



ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 23rd February 2012

Title: Seagulls

Report of: Angela Culleton
Director – Local Environment

Report reference: LE02/12

Summary: On 24th February 2011 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the problem of seagulls within the City Council's area. The Committee recommended that the Council employ proactive city centre control measures to:-

- Dissuade the public from feeding birds in the town centre
- Encourage businesses to take action to proof their building against nesting gulls
- Maintain a high quality street cleaning service.
- To keep under observation the number of complaints received regarding seagulls and
- If the situation deteriorates consider non intrusive gull control.

This report updates the Committee on the activity regarding seagull control since February 2011.

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny: That the Committee consider the contents of the report.

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

Recommendations: That the Committee approves the existing Council's policy for seagull control which is to employ proactive city centre control measures to:-

- Dissuade the public from feeding birds in the town centre
- Encourage businesses to take action to proof their building against nesting gulls
- Maintain a high quality street cleaning service.
- To keep under observation the number of complaints received regarding seagulls.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 24th February 2011 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the problem of seagulls within the City Council's area. In February 2011 the Committee heard that 5 complaints had been made about seagulls in the previous three years. Despite improvements to the recording of complaints following the Overview and Scrutiny meeting Carlisle City Council only received 9 complaints about seagulls between April and July 2011. April to June is the mating and nesting period for gulls and during this time the gulls can become territorial, in July the young can be leaving the nests so these months are usually the peak period for complaints. Between 1st April 2011 and 30th November 2011 there were 15 complaints recorded. Table .1. Shows the monthly distribution of complaints made to the Environmental Health Service.

April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
2	3	0	4	1	1	2	2

Table.1. – Seagull Complaints 2011

- 1.2 In line with the Committees recommendations of February 2011 press releases were issued in February and August 2011 discouraging people from feeding seagulls and encouraging businesses to proof their buildings against nesting gulls. An article also featured in the winter edition of Carlisle Focus magazine. During inspections of City Centre food establishments Environmental Health Officers have been reminding businesses of their obligations to secure food waste. Owners and occupiers of land are encouraged to contact qualified and competent private pest control companies to control and deter gulls from their land. Although birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as Amended) control measures for Herring Gulls and Lesser Black-backed gulls can be undertaken under a freely obtained General Licence from Natural England. The Neighbourhood and Green Spaces Group have worked with the Trinity School and the food businesses on Scotch Street to reduce lunchtime litter and food waste. The Clean Neighbourhood and Enforcement Officers have also carried out two litter enforcement and educational visits around the city centre food business in December 2011. These visits will be repeated in the spring and summer months.
- 1.3 The 15 complaints received about seagulls between April and November 2011 is low compared to other nuisance and pest control complaints made to the

Environmental Health Group. The small increase in complaints between 2010 and 2011 could be due to the better recording of complaints by the Group. The Environmental Health Group would not recommend a change in Council policy in respect to seagull control at this time. It is still considered that restricting the food available in the Town Centre and encouraging local businesses to proof their building is the most appropriate method of controlling the seagull population.

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Impact assessments

Does the change have an impact on the following?

Equality Impact Screening	Impact Yes/No?	Is the impact positive or negative?
Does the policy/service impact on the following?		
Age	no	
Disability	no	
Race	no	
Gender/ Transgender	no	
Sexual Orientation	no	
Religion or belief	no	
Human Rights	no	
Health inequalities	no	
Rurality	no	

If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:

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If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.