

Updated - Urban Gulls recommendations Cabinet member responses (April 2014)

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 Officers: Sue Green, Cathryn Humphries, Aled Williams, Sarah Alder, Richard Long and Lisa Bartlett

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.

Updated - Urban Gulls recommendations Cabinet member responses (April 2014)

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 Require 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 Educate residents on waste and recycling procedures and obligations and assert 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 streets</p> <p>PTE PDS (4 March 2014) Cllr Dixon has explained his position further and informed the panel that there are several barriers to this being achieved including planning permission on the refuse sites, health and safety issues of working at night and public disapproval. Cllr Dixon remains firm that this recommendation should be rejected. The panel wish to commission a piece of work by officers to investigate the steps and likely costs that would be involved to overcome the barriers.</p>	Cllr Dixon	Accept	In hand	Work already in-hand through on-going campaigns and enforcement and through the BID.
	Cllr Dixon	Accept	From March 2014	Education and enforcement activity will take place with promotional activities and a door knocking campaign in specific locations. External funding will be used to increase this activity.
	Cllr Dixon	Reject	-	Commercial waste collections are already taking place in the evening and these are being extended to include food waste recycling.
	Cllr Dixon	Reject	-	Response unchanged

Updated - Urban Gulls recommendations Cabinet member responses (April 2014)

Recommendation	Cabinet member	Decision response	Implement. date	Rationale
<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 appropriate city residents</p> <p>PTE PDS (4 March 2014) This recommendation was considered as gull-proof sacks, rather than basic sacks which are usually black or white. This recommendation will be rewritten to make this point clearer such as: <i>“Make red refuse sacks available for residents and businesses to purchase and actively encourage them to do so...”</i>. Cllr Dixon is going to discuss this change with officers and reconsider whether the recommendation can be accepted or deferred.</p> <p>1.5 Work with owners of guest houses and self-catering holiday apartments to advocate more accessible and better information for visitors about correct disposal of food waste</p> <p>1.6 Work in partnership with the Business Improvement District (BID) to campaign: a) commercial waste collectors to supply gull-proof sacks to all businesses b) businesses to commission responsible commercial waste collectors.</p>	Cllr Dixon	Reject	From April 2014	Re-useable sacks for residents have already been provided to specific roads where traditional dustbins would not be suitable. Further areas are being planned. There is no resource available for alternatives to this.
	Cllr Dixon	Reject		Response unchanged
	Cllr Dixon	Accept	In hand	Neighbourhood Environmental Services (NES) will work with Public Protection & Health Improvement (PPHI) jointly to develop this. NES to develop information so that Public Protection Officers can deliver messages when carrying out routine food hygiene interventions
	Cllr Dixon	Accept	In hand	Already in hand

Updated - Urban Gulls recommendations Cabinet member responses (April 2014)

Recommendation	Cabinet member	Decision response	Implement. date	Rationale
<p>methods, and share experiences and 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>PTE PDS (4 March 2014) The panel have asked for timescales as to when this exploration will be undertaken. Cllr Dixon has stated he is going to discuss with UWE students as a possible research project and will feed back to the panel about this at a later date.</p>	<p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p>	<p>Defer</p> <p>Accept</p>	<p>Not known as yet</p>	<p>replacement to supplement this and fill the gaps in coverage. The main issue is gaps in coverage and this will need to be addressed. If there is a small budget issue, this can be achieved. If the figures are greater than thought, we will need to look at what can be done.</p> <p>Further evidence is required to demonstrate the effectiveness of this suggestion</p> <p>This issue has already been referred (February 2014) to UWE as a possible model for a student research project. It is, of course, possible that no students will chose this topic. The panel will be updated in September 2014.</p>
<p>3. Carry out effective enforcement against those who break the rules</p> <p>3.1 Enforce stronger penalties for littering in identified 'hot spots' such as parks, car parks and around outdoor seating area</p> <p>3.2 Broaden use of online and other communications tools by the enforcement team to include recognition of responsible businesses and actively share performance information on penalties and convictions to broadcast a strong message to the public on enforcement against persistent offenders.</p>	<p>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Accept</p>	<p>April 2014</p> <p>May 2014</p>	<p>Local Authorities can set the fixed penalty amount within a range of £50 to £80. The default amount is £75 and this is the current level of FPN's in B&NES</p> <p>The Cleansing Enforcement Officers have been equipped with mobile devices. It is possible for them to use social media to promote areas of good practice and publicise actions taken with advice from Communications and Marketing</p>

Updated - Urban Gulls recommendations Cabinet member responses (April 2014)

Recommendation	Cabinet member	Decision response	Implement. date	Rationale
This will also enable the service to better monitor trends.				
<p>4. Improve education and engagement with businesses, residents and visitors</p> <p>4.1 Plan and deliver a strengthened and consistent communications campaign to educate the public and enforce a more coordinated approach</p> <p>4.2 Provide clear and consistent guidance on individuals' and businesses' rights and responsibilities to tackle urban gulls, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a 'one-for-all' leaflet with top 10 tips for how to lessen individual and business impact on gull numbers b) specific guidance to target residents, businesses and visitors using the notion of 'respect our city' c) ensuring business and property owners, and residents are made aware of their legal rights and responsibilities under the general licence issued by Natural England <p>4.3 Train public protection officers on options for businesses and building owners to tackle gulls to share whilst 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>Cllr Dixon</p> <p>Cllr Dixon</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Accept</p> <p>Accept</p> <p>Accept</p>	<p>Feb 2014</p> <p>April 2014</p> <p>April 2014</p> <p>April 2014</p>	<p>Officers will work with the Communications and Marketing team to plan and deliver this campaign</p> <p>This guidance will be produced and made available through the OSS and on the public website.</p> <p>This will be completed through a training session delivered to the relevant officers</p> <p>The service will recognise those residents/businesses that have taken proactive steps in dealing with the gull problem and publicise this work to the wider community.</p>

Updated - Urban Gulls recommendations Cabinet member responses (April 2014)

Recommendation	Cabinet member	Decision response	Implement. date	Rationale
5.2 Build on the existing link to the Severn Estuary Gull Action Group to improve shared learning on best practice and work across boundaries for a more joined up approach	Cllr Dixon	Accept	April 2014	Officers and Members will attend these meetings to hear of good practice and help to promote a more joined up approach to the problem
5.3 Discuss the impact of landfill with other local councils and options to limit gulls' access to food at these sites.	Cllr Dixon	Reject	-	This is the responsibility of the Environment Agency (EA). EA will be contacted and advised of this recommendation
<p>PTE PDS (4 March 2014) The panel were concerned that this recommendation had been noted as 'reject', whereas it should be deferred and the council can therefore be proactive in working with the EA.</p>	Cllr Dixon	Reject		March update – no change
<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 ASB Bill</p> <p>6.3 Campaign for a further reduction of food waste to landfill, with the specific aim of covering or closing exposed landfill sites and reducing the food source for gulls.</p>	Cllr Dixon	Accept	From April 2014	Documents will be prepared for the Cabinet member so that he can raise this with the LGA
	Cllr Dixon	Accept	From April 2014	Documents will be prepared for the Cabinet member so that he can raise this with the LGA
	Cllr Dixon	Reject	-	The Council will encourage other members of the Severn Estuary Gull Action Group to follow their lead and ensure their food waste is sent to composting facilities rather than landfill