

Review Title: Urban Gulls
Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel: Planning, Transport and Environment
Panel Chair and Vice Chair: Cllr Longstaff and Cllr Brett
Policy Development & Scrutiny Project Lead Officer: Liz Richardson
Supporting Service Officer: Cathryn Humphries, Aled Williams and Sarah Alder

Process for Tracking PD&S Recommendations - Guidance note for Cabinet Members

The enclosed table outlines all the recommendations arising from the Urban Gulls Policy Development & Scrutiny review. Individual recommendations are referred to the relevant named Cabinet Members (or whole Cabinet in the case of a whole Cabinet referral) as listed in the '**Cabinet Member**' column of the table. Cabinet members are requested to seek help from your relevant service officers within your portfolio to help complete the rationale for your response. Full details of the review have been shared with the relevant officers and they should be in touch to support you to respond. the named member(s) are asked to complete the last three columns of the table as follows:

Decision Response

The Cabinet member(s) has the following options:

- **Accept** the panel's recommendation
- **Reject** the panel's recommendation
- **Defer** a decision on the recommendation because a response cannot be given at this time. This could be because the recommendation needs to be considered in light of a future cabinet decision, imminent legislation, relevant strategy development or budget consideration.

Implementation Date

- For an 'accept' response, give the date that the recommendation will be implemented
- For a 'defer' response, give the date that the recommendation will be reconsidered
- For a 'reject' response this is not applicable so write n/a.

Rationale

Use this space to explain the rationale for your response and implementation date. For accepted recommendations, please give details of how they will be implemented.

Urban Gulls: a scrutiny inquiry

Recommendations of the PTE PDS panel to the relevant Cabinet members for consideration

Recommendation	Cabinet member	Decision response	Implement. date	Rationale
<p>1. Limit gulls’ access to food waste</p> <p>1.1 Encourage all businesses to take responsibility for adequately containing food waste through the use of gull-proof sacks and cooperating with waste collection times</p> <p>1.2 Further educate residents on waste and recycling procedures and obligations, including asserting the use of food caddies or galvanised bins in all cases</p> <p>1.3 Introduce night-time refuse collections to limit the length of time food waste is left on the street</p> <p>1.4 Pilot red plastic refuse sacks to ascertain whether this discourages gulls from attempting to get waste and, if successful, roll out to all city residents if successful</p> <p>1.5 Work with owners of guest houses and self-catering holiday apartments to encourage more accessible and better information for visitors about correct disposal of food waste</p>	<p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p>			

Appendix one – Urban Gulls recommendations response table

DRAFT for discussion

Recommendation	Cabinet member	Decision response	Implement. date	Rationale
<p>1.6 Work in partnership with the Business Improvement District (BID) to campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) commercial waste collectors to supply gull-proof sacks to businesses b) businesses to commission commercial waste collection through responsible collectors. 	Cllr Dixon			
<p>2. Increase use of effective gull intervention methods</p> <p>2.1 Encourage owner-occupier egg replacement action through the provision of free replacement eggs and relevant information and advice to any business which wishes to pursue this approach</p> <p>2.2 Promote gull-proofing of new buildings through the B&NES planning application process and planning guidance</p> <p>2.3 Treat the council’s own buildings with appropriate intervention methods to lead by example and share good practice</p> <p>2.4 Further explore the ‘Australia’ model of developing nesting areas outside of the city centre, with a view to developing a pilot site if viable. These sites include nesting platforms to encourage nesting in locations where it is easier to oil/prick eggs.</p>	<p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Stevens / Cllr Ball</p> <p>Cllr Dixon / Cllr Bellotti</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p>			

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Recommendation	Cabinet member	Decision response	Implement. date	Rationale
<p>3. Carry out effective enforcement against those who break the rules</p> <p>3.1 Broaden use by the enforcement team of online communications tools to recognise responsible businesses, highlight the number of penalties issued and monitor trends</p> <p>3.2 Actively share performance information on penalties and convictions through the local media and council’s website to broadcast a strong message to the public on enforcement against persistent offenders</p> <p>3.3 Carry out effective enforcement for littering in identified ‘hot spots’ such as parks, car parks and around seating area.</p>	<p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon / Cllr Bellotti</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p>			
<p>4. Improve education and engagement with businesses, residents and visitors</p> <p>4.1 Develop an improved and consistent communications campaign to educate the public on what action the council is already taking to limit gull numbers, success rates and future plans</p> <p>4.2 Provide clear and consistent guidance on what can and cannot be done, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a ‘one-for-all’ leaflet with top 10 tips for how to lessen your impact on gulls b) specific guidance for residents, 	<p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p>			

Appendix one – Urban Gulls recommendations response table

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Recommendation	Cabinet member	Decision response	Implement. date	Rationale
<p>businesses and visitors using the notion of ‘respect our city’</p> <p>4.3 Train food safety officers on the preferred and successful approaches for dealing with gulls to share with business owners when visiting on routine inspections</p> <p>4.4 Recognise excellence through new gull champions – those who are passionate about the need to work together to tackle the gull problem and lead by example.</p>	<p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p>			
<p>5. Undertake further research and utilise shared learning</p> <p>5.1 Develop a cohesive gull strategy that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • defined roles and responsibilities for the council, public and businesses • the short, medium and long term vision • an overview of what is already being done • themed objectives and actions for improvement • defined benchmarks for success • timetable for evaluation and review • approval of Natural England <p>5.2 Build on the existing link to the Severn Estuary Gull Action Group and shared learning to date to build knowledge on best practice and work across boundaries for a more joined up approach</p>	<p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p>			

Appendix one – Urban Gulls recommendations response table

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Recommendation	Cabinet member	Decision response	Implement. date	Rationale
5.3 Discuss the impact of landfill with other local councils and the opportunities to limit gulls' access to food at these sites.	Cllr Dixon			
<p>6. Work with the Severn Estuary Gull Action Group to lobby Government to take more action</p> <p>6.1 Lobby Government, via the LGA, to tackle urban gull issues at national level by providing advice and support to councils, informed by a national study of good practice</p> <p>6.2 Lobby for clearer definitions in law on littering, in particular in relation to food waste, and better defined rules on offender enforcement within the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill</p> <p>6.3 Campaign for a further reduction of food waste to landfill, with the specific aim of closing exposed landfill sites and reducing the food source for gulls</p>	<p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p>			