



Your Moray - Your Environment

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 11 DECEMBER 2008

SUBJECT: URBAN SEAGULLS IN THE MORAY AREA

BY: HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To provide an overview as to the current position with regard to the problem of urban seagulls in the Moray area.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the:-

- i) **Environmental Health Section reviews its policies with regard to problems relating to urban seagulls once guidance is produced by the Scottish Executive on a National Strategy.**
- ii) **Environmental Health Section continues to provide information and advice on the control of gulls.**
- iii) **Moray Council makes arrangements to remove nests and proof buildings in their ownership as necessary in line with current practice.**
- iv) **Householders be discouraged from feeding seagulls.**
- v) **Wheelie bins continue to be used for the storage of refuse.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 A report was provided to the Environmental Services Committee on 7 August 2002, entitled Control of Seagulls. Copy of Report attached for information.

3.2 A further report was provided to the Environmental Services Committee on 3 March 2004 regarding a Pilot Scheme for the control of seagulls in Lossiemouth and Buckie during 2003. Copy of Report attached for information.

3.3 Since 2004, the Environmental Health Section has continued to receive enquiries with regard to problems associated with urban seagulls. The Section provides advice and information leaflets to persons affected by this problem. A copy of the up-to-date leaflet is attached for information.

3.4 A National Summit was held in Dumfries on 24 June 2008 to examine ways of tackling the issue of urban seagulls.

Following on from the Summit, a pilot scheme is to be trialled in Dumfries during the spring breeding season 2009, when a special anti-gull “task force” will seek to destroy nests and drive out the birds.

Once this trial has been concluded it is anticipated that the Scottish Government will produce national guidance on dealing with the problem of urban gulls.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

There are no implications to the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement.

(b) Policy and Legal

Not applicable.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

There are no implications to resources at the present time.

(d) Consultations

This report has been sent to Scottish Natural Heritage for information.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The problems associated with urban gulls will continue to be a topic which Local Authorities have to address for the foreseeable future. There will be no overall solution on methods for dealing with the problem until further studies and pilot schemes have been carried out and National Guidance issued by the Scottish Government.**

Author of Report: Andrew B Stewart, Environmental Health Officer
Background Papers: Report to Environmental Services Committee on 7 August 2002 – Control of Seagulls
Report to Environmental Services Committee on 3 March 2004 – Pilot Scheme for the Control of Seagulls in Lossiemouth and Buckie during 2003
Environmental Health – Information on Gulls