

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TOPIC PROPOSAL

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Title of Proposed Topic: FAILURES OF BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Specific subject areas to be investigated:

The failure of the community safety team to take effective action to deal with daily offences being committed by a local business, Stratstone, 94-96 Kidderminster Road , Hagley.

Reasons why this subject should be considered:

In order to ensure the integrity of the council's enforcement policy which oblige relevant departments to take effective action which resolves the contraventions of law by ensuring they do not continue. In addition, such action will deter other businesses from committing further offences in future.

Evidence to support the need for this particular investigation:

Since at least June 2011 the Community Safety Team have been made fully aware that Stratstone were committing (daily) offences under section 3 of the Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005, Exposing vehicles for sale on the public highway. Unfortunately the CST have only given verbal and/or written warnings to the business. Despite offences continuing daily the CST have failed to follow the council's agreed enforcement policy and use the escalation process for enforcement action. To this day the offences continue each day.

In addition, daily offences are also being committed under section 166 of the Highways Act 1980, Forecourt abutting on streets. On a daily basis the business park 6 or more of their showroom vehicles across the entire stretch of public footpath which abutts their business. I presume this prevents the council street cleaning department from carrying out their duties at this location.

The following bodies and individuals have been made fully aware of these offences, including a residents' petition being submitted to Hagley Parish Council some years ago:

Hagley Parish Council, Hagley Ward District Councillors, Worcestershire County Council, the Hagley Ward County Councillor, Bromsgrove District Council, District Councillor Mike Webb portfolio holder. None of these bodies or individuals have taken effective action, in fact some have taken no action at all.

Therefore, on both issues, the CST have totally failed to deal with the daily offences being committed and have therefore failed to ensure compliance by the company concerned, and have failed to follow the council's own agreed enforcement policy.

Council priorities it links to:

**Environment
Sense of community and well-being**

Possible key outcomes:

Compliance with environmental legislation and consequential deterrence of future offences.

In conclusion, I believe there has been unsatisfactory progress and performance on the above issue.

I also believe that these are important issues for residents, hence the residents' petition submitted to Hagley Parish Council relating to Stratstone.

I believe this is a topic where the Overview and Scrutiny could feasibly and constructively make recommendations.

I believe this department is a poorly performing service if such an issue as I highlight above cannot be resolved.

Yours faithfully

Peter Rowbottom