Report to:	**Communities Scrutiny Committee**
Date of Meeting:	**22nd March 2018**
Lead Member / Officer:	**Lead Member for Housing, Regulation and the Environment**
Report Author:	**Head of Planning and Public Protection**
Title:	**Seagull Management Update Report**

1. What is the report about?

1.1 Seagulls are both a part of everyday life within our towns and also represent something of a nuisance to some residents and visitors of the County. There are limitations on what actions the Council can take to control/manage the seagull population. The Council agreed to explore some proportionate and affordable actions that could help to control/manage the nuisance. An action plan was approved and the report details the progress made by the Council against the agreed seagull management action plan and what further actions are proposed.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 To update Members on the progress made against the action plan and to advise Members of future actions to be taken.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 Members are asked to consider the contents of the report, comment accordingly and support the actions taken to date.

4. Report details

4.1 Gulls (of which there are many types) are highly intelligent and adaptable birds. Many have become part of urban living and have gradually moved away from the sea. Gulls are protected under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

4.2 A detailed report was previously presented to Members on the 23rd of March 2017 (Appendix 1), detailing the 'problems' associated with 'seagulls'. An action plan was agreed by the Council's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and supported by Members at the 23rd of March Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting (Appendix 2). The action plan was a cross Council plan, detailing actions that could be explored and undertaken by various Council services.

4.3 For ease of reading, Appendix 3 provides Members with an update against the actions and any further actions that Members wanted officers to consider following the March 2017 Committee meeting.

4.4 Members will note from Appendix 3 that progress has been made by the relevant DCC services and may wish to note in particular the Communications Strategy that has been developed to both inform and educate residents, visitors and businesses around the actions that they can take to help reduce the nuisance caused by Seagulls. This strategy can be seen at Appendix 4 to this report.

4.5 The engagement and communication with residents will help us to better understand the concerns and how we can tackle and respond to them. Early indications from CRM data/complaints received by the Council seems to suggest that the main cause of concern and complaints is dive-bombing/attacking people on the streets, who are often eating. The progress made by the Council in ensuring bins are seagull proof, progress on taking enforcement action against individuals littering etc. means that seagulls are often resorting to snatching food from people walking along our streets. There is limited evidence to suggest that there is widespread problem of feeding seagulls.

4.6 Any excessive feeding of birds by individuals, which would have a detrimental impact on other residents, could be addressed by means of serving a Community Protection Notice under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. These would probably be limited in numbers but the legislation is available to tackle persistent problems.

4.7 The education and media campaign will help us to better inform residents and visitors about the risks and what action can be taken to reduce the risk and control the seagull population.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1 The work contributes to the Corporate Priority of providing an attractive and protected environment

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1 All actions will need to be funded within existing service budgets.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1 This is an update report and therefore there is no need to undertake a Well-Being Impact Assessment. An assessment was previously undertaken for the March 2017 report to Members.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1 Consultation with various Denbighshire County Council Services and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The actions proposed will be contained within existing resources.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1 Risk to the Council's reputation amongst residents if no action is taken to address some of the concerns. There is also a risk that the actions taken have negligible impact and also that measuring the impact is also difficult.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 The report is providing an update and there is no decision required. However, Section 7.4.2(b) states that scrutiny committee may "review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas".

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