

**COUNCIL – 02 November 2017  
QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Agenda item 8 refers

**1. Councillor Joel Charles, to Councillor Jon Clempner, Leader of the Council.**

How many times in the last financial year did Harlow Council use its houses in multiple occupation enforcement powers?

**Response from Councillor Jon Clempner, Leader of the Council.**

In accord with the principles of the Regulator's Code to which the Council must have regard, the Council has a progressive and proportionate approach to its regulatory functions which range from inspecting regulated premises and telling landlords what measures are required to achieve appropriate standards, to prosecution for specific offences.

In the financial year ending 31st March 2017 the Council's exercise of its enforcement powers under the Housing Act 2004 regarding Houses in Multiple Occupation included the following activity:

- Full Inspections conducted: 29
- Schedules of works issued: 29
- Financial penalties imposed: 19
- Prosecutions commenced: 1

**2. Councillor Joel Charles, to Councillor Jon Clempner, Leader of the Council.**

The Town Centre dispersal order was put in place on the 30 September 2017. Can Harlow Council confirm how many times the dispersal order has been used to deal with individuals committing an act of antisocial-behaviour in the Town Centre since it was put in place?

**Response from Councillor Jon Clempner, Leader of the Council.**

The dispersal order on the 30 September 2017 was authorised by Insp Tony Walker, the dispersal order was from 2200hrs on the 30 September until 0600hrs on the 1 October 2017 a total of eight hours

The Town centre in its entirety was covered and Essex Police provided officers to police the dispersal order throughout this period.

This dispersal order was used as a tactic to deal positively with reported incidents of anti-social behaviour at the beginning of the current 12 week plan. The 12 week plan as you are aware is to intensely police a defined area working with partners to deal with ASB and associated issues and problems.

Whilst the dispersal order was in place no persons were required to leave the area and therefore no notices were issued or arrests made.

The power is a flexible power that can be used by the police in a range of situations to disperse anti-social individuals and provide immediate short term respite to the local community.