



**Haringey Council**

<b>Report for:</b>	Cabinet - 16 September 2014	<b>Item Number:</b>	
<b>Title:</b>	Response to Scrutiny Review - Strategic Enforcement		
<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	Tracie Evans, Chief Operating Officer		
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Graham Beattie		
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b> All	<b>Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:</b>  Key Decision		

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 The Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel examined the council's strategic enforcement functions as part of its 2013/14 work programme. Their resultant report was considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at their meeting in April when a range of recommendations presenting workable solutions designed to build on the already good work being undertaken by the council were agreed.
- 1.2 This report, and more specifically the appendix to it, lists the recommendations and presents the Cabinet Member's response to them.

## **2. Cabinet Member introduction**

2.1 I find myself in a somewhat unique position having both been involved in the original scrutiny review of the council's strategic enforcement functions and, as the new Cabinet Member for Environment, in responding to it. I am therefore able to commend the recommendations to the Cabinet and the measured response to them. I say measured, because the present administration's manifesto seeks a more robust enforcement role by the council in supporting law abiding residents against the actions of irresponsible residents, landlords and businesses, while also recognising the challenging financial framework within which the council finds itself having to operate.



The preparation of a new council enforcement policy is perhaps the most important of the recommendations as this will provide the framework within which the other recommendations can be addressed in a consistent and complementary manner.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 That Cabinet note the recommendations arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of the council's strategic enforcement functions and agree the response to these set out in the appendix to this report.

### **4. Alternative options considered**

4.1 The appendix to this report sets out a considered response to all twenty seven of the original Overview & Scrutiny recommendations. In arriving at these responses officers have had regard to the intention behind the recommendations and the practicality of their delivery in terms of both staff and other resources. Appropriate option comments are contained in the individual responses.

### **5. Background information**

5.1 The council undertakes a number of regulatory functions that control the behaviour of individuals and organisations in the public interest and support its statutory powers. In undertaking their review, the Scrutiny Panel placed a particular focus on the co-ordination, consistency and effectiveness of council enforcement functions and public awareness of and engagement with them.

### **6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications**

6.1 There are no specific additional financial commitments identified in the responses to the recommendations. Actions will be met through existing budgets including, where noted, those aligned to Council transformation programmes. Where subsequent additional resource requirements are identified these will need to be presented to Cabinet at that time.

### **7. Head of Legal Services and legal implications**

7.1 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report. The majority of the recommendations are operational matters delegated to officers. The implementation of other decisions such as the adoption of a revised enforcement policy and selective licensing scheme will need to be agreed by members in due course.



**Haringey Council**

## **8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments**

8.1 Policy and Equalities Team have consulted in the preparation of this report and have commented that:

8.2 A key recommendation of this review which, in his response, the Cabinet Member has agreed is that Haringey Council adopts a set of enforcement principles among which is “A fair yet firm approach to enforcement”.

8.3 This principle underpins and will continue to underpin any Haringey enforcement policy now and in the future. It is consistent with the Council’s general equality duty which requires that in all its functions and activities, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between groups in the wider Haringey community.

8.4 It is also consistent with the Council’s equal opportunities policy and with the Council’s Corporate Plan, which has “Promoting equality” as a cross-cutting theme, which all parts of the Council including enforcement will have to embrace and be guided by in everything they do.

8.5 We do not think that the adoption of any of the recommendations of this report will require a full equality impact assessment as it is not likely that any of them will have a disproportionate negative impact on any persons or groups possessing any of the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010 nor is it likely to have a negative effect on community cohesion in Haringey.

## **9. Head of Procurement Comments**

9.1 This report has no procurement implications.

## **10. Policy Implication**

10.1 A key recommendation from the review is the assessment and updating of the council’s current Enforcement Strategy. This will serve as a framework for addressing the various other review recommendations.

## **11. Reasons for Decision**

11.1 This report seeks Cabinet agreement to the proposed response to the Overview & Scrutiny recommendations on the council’s strategic enforcement functions.

## **12. Use of Appendices**

12.1 Appendix : Response to Scrutiny Panel recommendations.



**Haringey** Council

### **13. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

13.1 None.