



**REPORT of
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**to
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 OCTOBER 2024**

**APPROVAL OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, WASTE AND CLIMATE ACTION
ENFORCEMENT POLICY 2025**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 For Members to consider and approve the *Environmental Health, Waste and Climate Action Enforcement Policy 2025* (**APPENDIX 1**), which sets out the principles and approach to enforcement within the Environmental Health, Waste and Climate Action team.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members agree to approve and publish the *Environmental Health, Waste and Climate Action Enforcement Policy 2025* as set out in **APPENDIX A**.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 A new Environmental Health, Waste and Climate Action Enforcement Policy has been produced to replace the current version. The new policy includes changes to references to other Council policies and relationships with external regulators. It also expands on the protection of humans right, equalities and powers of entry.
- 3.2 The proposed Environmental Health, Waste and Climate Action Enforcement Policy 2025 (the Policy) provides a clear and consistent framework for enforcement across Environmental Health, Waste, and Climate Action services.
- 3.3 The Policy aligns with the principles of good enforcement: proportionality, consistency, transparency, accountability, and targeting, in line with the Regulators' Code and national statutory guidance.
- 3.4 The Policy introduces a graduated enforcement approach, focusing on early engagement, education and compliance, with escalation to formal action where necessary.
- 3.5 The Policy supports enforcement under key legislation, including the Housing Act 2004, Environmental Protection Act 1990, and emerging legislation such as the Renters Reform Bill.
- 3.6 Enforcement options range from informal advice to prosecution.
- 3.7 Officers will be formally authorised in writing, based on competency, role, and training.

- 3.8 The Policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner if required by legislative or policy changes.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Approval and implementation of the Policy is crucial to providing fair, consistent, high quality enforcement interventions, which protect public safety and the environment and provide public reassurance.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2028

5.1 Supporting our communities

- 5.1.1 Implementation of the policy will ensure that fair and consistent approaches towards enforcement are made in relation to both individuals and businesses. A progressive approach allows for education and other informal enforcement prior to formal action, helping business and residents to comply with the law before facing more serious sanctions.

5.2 Protecting our environment

- 5.2.1 Clarity on the options available to deal with environmental offences and how decisions are made, helps ensure that the most appropriate tools are used to protect the environment.

5.3 Delivering good quality services.

- 5.3.1 Communication of expectations, and what needs to be done to comply with the law and decision making will ensure delivery of consistently high quality services. An up-to-date policy also helps officers act clearly and confidently when taking enforcement action.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Clearer enforcement process, improved public protection, and access to appeals procedures.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Helps ensure a consistent approach for all but allows for discretion where circumstances dictate.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – Reduces risk of legal challenge or non-compliance with statutory duties.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – No additional financial burden anticipated.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – None at this stage. Review will take place in two years when further details of devolution and LGR are known. Principles of enforcement are accepted nationally, so little change anticipated.

Background Papers:

Environmental Health, Waste and Climate Action Enforcement Policy 2025 (**APPENDIX A**)

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