
Environmental Protection Services

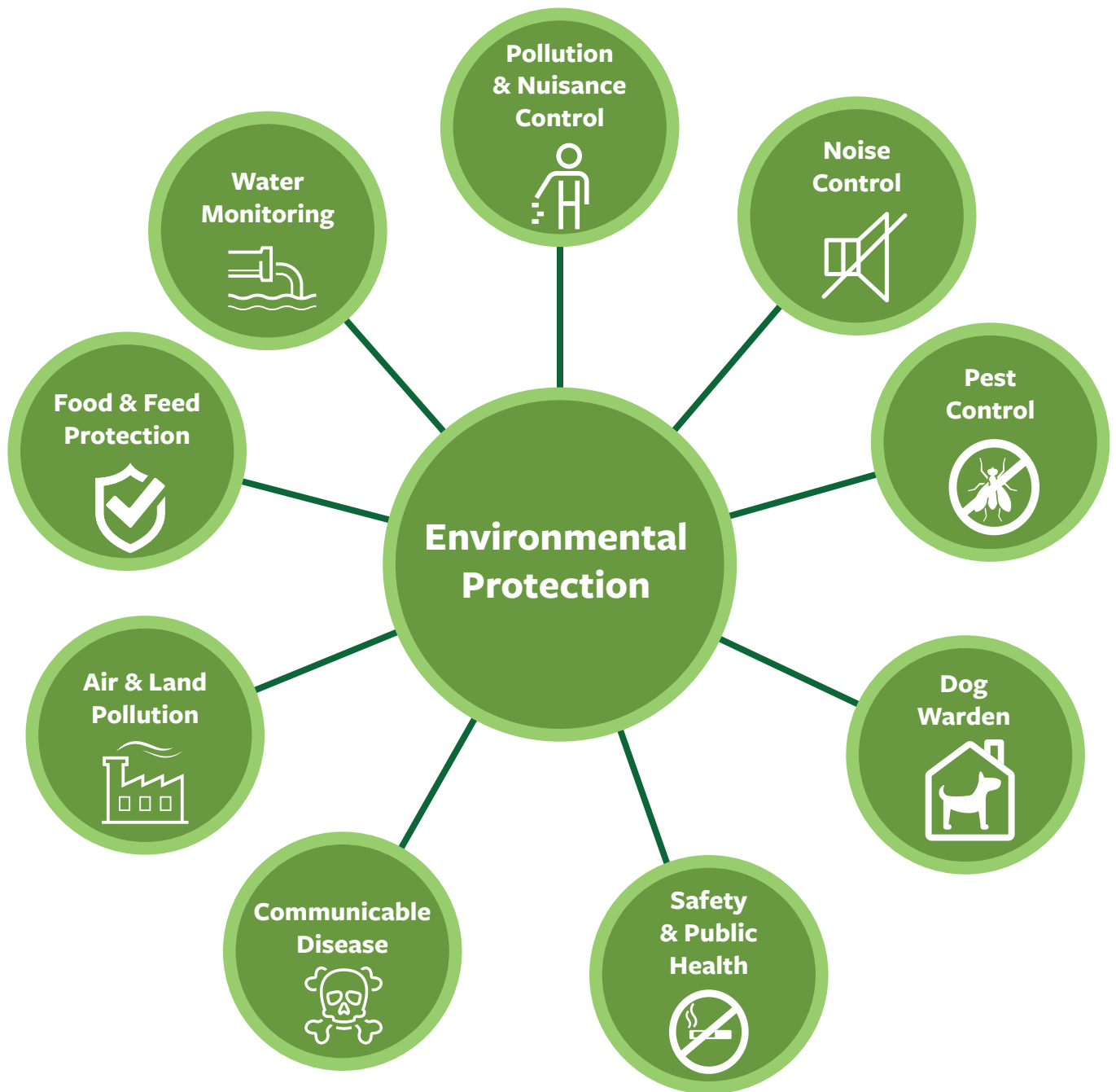
Service Delivery Plan 2018-19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Environmental Protection Department

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES





Executive Summary

Background

- 1 The report outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Environmental Protection Section within the Homes and Safer Communities Division. It illustrates the demands on the service and the challenges that must be addressed for 2018/19.
- 2 Environmental Protection Services encompasses food hygiene, standards and feed safety, communicable disease, public health and safety (including tattooing and skin piercing), pollution (including air quality, contaminated land and noise), nuisances (including noise, odour, smoke, waste, drainage etc), anti-social behaviour, drinking water, Gypsy and Traveller support, pest control advice and dog warden services. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to carry out these functions.

