

Councillor Elizabeth Daly **Wellbeing**

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health partnership Board continues to work on improving the provision of services across Mole Valley and Tandridge districts. The partnership has now taken over both taxi licensing, the animal warden functions and private sector housing functions across both authorities. The Board is in the process of considering proposals for the harmonisation of fees and charges across both areas. Progress continues to be made on procuring a new IT system to manage the work across the partnership authorities.

In respect of animal warden operations we have made special provisions for the receipt of stray dogs in partnership with the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home to ensure that our service could get back up and running effectively as soon as lockdown guidance allowed.

Our staff have continued to deal with increased complaints regarding bonfires, which increased fourfold, and noisy neighbours during the lockdown period. They have also been engaging with business advising on how they can comply with the changing rules for social distancing and the opening of businesses.

Looking forward, the service is ensuring it's prepared to implement any requirements of the localised test and trace system for complex case investigations as well as implementing the new Pavement Licencing regime.

Housing and Homelessness

Since lockdown 29 rough sleepers or single people at risk of rough sleeping have been accommodated in bed and breakfast or hotels. Many of those have moved onto either supported accommodation or the Council's emergency housing and are on pathways to more permanent housing. Of the remainder in Bed and Breakfast accommodation, there are plans to provide move-on accommodation.

Reassurance calls have been made to all people living in emergency accommodation and to ensure they have access to everything they need.

The majority of the frontline housing services continued throughout lockdown, although the Home Choice letting service was suspended until early June. The team have been working with an increased number of housing applicants with increasingly complex circumstances and have been working closely with private rent landlords to secure accommodation and to move families from emergency accommodation to more permanent homes which in turn frees up the Council's emergency accommodation for homeless households.

It is anticipated that there will be an increase in homelessness as a result of Covid-19 due to loss of income and debt issues lead to evictions and mortgage arrears. Also across agencies, there is an expectation that there will be an increase in domestic abuse reports and the team are working closely with the police and support agencies to plan for this.