

<b>Committee:</b> Environment, Enforcement and Housing Committee	<b>Date:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Corporate Enforcement Annual Report	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
<b>Report of:</b> Tracey Lilley – Director Housing & Enforcement (Interim)	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report Author/s:</b> Name: Tracey Lilley Telephone: 01277 312 644 E-mail: tracey.lilley@brentwood.gov.uk	<b>For Decision</b>

### Summary

This report presents the first Annual Report on the activities and operation of the Corporate Enforcement team since its inception and focuses on the period from 1<sup>st</sup> Jun 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

### Recommendation(s)

**Members are asked to:**

**R1. Members approve and note the contents of the Annual Report contained in Appendix A and authorise the Interim Director of Housing and Enforcement to make the report publicly available to increase the visibility and knowledge of enforcement activities**

**R2. Members instruct officers to continue to review and measure the quantity and effectiveness of enforcement activities carried out within the various services and report annually on outcomes**

### Main Report

#### **Introduction and Background**

1. Brentwood Borough Council established a Corporate Enforcement team in October 2017 with the aim of improving the effectiveness and integrated partnership working between Council services and outside organisations undertaking a range of enforcement activities.
2. The core team comprises six officers already working in various services within the Council who received additional training, including obtaining the Community Safety Accreditation (CSAS) and Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) training to

provide additional powers so that a wider range of enforcement activities can be carried out.

3. The first Annual Report is attached as Appendix A and provides information on the performance and activity of the team over the last year.
4. The Enforcement Officers have focused on providing an effective and integrated approach to enforcement, ensuring that we maximise opportunities to collaborate with in-house and external colleagues.
5. The principles of the Regulators Code apply to the enforcement activities carried out by the Council. Under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, the Council has a duty to carry out regulatory activities in a way which is transparent, accountable, proportionate and consistent, and for them to be targeted only at cases in which action is needed. In no circumstances should enforcement be used as a means to generate income.

### **Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

6. Local authorities have various duties to carry out, enforcement is sometimes necessary to ensure compliance with legal requirements.
7. The Council has chosen to establish a Corporate Enforcement team to try to improve the effectiveness of enforcement and encourage inter-agency co-operation.
8. The publication of an annual report will enable Members to comment on the activities of the Enforcement team and provide wider public awareness of enforcement action taken.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

9. The report is principally for information purposes and to improve the transparency of the activities carried out.

### **Consultation**

10. None.

### **References to Corporate Plan**

#### **11. Community and Health**

Provide advice, support, guidance and enforcement

Work with partners to reduce anti-social behaviour and ensure that Brentwood is a safe place to live

Support our most vulnerable residents to feel safe

Encourage thriving and engaged communities  
Make Brentwood a Borough where people feel safe, healthy and supported

## **Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

**Name/Title: Phoebe Barnes, Corporate Finance Manager**

**Tel/Email: 01277 312839/phoebe.barnes@brentwood.gov.uk**

12. The cost of providing the Corporate Enforcement team, which includes the community safety elements is budgeted at £217,070 for 2019/20.

13. All training has been captured within existing budgets. There are no direct financial implications arising from the Annual Report.

### **Legal Implications**

**Name & Title: Paula Harvey, Interim Head of Legal Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer**

**Tel & Email: 01277 312705/paula.harvey@brentwood.gov.uk**

14. The recommendations are lawful and within the Council's powers and duties. The Council has statutory powers and obligations within an existing legal framework to conduct a range of enforcement activities. The recommendations will support the Council in securing compliance with those statutory duties and managing risk.

15. Enforcement activities should be aligned with statutory guidance and the Council's Enforcement policies.

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Appendices to this report**

Appendix A: Corporate Enforcement Annual Report 2019