

## Scrutiny Report to the Cabinet.

**Report reference: C-119-2007/08.**

**Date of meeting: 10 March 2008.**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Portfolio:** Leader of the Council.

**Subject:** Corporate Initiative 2008/09 – Safer, Cleaner and Greener.

**Responsible Officer:** John Gilbert (01992-564062).

**Democratic Services Officer:** Gary Woodhall (01992-564470).

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### Recommendations:

That the Cabinet be asked to endorse the following recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the consideration of the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Initiative:

(1) That the most important enforcement functions for the Council be agreed as set out in the table below and that in the context of street scene services Crime & Disorder matters should also be included as a most important function:

<u>Enforcement function</u>	<u>Rogers Report priority</u>	<u>Proposed priority</u>	<u>Present status</u>
Air quality	National priority	National priority	Routine service provision
Health in the workplace	National priority	National priority	Routine service provision
Alcohol licensing (to include entertainment licensing)	National priority for alcohol)	National priority for alcohol, a most important function for entertainment	Routine service provision
Hygiene in food businesses	National priority	National priority	Routine service provision
Local environmental quality	Local priority	Local priority extended to include non priority areas (see ** below)	Some components as a routine but significant parts of CNE Act agenda not yet undertaken
Contaminated land	Local priority	A most important local function	Routine service provision
Noise nuisances	Local priority	A most important local function	Routine service provision (including 24/7 call out arrangements)
Housing health & safety rating scheme	Local priority	A most important local function	Routine service provision
Accidents in the workplace	Local priority	A most important local function	Routine service provision

<b><u>Enforcement function</u></b>	<b><u>Rogers Report priority</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed priority</u></b>	<b><u>Present status</u></b>
Licensing of houses in multiple occupation	Local priority	A most important local function	New service provision
Litter, fly-tipping, dog fouling, statutory nuisances, stray dogs	Non priority	A most important local function (**)	Some components as a routine but significant parts of CNE Act agenda not yet undertaken
Crime & Disorder	Not included in review	A most important local function	Routine service provision but resources currently limited
Animal related licensing	Non priority	A most important local function	Routine service provision
Private water supplies	Non priority	A most important local function	Routine service provision
Private sewers & drains	Non priority	A most important local function	Routine service provision (although not wholly statutorily required)
Unauthorised encampments	Non priority	A most important local function	Routine on 'as and when required' basis
Land drainage	Non priority	A most important local function	Routine service provision including call-out arrangements
Other licensing matters	Non-priority	A most important local function	Routine service provision
Various	Non-priority	To be further considered	Routine service provision

(2) That enforcement activities falling outside of these categories and/or outside of the Rogers Review terms of reference be further reviewed;

(3) That the general findings of the Encams Local Environmental Quality report be noted;

(4) That existing partnerships be reviewed and where appropriate new ones established to enable the full suite of Cleaner Neighbourhoods powers to be utilised;

(5) That the use of fixed penalty notices be endorsed as part of a revised enforcement strategy, including the use of the Essex Police Community Safety Accreditation Scheme for enforcement officers; and

(6) That the existing corporate enforcement policy be reviewed in the light of the Rogers Review recommendations.

#### **Report:**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have received a report of a subgroup that has looked in detail at the Rogers Review of enforcement priorities, the Cleaner Neighbourhoods

legislation and our service delivery. The Committee have noted that at item 20 of the Cabinet agenda consideration will be given to the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Initiative that seeks to improve front line services in the new Environment and Street Scene Directorate.

2. Much work has been undertaken by this subgroup and it is pleased to note Scrutiny has been able to influence council policy in a constructive way at an early stage.

3. The Cabinet is asked as part of their consideration on the initiative to endorse the view of the subgroup. Full details of the report of the subgroup can be found on the Overview and Scrutiny agenda of 31 January 2008.

**Statement in Support of Recommended Action:**

4. To supplement and strengthen the Safer, Cleaner and Greener initiative agreed by the Cabinet at its previous meeting.

**Other Options for Action:**

5. To not endorse the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Consultation Undertaken:**

6. As detailed in the reports to the Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Rogers Review Sub-Group.

**Resource Implications:**

**Budget Provision:** N/A.

**Personnel:** N/A.

**Land:** N/A.

**Council Plan 2006-10/BVPP Reference:** Green & Unique, Safer, Cleaner & Greener.

**Relevant Statutory Powers:** Environmental Protection and Cleaner Neighbourhoods legislation, Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

**Background Papers:** N/A.

**Environmental/Human Rights/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:** Report C-105-2007/08 refers.

**Key Decision Reference (if required):** Key Decision – Rogers Review.