

Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	4 November 2024
Title of Report	Environmental Health, Environmental Services & Community Services Enforcement and Compliance Policy 2025- 2028 This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan.
Lead Member	Cllr. Les Phillimore - Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services
Report Author	Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager
Strategic Themes	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet Approval for the proposed Environmental Health, Environmental Services and Community Services Enforcement and Compliance Policy 2025 – 2028
- 1.2 The policy is a revision of the 2021 – 2024 Policy and seeks to ensure best practice and consistency of approach to enforcement across the District.

2. Recommendations to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 That the Environmental Health, Environmental Services and Community Services Enforcement and Compliance Policy 2025 – 2028 be adopted.
- 2.2 To delegate responsibility for minor changes to the policy to the Group manager of Environmental Health, Housing and community Services in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 To ensure best practice and consistency of approach to enforcement across the District.

<p>3.2 This policy is required to be revised regularly to ensure that it reflects the most up to date changes in legislation and good practice.</p>

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The Environmental Health, Environmental Services and Community Services Enforcement and Compliance Policy 2021 – 2024 brought together the enforcement responsibilities for the three services including, but not exclusive to Food Safety, Health & Safety, Licensing, Private Sector Housing, Environmental Crime, Environmental Permits and, Anti-social behaviour.

The policy has an end date to ensure that it is reviewed regularly and is consistent with current legislation, guidance and incorporating changing best practice.

A separate Graffiti and Fly-posting Policy was adopted in 2012 and the matters in this policy have been incorporated into this review to provide a single policy covering all environmental crime enforced by the Environmental Health Team.

The approach adopted by the Environmental Health, Environmental Services and Community Services Departments is one of working with businesses and individuals to achieve compliance and promote economic growth by taking an advisory and educational stance, as supported by the Leicester and Leicestershire Better Business for All initiative.

The policy also recognises that enforcement action can be necessary and appropriate in certain circumstances including where there has been blatant disregard for the law, persistent offences or where the level of risk or concern for public health is significant.

The policy is supported by operational procedures to ensure that enforcement activities are carried out in a consistent, fair and transparent manner and that all officers receive regular training.

The current enforcement and compliance policy has been in use since 2021 with no significant issues raised. The proposed 2025 – 2028 policy is broadly the same but with the following changes:

- Revised wording on how the policy supports the Council's priorities in the most recent Blaby District Council (corporate) Plan.
- Further clarity on how the Council ensures that their actions will be consistent with the Council's commitment to equality and diversity.
- Ensuring that the list of sanctions available is up to date.

- The addition of an environmental crime appendix to replace the Graffiti and Fly-Posting Policy 2012.

4.2 Proposal(s)

That the Environmental Health, Environmental Services and Community Services Enforcement and Compliance Policy 2025 – 2028 be adopted.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

The proposed policy was placed on the Blaby District Council consultations webpage between 18 July 2024 and 16 August 2024 with a survey for comments.

In addition, Parish Councils were advised of the consultation at the Parish Liaison meeting on 15 May 2024. On 19 July 2024 an email was sent to all Parish and Town Council Clerks advising that the consultation was live and providing a link to the consultations web page to encourage responses.

There were no survey responses submitted for the consultation. There was one email requesting clarification of one word relating to the removal of graffiti from Council owned assets. In response the word “of” was replaced with “from” in section E of Appendix A.

The draft policy was also taken to Scrutiny Commission for consideration in September 2024 and no changes or amendments to the policy were recommended.

4.4 Significant Issues

Human rights have been considered but there were no overarching matters for concern in relation to this report.

4.5 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

5. **Environmental impact**

5.1 The implementation of the controls and enforcement actions outlined within the report, specifically relating to Envirocrime, Smoke Control, Accumulation, Statutory Nuisance and Public Health should positively impact on the environmental conditions within the District.

6. **What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?**

6.1 There are no cost implications as a result of this report.

7. **What are the risks and how can they be reduced?**

7.1 There are no cost implications associated with this report.

8. Other options considered

- 8.1 It is a legal requirement to have considered the implications of enforcement and to take steps to ensure consistency of approach and compliance with the Regulators Code of Practice.

9. Appendix

- 9.1 Appendix A – Environmental Health, Environmental Services and Community Services Enforcement and Compliance Policy 2025 – 2028.

10. Background paper(s)

- 10.1 Environmental Health, Environmental Services and Community Services Enforcement and Compliance Policy 2021 – 2024

Blaby District Council Graffiti and Fly Posting Policy 2012

11. Report author's contact details

Caroline Harbour	Group Manager Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services
Caroline.harbour@blaby.gov.uk	0116 272 7543