



AGENDA ITEM: 7

SUMMARY

Report for:	Housing and Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	18/03/2015
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Quarter Three Performance Report – Regulatory Services
Contact:	<p>Cllr Neil Harden, Portfolio Holder for Residents and Regulatory Services</p> <p>Author/Responsible Officers:</p> <p>Chris Troy, Group Manager, Regulatory Services</p> <p>Dave Austin, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery)</p>
Purpose of report:	To provide Members with the performance report for quarter 3 in relation to Regulatory Services.
Recommendations:	That Members note the report.

Corporate objectives:	Resources and Value For Money; Optimise Resources and Implement Best Practice.
Implications: 'Value For Money Implications'	Financial: None. Value for Money: Monitoring Performance supports the Council in achieving Value for Money for its citizens.
Risk Implications	Risk Assessment completed for each service area as part of service planning and reviewed quarterly. The key risks relate to not achieving statutory targets and failing to protect the public/businesses from Environmental Health Risks : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If statutory targets are not achieved the service can be taken over and managed by the Government. • Potentially the public & businesses put at risk • Legal action taken against the Council • Reputational damage to Council
Equalities Implications	Equality Impact Assessment completed for each service area as part of service planning and reviewed quarterly.
Health And Safety Implications	None.
Consultees:	
Background papers:	Quarterly Performance Report – quarter 3 (attached).
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

1. Background

1.1 For the purpose of this report, 'Regulatory Services' includes the following services:

- Environmental Health (Food Safety, Health and Safety, Statutory Nuisances, Contaminated Land, Drainage, Private Water Supplies, Infectious Diseases, Air Quality Management)
- Private Sector Housing (HMOs, Illegal Eviction, Private Sector Landlord Issues, Improvement Grants, Disabled Facilities Grants, etc)

- Public Health
- Corporate Health and Safety
- Home Energy Conservation
- Pest Control
- Stray Dogs / Dog Warden Services
- Clinical Waste
- Cesspool Emptying
- Environmental Enforcement and High Hedges
- Emergency and Business Continuity Planning
- Street Trading
- Sustainability

2. Regulatory Services Quarter 3 Performance Indicators

2.1 REG02 (Amber) - Percentage of A-C rated food premises inspected

Quarter 3 has seen a significant increase in completion of the higher risk A-C category inspections (88% compared to 48% in Quarter 2) A combination of vacancies and illness contributed to slippage in Q2 but this has been addressed in Q3 and the backlog of inspections have largely been completed. It is expected that the overall PI's relating to food inspections will be completed over the year as a whole, in accordance with Food Standards Agency requirements.

3. Health & Safety Enforcement

- 3.1 Dacorum Borough Council successfully prosecuted the Royal Mail at Watford Magistrates Court on the 9th January 2015. The prosecution followed an investigation by Environmental Health Officers following an accident in which an employee from the Royal Mail Hemel Hempstead site suffered severe chemical burns to his leg whilst carrying out cleaning activities. The employee required immediate hospital treatment and skin grafts and required 8 months off work to recover. The Royal Mail pleaded guilty to two offences s2(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc 1974 and Regulation 6(1) of The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. The Court awarded the maximum fine of £40,000 (£20,000 per offence) and gave costs to the Council of nearly £4000. Environmental Health Officers have an important role in protecting and securing the health & safety of all employees working in Borough and will take similar action when dangerous work practices are discovered.

4. Food Safety Enforcement

- 4.1 There were four formal cautions issued to food businesses in the last quarter for Food Hygiene Offences, mainly relating to lack of Food safety management systems, hygiene and poor temperature control.

5. Environmental Protection

- 5.1 Fly tipping Convictions: On the 12 November 2014 Marc Fossey of South Dene, Gaddesden Row, Hemel Hempstead pleaded guilty to failing to comply with Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. In May 2014, dumped rubbish was found blocking a well-used bridle path and public right of

way in Pietley Hill, Flamstead. He was fined a total of £1,324.81 for the offence including a fine of £300, contribution towards the prosecution costs of £994.81 and a victim surcharge of £30.

- 5.2 There are also a further 3 flytipping cases that are being considered for legal proceedings.

6. Air Quality Action Plan

- 6.1 The Council's Air Quality Action Plan was presented to Cabinet for final approval in Dec 2014 following a detailed consultation. This sets out the Council's strategy over the next three years for managing poor air quality and focuses primarily on the three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) where levels of NO2 exceed prescribed limits.
- 6.2 An Air Quality Event was held in October which brought together all the district LA's, Highways and Public Health to discuss a County wide approach to controlling Air Quality across all districts. Dacorum BC and Public Health organised this event which is the first of it's type and is being rolled out in the Midlands. This was a good example of effective partnership working and has led to the setting up of a County wide Air Quality Planning Group. Dacorum officers sit on this group and lead on a number of initiatives. The group is currently working on a county wide Air Quality Strategy which will be circulated over the coming months. In addition the group is seeking funding for air monitoring equipment which will help to give a more accurate indication of pollutant levels across Hertfordshire. Air quality is a key public health priority and the projects above have been approved by Hertfordshire's Public Health Board. Department of Health figures revealed that Hertfordshire has the fastest-rising level of deaths from air pollution in the region and the fifth biggest increase in the country. In 2011 more than 6% of deaths in the county were due to air pollution – an increase of 4% on the previous year.

7. Corporate Health and Safety

- 7.1 The third quarter priorities included health and safety risk assessments, risk assessment training for staff, fire safety, fire evacuation plans, DSE assessments.

Other longer term projects include:

- Review the organisation & arrangements for delivering H&S
- Develop more detailed corporate H&S plans

8. Private Sector Housing

- 8.1 The Council's second Interim Management Order was issued in October. This was in relation to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) occupied by a number of tenants exposed to serious health and safety issues. DBC will now be managing the property in terms of the tenancies and it is also maintaining the property and remedying any defects so it is fit for habitation. DBC have also carried out works in default to rectify a number of hazards.
- 8.2 In Oct 2014 Officers identified two unlicensed Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) with 8 people in each, There were various issues around the vulnerability of the tenants, some were children from abroad that had been

separated from their parents and living in unsuitable accommodation. We liaised with Planning, BC, social services, Herts Fire, Legal, ASB. As a result Emergency Remedial Action Notice was served and works carried out at both properties from the 12/11/14.

9. Emergency Planning

- 9.1 An external audit was carried out of the Council's Emergency planning arrangements and the Council achieved full compliance.

10. Sustainability

- 10.1 In October there was an EMS presentation to Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a particular focus on Energy Management. Also in October external Bsi audits took place for the continuation of our ISO14001:2004 Environmental Management System Certificate (Civic Centre, Berkhamstead Civic Centre , the Depot and Cemeteries)
- 10.2 Action was also taken to identify water leakage at Gadebridge park. Work is currently underway to stop these leaks and save the Council money in the long term. A number of additional water meters have been installed across the Council's assets which will help to identify further leaks.