

## **Appendix B - Reducing public nuisance from the local gull populations – Proposed Action Plan for 2018**

### **Background**

The action plan below was considered and recommended for approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board's at its meeting on 1 November 2017. Cabinet is asked to agree to its adoption and implementation:

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	<b>Deadline date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1) Recommend the continuation of a disruption and dispersal programme in specific areas of Whitby, Scarborough and Filey where "gull muggings" are most common, in relation to herring gulls.	JMB	March 2018	Funding of up to £36,500 is currently available to continue to employ a specialist contractor to implement this programme in 2018/19.
2) Review work done in 2017 to appropriately proof SBC's properties against kittiwakes nesting, identify additional measures necessary and implement them.	JMB/Martin Pedley (MP).	Proofing programme completed by end of February 2018.	Kittiwakes' nesting season begins in March of each year.
3) Continue to collect evidence of reported gull muggings from visitors/residents in 2018. Also to contact other coastal local	JMB	On-going.	A database for this information started to be collected from March 2016. The aim is to determine the extent of this problem and identify "hotspots" where incidents take place.

authorities to compare data and share good practice.			
4) Consider implementing an awareness/educative campaign in local Primary/Secondary Schools	JMB in liaison with Jo Ireland (JI), Gabrielle Jandzio (GJ) and the RSPB.	Before the end of the School Summer term in 2018.	Potentially tap into the National Curriculum to teach local children about the different types of seagulls, their habitats, feeding habits and to promote our key messages.
5) Explore other options for coordinated displacement programme of Scarborough's urban nesting kittiwakes away from built up areas.	JMB	End of February 2018.	Liaise with Natural England, RSPB and relevant wildlife experts. An "Urban Gull meeting", arranged by RSPCB, to explore this and other related issues has already taken place. Future meetings are likely to take place.
6) Continue to promote/facilitate wider business engagement to build partnerships to better coordinate key messages – "don't feed the gulls" and "do not drop your litter". For example, explore working with suppliers of chip boxes to local food establishments to print on the insides of chip boxes these key messages.	JMB	Before the start of the Summer seasons in 2018.	There is a potential cost implication for the Council which will need to be quantified and met within existing budgets.

<p>Furthermore, working with local businesses in “hotspots” where nuisance caused by seagulls has been reported to be an issue to promote good practices in proofing buildings.</p>		<p>Before end of February 2018.</p>	
<p>7) Continue to liaise with the Environmental Health Team to carry out educational initiative at appropriate commercial properties (e.g. food businesses; other non-food businesses – B&amp;B/offices/retail shops, etc..) to promote good practices in waste management.</p>	<p>JMB Julie Peirson (JP).</p>	<p>On-going throughout the year.</p>	<p>Target seafront food establishments across the 3 main towns in the borough while EHOs are doing planned FH inspection visits, etc...</p> <p>Encourage businesses to educate their customers (particularly food ones) to correctly dispose of their waste; not to feed the seagulls, etc...): Continue to issue out seagull posters in shops/restaurants/takeaways and encourage their prominent display; placing notices in chip boxes asking customers not to feed the gulls (see action point 6).</p>
<p>8) Ensure the above initiatives are supported by press/media activity</p>	<p>Gabrielle Jandzio, in liaison with</p>	<p>On-going throughout the year.</p>	

<p>and social media activity where appropriate. This should include ongoing social media activity to promote the 'do not feed' and 'do not drop litter' messages at key times such as school holidays, major events, periods of good weather etc.</p>	<p>JMB</p>		
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**Resource implications for implementing the above action plan**

The above action plan will inevitably require resources from the Council. Some of these relate to staff time implementing the actions. However, the following areas have been identified as likely to incur the most significant financial outlay:

- 1) Implementing a seagull proofing programme at certain Council buildings (action point 2)). How much cost may be incurred is dependent on what proofing measures have already been introduced and if any further work is required. Advice on possible future costs will be sought from the Council's Asset Management service on this matter.
- 2) Employing the services of specialist contractor to continue with a disruption and dispersal programme in 2018 in specific areas, in relation to herring gulls (action point 1)). A budget of up to £36,500 is currently available for this purpose in 2018/19.
- 3) Cost of promotional material in the form of messages in chip boxes (action point 6)).

Options will be explored to minimise financial costs highlighted above by approaching other organisations who may be persuaded to act as sponsors or part funders to initiatives.

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**Date:** 23 November 2017.