The Division has recently re-aligned. The main areas affected in terms of Environment include the following but will be discussed in more detail in the relevant sections:

- The Licensing function transferring to the Businesses and Consumer Affairs Section;
- The Food section will expand to include standards and feed regulation in order to provide a 'farm to fork' policy; and
- The Public Health Section will include tenure neutral nuisance and wider anti-social behaviour regulation in addition to the management of and support for the Gypsy and Travellers at the Penybryn site, Llanelli.

Service Aims and Objectives

Environmental Protection Service is committed to protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of citizens and visitors to the County. It is one of the main regulatory sections of the Council.

The work includes preventative and reactive responses which links with various objectives and strategies including those in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, Corporate Strategy, Councils Well-Being Objectives and Welsh National Enforcement Priorities.

The Plan gives an overview of the work carried out by the team and how they link to such strategies. In order to meet demands with limited resources, innovative and collaborative work has been and will continue to be utilised. Officers work closely with other Authorities, agencies and customers which is identified in the plan.

Challenges

The service has undertaken a large re-alignment as described above. This has resulted in a change of approach in some areas, however, as part of the transitional period, officers have been and will continue to be supported with opportunities for training, support, shadowing and such.

Particular impacts for 2018/19 include:-

- “Bedding in” the realignment of services within the Division. We now have one team responsible for Food Hygiene, Standards and Food to provide a ‘farm to fork’ service. This was being delivered between three teams. The services will monitor performance measures to understand demands and ensure that there are adequate resources in each section. The re-alignment has also resulted in further investment in officers to provide them with knowledge and abilities to deliver hygiene and standards services. It is felt that the outcome will result in a better and more efficient service to the customer;
- Implementing the monitoring of shellfish in accordance with Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to ensure that the beds satisfy standards for commercial gathering. Sampling of biotoxin and hygiene levels are essential to determine both the health status of commercial shellfish beds and also the continual monitoring of their classified status;
- Exploring the opportunity for implementing Primary Authority Principal and provision of tailored advisory services at a cost to new and existing food businesses, with the intention of encouraging businesses to ‘strive for a rating of 5’;
- Delivering a tenure neutral approach to statutory nuisances and anti-social behaviour. This will include close working partnerships to improve problem solving collaboratively. The service will monitor performance measures to understand demands and ensure that there are adequate resources in each section. It is felt that the outcome will result in a better and more efficient service to the customer;
- Exploring the possibility of extending the current Pest Control services to commercial contracts and private dwelling treatment;
- Preparing for the implementation of the relevant section of the Public Health (Wales) Act in relation to the registration and licensing of skin treatments, Health Impact Assessments and extension of smoking restricted areas. There will also be an input into the Local Toilet Strategy in conjunction with the Environment Department. There will be an opportunity to obtain fees for the licensing and registration of the above;
- Producing information relating to noise control that is readily available for developers to assist in their Planning application process. We will explore the possibility of providing a tailored advisory service where further, in depth information may be requested, the cost of which will be borne by the developer;
- Working with partners that are delivering the Wellness and Life Science village at Delta Lakes to ensure that the risks from potential land contamination are fully addressed and mitigated where necessary;
- Implementing action plans for the Air Quality Management areas in Carmarthen, Llanelli and Llandeilo. The section is enhancing the plans by working in conjunction with Swansea University to observe the health impact of the action plans to improve air quality. Work is also planned to engage with local schools in the areas to raise awareness of poor air quality and to instigate change in school journey behaviours;
- Exploring the possibility of working collaboratively with Swansea University through the Wellness and Life Science Centre to assess radon levels within local housing stock (and remediate as necessary), and to observe the health impact; and
- Improving the support and engagement services for the Gypsy and Travellers community.

Review

The plan contains information and details of quality assessments and illustrates the various ways that the Section ensures consistency, efficiency and competency. Additionally, there is information on resources within the team both staffing and financially.

The Service Delivery Plan is subject to annual review.