
PPP Private Sector Housing Policy

Committee considering report:	Joint Public Protection Committee
Date of Committee:	5 October 2022
Chair of Committee:	Councillor Tom Marino
Date JMB agreed report:	30 August 2022
Report Author:	Rosalynd Gater
Forward Plan Ref:	JPPC4068

Purpose of the Report

To provide the Joint Public Protection Committee (JPPC) with an update on the work of the Public Protection Partnership (PPP) within Environmental Health Sector Housing and to highlight the high level priorities which the Service will undertake over the next three years.

Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee **NOTES** the PPP's role in relation to Housing.
- 1.2 The Committee **APPROVES** the direction that PPP are taking in Environmental Health Sector Housing.

Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	In order to ensure that the priorities are met the PPP have secured funding to recruit two additional officers to carry out housing work.
Human Resource:	See financial implications.
Legal:	One of the growth areas in the Policy is in enforcement in areas of non-compliance. This will have an implication on the Case Management Unit of PPP and on the legal teams in the partner local authorities.
Risk Management:	Financial risk is managed elsewhere. To date we have recognised that, although we prioritised the work in housing, with Wokingham leaving the partnership 50% of housing officers left the team. We hope to be able to recruit two additional officers with the additional funding secured. The Joint Management Board will be kept informed of any service changes and adjustments and any consequences arising from these will be notified.
Property:	There are no direct property implications arising from these proposals.

Policy:	The role of the Joint Public Protection Committee includes consideration of reports relating to service delivery matters. This report addresses that requirement by setting out the approach to service recovery.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?	x			This is not a decision report. The report does however set out steps taken to protect the vulnerable and address community need.
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?	x			The Environmental Health Housing Policy, by its nature, will have a positive effect on some vulnerable groups. By PPP targeting non-compliance in this sector we can improve living conditions and lives of our residents.
Environmental Impact:		x		
Health Impact:	x			The proposals create no direct health impacts on staff. They do however set out community based health protection measures.
ICT or Digital Services Impact:	x			With the current situation much more emphasis has been put on alternative methods of communication. The use of digital meetings and conferences will assist us in our communication work identified in this policy.
PPP Priorities :	x			The Policy is in line with the priorities of PPP and indeed it sets out the priorities for EH Housing
Data Impact:		✓		None
Consultation and Engagement:	Meetings are held with the LA Housing Leads for West Berks and Bracknell.			

Summary

- 1.3 The Policy sets out the context of the PPP's role in Environmental Health Sector Housing and where this fits with the PPP Vision and priorities.
- 1.4 The Policy gives a summary of the areas of work which the Service will prioritise in the coming three years; and sets direction on the approach to compliance. Compliance will be gained through enforcement as Officers are finding that an approach based on communication and informal action is not working in a number of cases.
- 1.5 The Policy gives information on Civil Penalties. These can be used as an alternative to Prosecution. The maximum penalty is £30,000, the amount of penalty is to be determined by the local housing authority in each case. In PPP this will be based on the level of culpability, the level of harm (potential or actual), it will take account of both aggravating and mitigating factors.
- 1.6 The Service recognises the importance of ensuring that the priority of EH housing is increased as this affects a large number of residents and businesses across the local authority areas. It is for this reason that the PPP has developed a dedicated team of officers (and a recruitment drive for new officers) and a Lead Principal Officer in Housing.
- 1.7 The Service is committed to working with our partners in LA Housing Teams and to that end joint meetings are held which should ensure a more cohesive, efficient and effective housing service.

Appendices

Appendix A – PPP Private Sector Housing Policy 2022 - 2025

Background Papers:

None

Subject to Call-In: Yes

Wards affected: All Wards

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