

Action Plan – Rats & Pigeons

Recommendation	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date
RATS				
<p>1. That a public awareness campaign be conducted via Stockton News, the Council's website and other Council information outlets advising of the sensible action that should be taken (both do's and don'ts) so as to eliminate potential food sources likely to encourage rats.</p> <p>The availability of the free service offered to all domestic properties, and the service offered to commercial properties, be similarly highlighted as part of the campaign.</p>	<p>a) Rat control leaflet b) Rat Article for Press release and website</p>	<p>Leaflet produced Article in Stockton News Information on Web</p>	<p>EH EH</p>	<p>Jan 2009 Jan 2009</p>
<p>2. That the Corporate Director of Resources be requested to look into current spend across the Council on pest control services and the opportunities to maximise efficiencies and 'invest to save' opportunities,</p>	<p>c) Request to Resources</p>	<p>Improved response and completion times for treatments on Council Land</p>	<p>Corporate Director of Resources</p>	<p>April 2009</p>

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<p>particularly in relation to responsibilities for open public land.</p>				
<p>3. That in order to minimise the potential for the urban landscape to attract both rats and litter, the Environmental Health Service should continue to be consulted on planning applications containing proposed shrub beds, and the service should also provide input into the design stage of major projects and the guidance contained within the Local Development Framework.</p>	<p>d) Planning to consult with EH on all applications and provide all officers with guidance "pest minimisation for the Construction Industry".</p>	<p>Guidance available and understood by all Planning, Environmental Health and Landscape design officers</p>	<p>Plan, CGS</p>	<p>Dec 08</p>
<p>4. That the benefits of the connectivity of the two relevant IT systems be acknowledged and the Environmental Health Manager build into Service Improvement Planning the acquisition of the appropriate software necessary to achieve greater connectivity between use of the Council's FLARE and GIS systems, so as to produce a higher level of</p>	<p>e) Provide connection through Flare users group</p>	<p>Availability of area based incident reports in GIS format.</p>	<p>EH</p>	<p>April 2009</p>

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management information that more accurately records specific trends regarding reported pest control problems.				
5. That through consultation with the Environmental Health Manager, the Council's Waste Implementation Plan should reflect the need to ensure that the advice provided regarding, and proposed methods of, food waste disposal and home composting do not encourage and provide food sources to rodents; and that the supply of suitable compost unit bases be further investigated by a Sub Group established by the Urban Environment Task Group (UETG).	f) Amend waste leaflets in accordance with national guidelines	Leaflets amended	CFYA	April 2009

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PIGEONS				
<p>6. That an initial public and commercial awareness campaign be initiated via Stockton News, the Council's website, the various Retail Fora highlighting the Council's wish to tackle pigeon infestation in the Borough, targeted initially via a pilot exercise within Stockton Town Centre , through measures designed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reduce food availability; -Prevent pigeon roosting sites as far as possible; -Raise awareness via high profile publicity/education of the causes of pigeon infestation (i.e. available food sources and areas for harbourage) and the detrimental effects caused by feeding pigeons human food; -Enforce prohibition; <p>and that successful measures are then extended to the remaining Borough Town Centres following the trial period.</p>	<p>g) Press releases h) Pigeon control leaflet for public i) Pigeon control leaflet for business</p>	<p>Pilot area agreed Leaflets produced Article in Stockton News Information on Web</p>	<p>EH EH EH</p>	<p>Ongoing April 2009 April 2009</p>

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<p>7. That as part of the awareness raising campaign suggested in Recommendation 6, the views of both the public and the retail sector be sought through a consultation exercise to ascertain their support for any proposed action to be taken aimed at reducing the number of pigeons within Stockton Town Centre in the first instance.</p>	<p>j) Viewpoint survey or on-line survey k) Survey of town centre premises</p>	<p>Consultation undertaken</p>	<p>EH TCM</p>	<p>Jan 2009 Dec 2008</p>
<p>8. That via the suggested Retail Fora (e.g Stockton Town Centre Retail Forum; Town Centre Managers Newsletter, Chamber of Commerce Business Forum) the retail sector be advised of the available support offered by the Council's Pest Control Service regards measures that can be implemented to prevent harbourage of pigeons on their properties, including proofing measures, securing of property against roosting etc, and they be encouraged to identify any retail properties requiring</p>	<p>i) Pigeon control leaflet for business l) Provision of advice to town centre businesses</p>	<p>Contact with all town centre businesses</p>	<p>EH</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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prevention works, including derelict properties providing harbourage.				
9. That as an incentive to the retail sectors involvement in measures to reduce pigeon infestation, the Council's Environmental Health Manager give consideration to initial concessions being offered to retailers on the cost of implementing proofing measures on their buildings, and issue appropriate advice regarding necessary measures to be carried out.	m) Subsidised pigeon proofing scheme	"Hot spots" identified and addressed	EH	April 2009 – March 2012
10. That the Council's Land & Property Manager, in consultation with the Environmental Health Manager, be requested to consider appropriate action that could be taken to deter pigeon roosting on Council buildings; such as the suitability of proofing measures being added where	n) Pigeon proofing to shambles, town hall,	All council buildings assessed and recommendations implemented.		April 2009 – March 2012

