



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF: Executive Member for Resources
Executive Member for Environment

LEAD OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Environment and Leisure

DATE: 9 February 2017

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Environment Resources

WARD/S AFFECTED: Bastwell

KEY DECISION: YES NO

SUBJECT: Land off Whalley Street (Rear of London Road,) Blackburn

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Petition was received from, 'London Road Residents Group,' in September, 2016 expressing concerns about fly tipping and Japanese Knotweed on the site shown by red edge on the attached plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

Notes receipt of the Petition and authorises the Head of Property and Development to respond, advising the site will again be tidied up from Council Environmental and Resources budgets.

3. BACKGROUND

A Petition was received from London Road Residents Group in September, 2016 expressing concerns about clearing rubbish and syringes from, and dealing with Japanese Knotweed on the site shown by red edge on the attached plan.

Fly tipping on this site has been an issue for years.

The site has been partially cleared of rubbish in October, and again in December 2016.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The location is about half a mile north east of Blackburn centre, in an area where high density, late-Victorian residential terraced dwellings predominate.

The southern part of the site is divided into a number of garage plots fronting Whalley Street, which the Council rents to a number of Council garage tenants. The northern part of the site is at a higher level than the southern garage level – sloping above the roof tops of the garages. There are a number of trees on the northern, higher section of the site, which adjoins the narrow rear lane of

terraced housing fronting London Road.

The Garage site is to be considered separately as part of a wider, Borough-wide Property Review of the Council's Garage Sites which will be reported to Asset Management Group later this financial year.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

The Petition is being reported to the Executive Board as a matter of Council process.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is reasonable to estimate that the costs of a 'One-off' clearing the whole site of fly-tipped rubbish and treating the knotweed should not exceed £1,000. These works will be carried out by the appropriate Council Department.

Future clearing up costs would be determined by the extent of any future fly-tipping.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This is an ordinary petition as defined in the Council's constitution as being one signed by at least 6 people and submitted by people who live, work or study in the Borough. Part 7 of the Constitution outlines the possible mechanisms for petitions and this report and response is one such type of valid response.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Costs will be met from the Council's Environmental and Resources budgets.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

Council Departments have been consulted via Asset Management Group.

BwDBC Corporate Services Department have acknowledged receipt of the Petition and the office of the MP has been kept informed of progress.

The Petition letter advises that historically local Ward Councillors have been informed.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

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CONTACT OFFICER:	
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DATE:	
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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