



## Management response

Local Authority: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Report title: Environmental Health follow-up review

Issue date: November 2019

Ref	Proposal for improvement	Intended outcome/ benefit	High priority (yes/no)	Accepted (yes/no)	Management response	Completion date	Responsible officer
1	The Council should ensure that it has assessed the impact of withdrawing from the collaborative working arrangement with Torfaen CBC on the financial and operational sustainability of the environmental health service. It also needs to consider how to continue to respond to the Council's budget challenge and to new legislation. This may include:	Ensure that the financial implications of the changes to the working arrangements have been fully assessed and future funding implications have been fully considered.	Yes	Yes	Jan 2020. The financial pressures resulting from the withdrawal have been assessed at £106,000. Some mitigation has been achieved (£18k by way of reducing hours for a Trading Standards position) and work is continuing to mitigate the pressures along with a wider service review that has been requested relating to Front Line Enforcement. The service has also been required to grow activity in relation to Empty Property incentives and enforcement (as part of the Corporate Growth Strategy. Any service reductions/changes resulting from all the above review will be impact risk assessed and communicated as necessary.	July 2019 and ongoing  Internal Service Review/ Restructure Q1 2020	DT

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seeking new partnership agreements with other Authorities (ensuring that appropriate governance arrangements are in place);</li> </ul>	As above	Yes	Yes	<p>The Service has another longer standing local authority partnership arrangement relating to Animal Health, Welfare &amp; Licensing (Powys CC). This is ongoing and subject to regular review.</p> <p>Officers are exploring new collaborative arrangements with neighbouring local authorities and some joint work is currently proposed with Torfaen in setting up (task sharing) new statutory enforcement regimes for local delivery. (This type of joint working with other LAs, central government agencies and others is common by way of long established professional networks).</p>	Ongoing	DT

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review of existing contracts with third party providers to maximise income generation opportunities;</li> </ul>	As above	Yes	Yes	<p>The Service has contracts with private providers for Litter and Dog Control Enforcement, Stray Dog Kennelling and Pest Control treatment services. These are subject to regular review and corporate procurement processes during which cost reduction/income opportunities are explored.</p> <p>- Stray Dog Kennelling procured in 2019 for 3 years</p> <p>- Litter &amp; Dog Control Enforcement Contract – under review.</p> <p>- Pest Control Services – procured 2019 –</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>April 2019</p> <p>April 2020</p> <p>Interim review completed in Jan 2020.</p>	DT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>transformation and innovation, such as use of digital intelligence to predict future patterns of service delivery and/or inform decision-making around service provision.</li> </ul>	As above	Yes	Yes	<p>Agreed. Significant progress has been made with service volume data collection and analysis to help inform decision-making around service performance and provision. Further opportunities will be investigated.</p>	March 2021	DT

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	In reconfiguring the service, the Council should ensure that statutory powers and duties are sufficiently prioritised alongside discretionary areas.	As above	Yes	Yes	Agreed. The Service continues to prioritise statutory functions along with local need/corporate priorities. Any service reductions/changes resulting from all the above will be impact risk assessed and communicated as necessary.	Ongoing	DT