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appropriate.				
11. That as part of the consideration of the detailed design stage of proposed retail developments dialogue be entered into between developers, Planning and Environmental Health so as to seek to remove the potential for design features to encourage pigeon harbourage.	d) Planning to consult with EH on all applications and provide all officers with guidance. Including Urban Design	Guidance available and understood by all Planning, Environmental Health and Landscape design officers	Plan/ CGS	Dec 08
12. That a Sub Group be established by the Urban Environment Task Group with responsibility to incorporate into its work programme consideration of the following measures and their cost; and that they form part of an agreed Action Plan to be built into future Service Improvement Planning to assist this Task & Finish Group's aim in achieving a reduction in pigeon numbers	o) Sub group established	Sub group established	UETG	In place

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<p>in Stockton Town Centre as part of an initial pilot exercise:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use of Prohibitive Signs advising the public not to feed the pigeons/warning of enforcement action; -Media campaign utilising all available advertising outlets, bus shelters, billboards, retail premises, sandwich bags etc, promoting the theme of encouraging the public not to feed the pigeons; -Advice/Enforcement action towards retail sector regards storage of commercial food waste; -Target collection of litter bins in the Town Centre to reduce build up of food waste likely to attract pigeon/vermin, and consider number and sighting of bins to ensure that they are sited in appropriate locations (such as outside of fast food outlets) ; -Involvement of Neighbourhood Enforcement Team in offering advice/enforcement to public regards dissuading them from feeding pigeons/dropping food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> p) Provide Prohibitive Signs o) Media campaign utilising all available advertising outlets, bus shelters, billboards, retail premises, sandwich bags etc, promoting the theme of encouraging the public not to feed the pigeons; p) Advice/Enforcement action towards retail sector regards storage of commercial food waste q) Review bin position/ style and collection frequency r) Advice / Enforcement action towards public 	<p>Campaign Plan implemented.</p> <p>50% reduction in pigeon numbers</p>	<p>TCM</p> <p>EH</p> <p>EH/ NES</p> <p>CFYA</p> <p>NES</p>	<p>April 2009 – March 2012</p>

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<p>waste;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Engagement of the retail sector in all measures designed to improve the Town Centre environmental street scene; -Enforcement action to be taken with regard to properties left derelict and prone to attract pigeon/vermin; -Commissioning of a DVD, based on the example provided by Liverpool City Council, as a method of engagement to educate the public, schools, community groups etc regarding the aims of the Council's campaign to discourage the feeding of pigeons, and the DVD be promoted on the Castlegate Centre display screen; hosted as a download on the Council's website, and circulated to schools/community groups as appropriate; - The proposed use of raptor methods, subject to the outcome of the proposed consultation, be approved and be funded from the campaign budget, as a measure towards pigeon control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s) notification to all retail premises t) Advice/Enforcement action on empty properties u) Commission DVD for general use v) Use of Raptors 		<p>TCM</p> <p>EH</p> <p>EH</p> <p>EH</p>	

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13. That a campaign to reduce pigeon numbers be built into future Pest Control Service Improvement Planning and if appropriate any funding implications be built into the Medium Term Financial Plan process.	w) Headroom bid for 2009/10	Secure funding for subsidised pigeon proofing and advice scheme, media campaign, DVD and Raptors	EH	Apr 2009
14. That the Council's website content be reviewed to include the main themes of the campaign, offering appropriate advice and requesting on line comment from the public regarding areas affected by pigeon infestation.	x) Campaign details publicised	Details of campaign on web	EH	April 2009 – March 2012
15. That the Council commit to a campaign to achieve a sustainable 50% reduction in pigeon numbers in Stockton Town Centre within three years.	y) Target adopted and monitored subject to campaign	Achieve 50% reduction	EH/Enf	April 2009 – March 2012
16. That the success of the campaign be monitored by the Sub Group established by the Urban Environment Task Group and results provided on an annual basis to the Environment Select Committee.	z) Reporting process in place	Achieve 50% reduction	EH	April 2009 – March 2012