

Decision Number:

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

Subject: Environmental Health Out of Hours Service

Details of Decision taken: **To stop the reactive out of hours service undertaken by the Environmental Health Team on Friday and Saturday Evenings between 18:00 and 00:00.**

Reason for Decision

A Service Change Impact Assessment was agreed at Cabinet in February 2023 for the removal of the reactionary Environmental Health Out of Hours Service (Friday and Saturday Evenings 18:00 to 00:00) resulting in a budgetary saving of approximately £15,000 per year. Whilst this SCIA was agreed, the Council Leader at that time requested that the service continue until such time as consideration could be given to other options.

Demand for the Out of Hours Service has reduced significantly over the past few years. This reduction in calls has in part occurred from a change in the contractor terms within our stray dog kennelling contract and as a result of the NoiseApp being introduced.

The majority of calls that are received by the OOH service are 1st time complaints and are dealt with through the provision of information (this could reasonably be done during the normal working week) or regarding irregular or one-off incidents that are unlikely to constitute an actionable problem.

Since April 2022, the Environmental Health Out of Hours Service has received 113 calls (only 25 since April 2023). Of these, only around 8 required visits to be undertaken (2 in 2023) and none resulted in legal action being taken by the duty officer. During this period the service has cost approximately £21,000 or £185 per call (£255 since April 23) This does not represent value for customers or the District Council.

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<p>All Documents considered:</p> <p>Copy of minutes from Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee when SCIA for removal of service was discussed.</p> <p>Copy of minute from Cabinet where SCIA's were agreed</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision:</p> <p>Continuation of the existing out of hours service- the service is no longer budgeted for and statistics suggest that there is insufficient demand for the service to represent value for money</p>
<p>Financial implications</p> <p>This decision effects a SCIA agreed in February 2023 and ensures that spend within the Environmental Health Service is in line with budget.</p>
<p>Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement</p> <p>The District Council does not have a legal duty to provide a reactive out of hours service for Environmental Health. Reasonably practicable investigation of complaints can still be adequately undertaken through proactive out of hours visits, installation of Noise Nuisance Recorders and use of the NoiseApp.</p> <p>Environmental Health will continue to maintain and Emergency contact rota for Public Health Emergencies</p>
<p>Equality Impacts (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty)</p>

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Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and does not vary between groups of people.

Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and Chief Officer/Head of Service Consulted

- Leader of the District Council
- Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Planning and Regulatory Services
- Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee
- Environmental Health Manager

Details of any conflicts of interest

a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker

b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict

Decision taken by:	Portfolio Holder for xxx Cleaner & Greener
Signed by Portfolio Holder	

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(For Democratic Services use)

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Date of Decision	21 November 2023
Record made by:	Phil Magee
Date of record:	8 November 2023

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