

Progress Update – Rats & Pigeons

There has been no change in the position regarding the Rats and Pigeons scrutiny review, since the previous update of 05/10/2009. This is that a bid for funding a sustained campaign to reduce pigeon numbers was unsuccessful and not included in the medium term financial plan. Measures have been taken where possible within existing budgets, but the outstanding recommendations remain unachieved. Bids for funding will be made for this campaign as and when appropriate, however in the current financial situation this is not anticipated in the near future.

Number	Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed actions	Anticipated Completion Date/ Completion Date	Evidence of Progress 05/10/09	Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
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 management information that more accurately records specific trends regarding reported pest control problems	Environmental Health	e) Provide connection through Flare users group	April 2009	Alternative GIS reporting available already through Lagan therefore producing GIS reports on an Annual basis through this route more cost effective than purchase of connection through FLARE for EH use only.	4 – Not achieved
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.	Environmental Health Town Centre Manager	j) Viewpoint survey or on-line survey k) Survey of town centre premises	Jan 2009 Dec 2008	Campaign funding bid failed so consultation element postponed as formed first part of campaign programme.	4 - Not Achieved

Progress Update – Rats & Pigeons

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 prevention works, including derelict properties providing harbourage.	Environmental Health	i) Pigeon control leaflet for business l) Provision of advice to town centre businesses	Ongoing	Leaflet produced, article in Stockton news May edition and on website and distributed to town centre premises.	4 - Not Achieved
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.	Environmental Health	m) Subsidised pigeon proofing scheme	April 2009 – March 2012	Funding bid failed, scheme cannot be supported	4 - Not Achieved

Progress Update – Rats & Pigeons

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 appropriate.		n) Pigeon proofing to shambles, town hall	April 2009 – March 2012		
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 in Stockton Town Centre as part of an initial pilot exercise:-	UETG	o) Sub group established	In place		
	<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 	<p>TCM</p> <p>EH</p> <p>EH/ NES CFYA NES</p>	<p>p) Provide Prohibitive Signs</p> <p>o) Media campaign utilising all available advertising outlets, bus shelters, billboards, retail premises, sandwich bags etc, promoting the theme of</p>	April 2009 – March 2012	Funding bid failed, scheme cannot be supported in full. Limited campaign carried out in May/June	4 - Not Achieved

Progress Update – Rats & Pigeons

<p>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 waste;</p>		<p>encouraging the public not to feed the pigeons;</p> <p>p) Advice/Enforcement action towards retail sector regards storage of commercial food waste</p> <p>q) Review bin position/ style and collection frequency</p> <p>r) Advice / Enforcement action towards public</p>			
<p>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</p>		<p>s) notification to all retail premises</p> <p>t) Advice/Enforcement action on empty properties</p> <p>u) Commission DVD for general use</p>			

Progress Update – Rats & Pigeons

	<p>schools/community groups as appropriate;</p> <p>- 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.</p>		v) Use of Raptors			
13	<p>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.</p>	Environmental health	w) Headroom bid for 2009/10	April 2009	Funding bid unsuccessful	4 - Not Achieved
14	<p>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.</p>	Environmental Health	x) Campaign details publicised	April 2009 – March 2012	Leaflets and information on limited campaign put on website. Cannot include details of major campaign as funding bid unsuccessful	4 - Not Achieved
15	<p>That the Council commit to a campaign to achieve a sustainable 50% reduction in pigeon numbers in Stockton Town Centre within three years.</p>	Environmental Health/ Enforcement	y) Target adopted and monitored subject to campaign	April 2009 – March 2012	Target not sustainable without major campaign	4 - Not Achieved