's as regulator and enforcement body across a range of legal duties and powers.
- 4.2 It is the intention of this policy to cover the broad common issues of enforcement and regulation with component policies on specific areas of enforcement, giving greater detail to the relevant statutory provisions.
- 4.3 The Strategy will adhere to the core values of:
- Proportionality in applying the law and in securing compliance.
 - Consistency of approach.
 - Transparency about how the Council as a regulator operates and what those regulated may expect.
 - Helpfulness, as the Council believes that prevention is better than cure.
 - Standards as contained within this Strategy, are drawn up in consultation with interested parties, setting out our services, the procedure will be well published, effective and readily accessible to all.
 - Public interest, it must be in the public interest to prosecute.
- 4.4 The Strategy sets out some key principles relating to the service delivery and are shown as a series of individual policy statements as follows:-

Policy Statement 1

The Council will adopt and drive towards the targets and outcomes of the Strategy.

Policy Statement 2

The Parking Services Section of Cultural, Leisure & Commercial Services for which enforcement is part of, shall annually draft an action plan as part of its business plan to outline target objectives for the financial year.

Policy Statement 3

The action plan shall target educational enforcement objectives through the utilisation of a range of measures such as eco-schools, campaigns, school talks, enforcement hot spot working and a hi-profile media campaign as detailed within the Strategy.

Policy Statement 4

The policy for litter eradication shall be as outlined within DEFRA's guidelines on the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse (COPLR).

Policy Statement 5

Monitoring of the standards of litter shall be as outlined under BVPI 199 a/b.

Policy Statement 6

Council Divisions shall work together to achieve the target and objectives contained within the Strategy.

Policy Statement 7

The Parking Services Section of Cultural, Leisure & Commercial Services, for which enforcement shall promote effective cross-sectional working both internally with other Council Sections and externally with other key partners.

Policy Statement 8

All Council staff shall adhere fully to the core guiding principles of the Strategy in the execution of their duties.

Policy Statement 9

All Council staff shall aim to make a significant contribution towards a clean, safe, healthy, accessible and sustainable local environment, using educational, formal or informal procedures to achieve the most effective compliance within the relevant statutes.

Policy Statement 10

All staff shall be suitably trained to enable them to carry out their duties and shall have received the necessary authorisations.

5.0 THE ACTION PLAN 2007 TO 2008

5.1 The action plan which addresses the following enforcement issues is attached as Appendix 2:-

- Dog Fouling
- Litter deposited on the highway from vehicles/cigarettes from a vehicle
- Graffiti
- Fly posting/Defacement Notices
- Duty of Care – Waste/Waste Carriers Licence/Business Waste/Waste transfer notes
- Household Waste Receptacles Note/Site Waste/Unauthorised Waste
- Nuisance Parking
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Statutory Notice – Street Litter Control Notice/Litter Clearing Notice/Litter Abatement Notice
- Fly tipping
- Unauthorised distribution of free printed matter
- General Domestic Property Issues – Control of pests – Liaise Planning Health & Environment

5.2 The plan identifies locations across the District which have been identified as 'hot spots'. These locations will benefit from the targeted enforcement action. Full details are provided within the plan together with dates. It is intended to concentrate activities in each area over a three month period. This of course does not mean that the locations will then be ignored. The sites will be re-visited as part of the Council's normal enforcement activity.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from the adoption of this Strategy, the revenue cost of implementing the action plan will be met from existing budgets.

7.0 LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific legal or policy issues not previously addressed by briefing papers, training and the use of pre-printed enforcement notices.

8.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 There are no significant risk management issues arising any perceived risk has been reduced by providing the Council Officers, who have enforcement powers, with the appropriate training, guidance and supervision.

CONSULTEES

CMT
Councillor M Hart – Cabinet Member

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.