

COUNCIL – 7 JANUARY 2019

STATEMENT BY CLLR BILL CHATT CABINET MEMBER PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING

COMMERCIAL REGULATION SERVICE

In December 2018 our Licensing Officers undertook about 40 inspections of borough wide animal related businesses (e.g. pet shops, dog breeding, animal boarders and horse riding establishments). This was in response to major changes to animal welfare legislation which were unveiled in October 2018. Existing laws covering a range of animal-related legislation had been in place for decades, and in that time there have been huge changes in pet owner attitudes and lifestyles. The new legislation takes account of different business models which have sprung up in response to these, as well as the rise of the internet and associated problems.

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

A new “coffin lifter” was recently purchased to provide assistance with the safe handling of larger/heavier coffins into the Crematorium Chapel and onto the catafalque. The service has received positive feedback on this new equipment from funeral directors. An order for new look hymn books have just arrived for use at the Crematorium Chapel and initial feedback has been encouraging.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

I am pleased to report the waste enforcement team are continuing their efforts to investigate and enforce waste related offences within the Borough. In November seven individuals received fines, costs and victim surcharges totalling over £3500. This is all in addition to the cases dealt with through fixed penalty notices. I am also working with officers on a report to implement the new fixed penalty notice for households who breach their duty of care, by using an unauthorised ‘man with van’. If they do this and do not make the necessary checks and their waste is found fly-tipped then we will take action against the householder. As part of this we will be launching an awareness campaign with publicity and guidance on our website.

I would also like to remind residents about the importance of what goes in their blue bin, unfortunately some residents are not using the blue bin correctly and this is causing us to breach our contractual limits. It is really important that residents use their bin for Aerosols, Food cans, drinks cans, paper, card, magazines and catalogues, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, yoghurt pots and margarine tubs. If you put these items in loose then we can recycle them, we cannot recycle plastic bags, film or polystyrene in our

scheme so that needs to go in the green bin. Together we can continue to make a huge difference to our environment.

DOG CONTROL

I am continuing working with officers on our PSPO variations and continuing to look in detail at the responses we have received as part of the recent consultation and will report back prior to the expiry of the Order with details on proposed changes.

HOUSING

White Rose Home Improvement Agency

I was pleased to attend the Scarborough and Ryedale Joint Committee of the White Rose Home Improvement Agency on 18 December and approve the annual review and budget report for this partnership.

The HIA continues to provide an excellent range of services across the Borough and Ryedale, including the provision of statutory Disabled Facilities Grants, Well Being and Handyperson Services along with a range of initiatives aimed at reducing fuel poverty. .

Key points to note for are:

- The demand for DFGs continues to increase year on year. 271 DFGs were completed in 2017/18 in the Borough and 105 in Ryedale as compared to 169 and 48 the previous year.
- Despite increasing demand, the time taken to process DFGs is reducing. Last year on average non means tested grants (from time of initial referral to completion of works) was 105 days as compared to 110 days the previous year.
- The Council continues to fully spend its allocated budgets and these are increasing. The 2018/19 budget for Scarborough was £1.3M and the budget for Ryedale £541K. The Council was one of a small number of authorities be awarded an additional £150K from HCLG towards in budget last month. For 2019/20 a further 8% uplift is predicted.
- Last year the HIA through its Handyperson service undertook 2010 jobs across the partnership area including 1148 minor adaptations in the Borough.
- The HIA continues to operate with a balanced budget overall. The range of services being offered are cost neutral to the Council.
- In 2018 the HIA was recognised for its good practice and included within the Centre for Ageing Better Report, *Room to improve, innovation and good practice in housing adaptations*