

Scrutiny Topic Registration

Name of person proposing topic:	Date:
Cllr. Barbara Driver	24 August 2006
Contact:	
Suggested title of topic:	
Control of Seagulls	
What is the issue that scrutiny needs to address?	
Information as to what is being done, and what is proposed, and how to work with the residents and business to control Seagulls.	
What do you feel could be achieved by a scrutiny review?	
PR with residents, information as to what is being done and what is planned, and what is needed. Residents involvement.	

Priority and urgency

Is the topic urgent?	no
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If so, please consider which of the following might apply:

Is there a strict time constraint?	yes
Is there currently high media coverage?	yes
Is there high public pressure to respond?	yes
Does it involve a high risk to the council?	no
Any other reasons:	
PR for Council	

Issues

Please consider whether the following might apply:

Is the topic important to the people of Cheltenham?	yes
Does the topic involve a poorly performing service or high public dissatisfaction with a service?	Part yes
Is it related to the Council's corporate objectives?	no
Is it directly related to an item on the council workplan?	no
Has there been media interest in the topic?	yes
Can scrutiny help in the development of council policy?	yes
Any other issues or details:	

Officer Implications (for office use)

Please give your comments on this proposed topic, for example is there any other similar review planned or in progress, are there any potential resource constraints etc

Cheltenham has a population of urban seagulls surveyed in 2003 at 302 adult birds. They have established populations in Kingsditch and Lansdown and cause problems with noise, fouling and aggressive behaviour. There have been seven meetings of the Glos. Gull Action Group, where CBC have met other local councils, Hempsted tip's waste company and ornithologists to deal with this matter. In common with other councils, CBC has used egg oiling, which sterilises eggs to prevent them hatching, to control the birds' population growth and reduce noise disruption. This programme has treated 257 eggs over the last three years. Complaints have been markedly higher this summer, as we have received 30 from residents, predominately in Lansdown. These relate to early morning noise from the gulls that wakes residents.

Treatment is legally authorised by a licence from Defra that permits the council to control specific pest gull species to "preserve public health or public safety". This can be by destroying eggs and nests or killing birds.

Learning from local experience, Gloucester city has over ten times as many urban gulls. Their actions have focussed on egg oiling or substitution, plus advice to developers and building occupants about bird-proofing.

If CBC wishes to devote further resources to addressing urban gulls, options include:

- Increased egg oiling (budget bid submitted for £1.5k for FY 2007/08. This would increase the rental period of the cherrypicker truck from two to four days).
- Greater publicity to residents about bird proofing, responsible bird feeding and securing waste. This could be by mailshot, advisory leaflet and increased web presence.
- Programme to cull adult birds (if legally justifiable under Defra licence)

Further action on this topic will need to be matched by a reduction in work on other pollution control areas due to a cut in staff numbers in the recent divisional restructure.

Links to Business Plan and Corporate Objectives or Risk Register	None identified
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Completed by Clive Salisbury, Environmental Health Manager

Date 31st August 2006