

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 31st March 2011
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Adults and Community
SUBJECT: Alleygating
WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the recommendations of the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board in respect of the Council's policy on alleygating.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board endorse the revised approach as described in section 3.2

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 18 January 2011 the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board received a report reviewing the Council's existing policy on alleygating. This report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The report suggests a revised set of principles as outlined below
- 3.2.1 Alleygating involves a balance between (on the one hand) the duty of the Council to keep the highways within the Borough open for the public to use and (on the other hand) the duty of the Council to act to reduce crime and disorder.
- 3.2.2 Ward members should be involved more fully at an earlier stage of the process to enable their local knowledge of possible issues to be used to assess their merits of proposals.
- 3.2.3 There will always be highways which the Council can never allow to be gated whatever the level of crime and disorder because of the over-riding importance of maintaining unimpeded access.
- 3.2.4 Alleygating should not be allowed as a "quick fix" for problems which are unrelated to highways.
- 3.2.5 Alleygating proposals will be considered in the context of pursuing the well-being of the community and the Council's objectives as set out in its Corporate Plan.
- 3.2.6 Where evidence exists to justify gating orders to be made the provisions of Section 129A Highways Act 1980 should apply.
- 3.2.7 All gating schemes will be monitored from time to time to assess their continued relevance and contribution to reducing crime and/or anti-social behaviour.
- 3.2.8 Appendix 1 sets out the proposed procedures. The proposed procedures are designed to produce a system which is in line with the principles set out above.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The recommendation of the Safer Halton PPB if endorsed, represents a revision to existing policy.

5.0 FINANCIAL ISSUES

5.1 The proposed principles and procedures as set out in the report are cost neutral in terms of the physical costs of erecting and maintaining alleygates, but will save money in processing gating orders.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Resident's perception that they live in a safe environment aids general well-being.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Previous studies have indicated that alleygates reduce burglaries, instances of fly-tipping and general anti-social behaviour.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

By reducing fly-tipping and general litter problems, gates improve the overall appearance of the borough.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Alleygates reduce the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour within the Borough.

8.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.