

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) :

**Anna Eastgate**

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Cllr Ian Gilbert  
Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Recovery  
& Regeneration

Our ref:  
Your ref:  
Date: 11 November 2021  
Telephone:  
Email: [annaeastgate@southend.gov.uk](mailto:annaeastgate@southend.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor Gilbert,

## **Standing Order 46**

### ***Permission to commence public consultation on the Council's proposed Civil Penalties Policy for Housing Offences***

I write to you as Executive Director for Neighbourhoods and Environment. At the Portfolio Briefing on 8 November 2021 the introduction of civil penalties, through the Housing and Planning Act 2016, was discussed. As you are, aware, civil penalties are a discretionary enforcement measure to enable housing authorities to impose a financial penalty, as an alternative to prosecution, for specified offences under the Housing Act 2004.

The decision to adopt a Civil Penalties Policy would be key decision as it is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in area, comprising two or more electoral wards in Southend-on-Sea, and therefore require a Cabinet Decision.

I therefore seek your authorisation to fast-track the public consultation on the proposed policy and matrix, without the need to engage Cabinet at this stage. The request is made to enable the public consultation to be completed, and analysis of responses to be considered, allowing the draft policy to be submitted to Cabinet for their consideration before its last meeting this Municipal Year on 22 February 2022.

Yours sincerely,



**Anna Eastgate**

Executive Director Neighbourhoods & Environment

Copy: Ms Anna Eastgate Executive Director Neighbourhoods & Environment

Mr T Row, Town Clerks

Mr J Williams, Director of Legal & Democratic Services

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I concur with the proposed action set out above.



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Cllr Ian Gilbert  
Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for  
Economic Recovery & Regeneration

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021