



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday 28th February 2022

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. **Meeting Date:** Monday 31st January 2022

Agenda Item: 7. Action Points Arising from Previous Meetings

Request:

For clarification on the City Council's employment of qualified Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) and EHO staffing levels within the Community Wellbeing Team, Envirocrime and Private Sector Housing Teams.

Update:

'Environmental Health' covers a wide range of work delivered by the Council across the Private Sector and Community Wellbeing Teams (the Envirocrime Team are not Environmental Health Officers but do similar and related work on some cases).

Environmental Health Officers employed to do this work have expertise and experience across a whole spectrum and at varying degrees. For example, trained Community Wellbeing Officers can be competent to the highest level allowing them to deal with the most complex of food complaints, however they may not have much experience or confidence dealing with statutory nuisance. Similarly, we have Officers who are experts in the Environmental Protection Act who may carry out low-risk food inspections, but may not be able to respond to high-risk food issues. Some Private Sector Housing Staff are trained Environmental Health Professionals and have a range of experience including food, health and safety and environmental crime.

The decisions on level of competence and appropriateness for food inspections is taken by the Lead Food Officer who is registered with the Food Standards Agency on behalf of the Council. Gloucester City have a small number of people who can deal with the most serious or high-risk food cases and that has currently been assessed sufficient based on our assessment of risk and the levels of compliance in the City. Should an outbreak occur we are able to call on contractors and our mutual aid arrangements with other districts.

Currently we have 5 (EH) out of 7 Community Wellbeing roles and 2 (EH) out of 4.5 Private Sector Housing roles. The way in which we would recruit into any vacancies would depend on the broader experience of the team and what gaps we may have.

2. **Meeting Date:** Monday 31st January 2022

Agenda Item: 7. Action Points Arising from Previous Meetings

Request:

To provide an update on any progress made on the report of the Gloucester Commission to Review Race Relations and the resulting Calls to Action.

Update:

Officers are working on a paper that will be submitted to Leadership Gloucestershire in the coming months outlining and identifying the best approach towards establishing the Legacy organisation.

In the short and medium term, conversations are being held with appropriate stakeholders and community representatives on establishing a clear scope and function of the legacy institution as outlined in Race Commission report. The outcomes of the initial Leadership Gloucestershire meeting were positive and promising, with District Councils taking a keen interest in how they can help to deliver on this work.

In terms of a reasonable timeframe for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a full update on the Calls to Action outlined in the report, we would suggest that a year would give a reasonable amount of time to work through the actions, notably the establishment of a legacy institution which will take time.

