

23 July 2015

Name of Cabinet Member:
Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities - Councillor Townshend

Director Approving Submission of the report:
Executive Director of People

Ward(s) affected:
Earlsdon

Title:
Update report in response to a petition concerning a property in Earlsdon Ward

Is this a key decision?
No

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on actions taken since the Cabinet Member meeting on 26 March 2015 in response to a petition received on 3 July 2014. The petition was signed by 71 individuals in the Earlsdon Ward and asked the City Council to take action regarding the poor condition of a property in the Earlsdon Ward and the impact it is having on the surrounding neighbourhood.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- (1) Endorse the action already taken and planned to address the conditions at this property.
- (2) Request a further report to be submitted to the Cabinet Member on 10 December 2015 detailing progress made on resolving the issues.

List of Appendices included:
None

Other useful background papers:
None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

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Report title:

Report in response to a petition concerning a property in Earlsdon Ward

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 A resident-led petition consisting of 71 signatures was received on 3 July 2014 requesting the City Council to take action in relation to concerns regarding the poor condition of a property in the Earlsdon Ward
- 1.2 Cabinet Member has previously endorsed action taken thus far i.e. service of a statutory notice under Section 215 of The Town & Country Planning Act requiring the owner to carry out improvements to his property. Furthermore, they requested officers to issue a 14 day warning letter as to Notice of Intended Prosecution on 6 March 2015 in the event of non-compliance and use their best endeavours to commence prosecutions no later than 28 March 2015.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Following non-compliance with the Section 215 Notice the owner of the property was prosecuted, and he pleaded guilty on 12 May 2015. He was fined £1,500 and ordered to pay £892 costs plus a victim surcharge of £120. The court commented that the matter had gone on for far too long and any materials, which were stored in the garden and were not immediately needed, should be stored elsewhere.
- 2.2 A letter was sent to the owner on 3 June 2015 advising that Officers were currently obtaining quotes with a view to carrying out works in default of the Notice. Once these quotes have been received, works will commence without delay.
- 2.3 Cabinet Member is recommended to:
 - (1) Endorse the action already taken and planned to address the conditions at this property.
 - (2) Request a further report to be submitted on progress and to update on the collection of costs to the Cabinet Member meeting scheduled for 10 December 2015.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

None

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

Quotes are currently being obtained for carrying out works in default. Once they have been received works will be carried out without delay.

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

There will be a financial implication with regard to the authorisation of works in default carried out by the Council which will be paid from within existing budgets and

will be subject to usual practice in order to recover the same from the appropriate person.

6. Other implications

None

6.1.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

6.1.2 There are clear research findings that show that the local environmental quality in a person's living environment has a significant impact on their health and well-being. Residents in areas which have a low environmental quality often have an increased "fear of crime". This particular service contributes to two of the Council's key objectives.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

None

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

None

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

See 6.1.1

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s): Steve Chantler

Name and job title: Senior Environment and Housing Enforcement Officer
Directorate: People Directorate

Tel and email contact: 024 76 83 2966
steve.chantler@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Andrew Walster	Assistant Director – Street Scene & Green Space	Place	23.06.15	23.06.15
Craig Hickin	Head of Environmental Services	Place	05.06.15	05.06.15
Marcus Fothergill	Principal Planning Officer	Place	23.06.15	23.06.15
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Resources	23.06.15	23.06.15
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Cath Crosby	Business Partner	Resources	23.06.15	
Legal: Andrew Burton	Solicitor	Resources	23.06.15	23.6.15
Executive Director: Martin Yardley	Executive Director	Place	23.06.15	
Members: Councillor Phillip Townshend	Deputy Leader	Policing and Equalities	08.07.15	08.07.15

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