

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET – 4 OCTOBER 2016

Recommendation from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 September 2016:-

Consideration of a Fly Grazing Protocol (Minute 22)

The report of the Director (Governance) related to the introduction of a fly grazing protocol to deal with the practise of leaving horses on someone else's land without permission.

Officers provided the following responses to concerns raised by Members:-

- The Police, who had traditionally been responsible for fly grazing, had had problems with horses escaping on to roads.
- Legislation had been deemed to be inadequate for this purpose. New legislation had been enacted and power had been devolved to enable Local Authorities to act against the horse owners.
- The horse owners were responsible for their horses in the first instance or it would default to the Local Authority.
- Fly grazing, a Local Authority function, could not be ignored.
- Funding for this function had not been transferred from the Police to the Local Authority
- The information received from the Police had indicated that nationally Hertfordshire had the highest road traffic instances concerning escaped horses and Welwyn Hatfield was the third highest borough.
- In relation to fly grazing, 300 instances had been reported to the Police in the last year.
- Now that the powers had been devolved, the Police would expect the Local Authority to use its powers quickly and to have the necessary protocols in place.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the contents of the report and protocol on Fly Grazing be noted.
- (2) That the report and protocol on Fly Grazing be recommended to Cabinet for adoption to form the basis of a working document to be updated as operationally required.