



**AGENDA ITEM:
SUMMARY**

Report for:	Strategic Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	15/3/2016
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Quarter Three Performance Report – Regulatory Services
Contact:	Cllr Janice Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Environmental, Sustainability and Regulatory Services. Author/Responsible Officers: Chris Troy, Group Manager, Regulatory Services Dave Austin, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery)
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:	Financial: None.
'Value For Money Implications'	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. Key risks are recorded on the Council's Risk Register which has been updated recently. 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 all enforcement policies.

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
- Environmental Enforcement and High Hedges
- Emergency and Business Continuity Planning
- Street Trading
- Sustainability

2. Regulatory Services Quarter 3 Performance Indicators

2.1 Relevant statutory targets have been achieved in Quarter 3 –see attached CORVU report.

3. Food Safety Enforcement

3.1 Three Food Hygiene Improvement Notices were served in Quarter 3. These covered various non compliances including; a failure to put in place a food safety management system, lack of hot water and poor condition of preparation surfaces. In addition one food business was closed voluntarily following a mouse infestation.

4. Environmental Protection

- 4.1 Benzene from an industrial supply pipeline caused localised contamination of fields and properties nearby. Environmental Health Officers working with the Environment Agency, Hertfordshire Resilience and a neighbouring local authority helped manage the incident. Householders were advised to drink bottled water and water risk assessments were undertaken of private water supplies in the immediate vicinity.
- 4.2 There have been numerous complaints received about Bovington Airfield over the last 18 months in relation to intensified motor sport activity. This is part of an active and ongoing investigation working in co-ordination with the planning department regarding the change of use of the site. The main issue up to recently had been complaints of noise nuisance and officers from Regulatory Services are carrying out noise monitoring to establish if there are breaches of noise abatement notices.

5. Air Quality

- 5.1 Officers from Regulatory Services sit on the County Wide Air Quality Planning Group and have helped to develop a Hertfordshire wide Air Quality Strategy which covers all 10 districts and been approved by the County's Localism Board. We gave a presentation about the strategy to the East of England Public Health Conference in December.
- 5.2 The District councils in Hertfordshire have received Public Health funding for air quality monitoring and we have used this to adapt an existing monitor in Northchurch to include analysis of a wider spectrum of pollutants. Northchurch is one of three Air Quality Management Areas in Dacorum where pollution levels exceed national limits. Data from this station will feed into the Hertfordshire network of monitors and will help to determine future strategies to control air pollution.

6. Corporate Health and Safety

- 6.1 The 3rd quarter priorities included running further risk assessment training, working with procurement to provide DSE compliant chairs for all staff, on-line DSE assessments, reviewing the procedures around hand arm vibration risks (HAV), looking at improvements to the way service providers provide safety critical data, development of a corporate alcohol policy and the implementation of model office risk assessments.
- 6.2 Other longer term projects include:
 - Review the organisation & arrangements for delivering H&S
 - On-line assessments for display screen equipment will soon be ready to go live.
 - Develop more detailed corporate H&S plans
 - Auditing

- 6.3 A H&S presentation along with a practical demonstration was given to the senior management team to raise awareness H&S responsibilities within the organisation.
- 6.4 Following notifications to the HSE of 5 cases of HAV/Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) visited Clean, Safe and Green and served 2 Improvement Notices.
- 6.5 Since then the HAV Risk Assessments have been reviewed, 73 CSG and 5 Cemetery staff have been given HAV awareness training.

7. Private Sector Housing

- 7.1 The Council continues to manage two Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) subject to Final Management Order's (FMO's), all safety hazards have been removed and the properties now comply with the requirements of the Housing Act and fire regulations. DBC now manage the tenancies and also maintain the property/remedy any defects so that these houses continue to be fit for habitation.
- 7.2 The Government is proposing to widen the current mandatory HMO Licencing scheme which will mean that many more properties will be subject to inspections. This move is welcomed as it will help to drive up housing standards and will enable us to deal more effectively with rogue landlords but it will mean that LA's will need to have additional resources to inspect properties and process licenses. The national consultation closed on the 18th Dec and the Government is expected to make a decision in the next few months.

8. Environmental Management System

- 8.1 The Council has been awarded ISO14001:2004 certification which covers the Environmental Management System (Civic Centre, Tring Victoria Hall, Berkhamstead Civic Centre, the Depot, adventure playgrounds and Cemeteries).
- 8.2 In November training was given to officers and members 'Introduction to Environmental Management System Transition requirements to ISO 14001:2015 with a view to moving towards compliance with the recently introduced higher standard.