

**REPORT FROM: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING MANAGER**

**TO: NELSON COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 1 JULY 2019**

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL BLIGHT**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report any new environmental blight sites and provide updates on existing sites.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That members note the report.
- (2) That members report any new environmental blight sites to the Housing, Health and Engineering Manager for inclusion in future reports including a contact name and contact details with a brief description of the site and problem.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To deal with environmental blight in the area.

### **ISSUE**

1. The definition of environmental blight is:
  - Untidy/derelict piece of Council land requiring tidying up.
  - Untidy/derelict piece of unregistered land requiring tidying up.
  - Untidy/derelict piece of **Council-owned or unregistered land** which needs a scheme to regenerate the site (eg a former garage colony converted to a landscaped parking area).

Private pieces of land requiring tidying are best not dealt with under environmental blight as they may require enforcement. These should be reported to Planning and Building Control to be included on the Problem Buildings list for Section 215 enforcement if the problem is persistent.

2. Any new sites should be reported to Tricia Wilson or Julie Whittaker including a contact name and contact details, exact location and a brief description of the site and the problem.

3. Plans and photographs of the sites will only be included for new sites unless clarification is needed.
4. Please see table below.

Site	Owner	Issue	Area Committee Resolution	Current Position
a) Athol Street Garage Site	The site is owned by nine different plot holders	Once the site is purchased the Council intends to fence off and improve the land and encourage it to be used as a community garden with input from the neighbouring school	Liberata Property Services is negotiating with plot owners to acquire or lease the land	<p>Legal issues with individual plot holders have delayed the process. However, Localities and Policy Unit recently instructed Property Services to complete the final plots including covering the costs of registering untitled land (there are two plots outstanding)</p> <p>There are now also issues with the plot which has the garage on it as the garage now appears to be abandoned</p> <p>As we now own most of the site we will aim to make improvements to the site's condition over the summer. However, the outstanding sites will have to remain untouched until legal issues are resolved</p> <p>Until recently there was £6,291 on Nelson Committee's Capital Programme for this scheme. However, this was recently deallocated. There is no money attached to Environmental Blight and so once the plots are purchased we would have to put in a new bid to the Area Committee or find funds from elsewhere</p>

## IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** None arising directly from the report.

**Financial:** No new financial implications arise from this report. Any action proposed that has additional financial implications would be the subject of a further report. There is no specific allocation for environmental blight sites.

**Legal:** None arising directly from the report.

**Risk Management:** None arising directly from the report.

**Health and Safety:** These issues will be considered when the schemes are progressed.

**Sustainability:** This will be considered for each individual scheme. Long-term maintenance may be an issue.

**Community Safety:** This will be considered for each individual scheme.

**Equality and Diversity:** This will be considered for each individual scheme.

## APPENDICES

None.

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.