

## ***FULL COUNCIL REPORT***

Date Written	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
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Service Area	Neighbourhood Services
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2018

*To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen*

# **An Update on the Environmental Enforcement Officers for Littering and Dog Fouling**

## **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

1.1 An update on the pilot project that commenced 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The pilot has now ended and a decision needs to be made on how the Authority is to proceed with environmental enforcement.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that**

2.1 The following option is considered on a way to progress with Enforcement within the borough:-

2.1.1 Look at the feasibility of 'Street Wardens' to carry out litter and dog fouling enforcement as well as parking enforcement.

## **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

3.1 A report was taken to full council on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017 where it was approved that the Authority would pilot an internal project for the issuing of fixed penalty notices for litter and dog fouling offences. A further report was submitted on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 to approve the 'Environmental Cleansing and Enforcement Littering and Dog Fouling Policy'. The report was approved and the recruitment process was started. The Environmental Cleansing and Enforcement Team commenced on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

3.2 Unfortunately the pilot scheme did not go as planned and no FPNs were served. However when the Environmental Enforcement Officers were patrolling the borough,

it acted as a deterrent. The main reason the pilot was unsuccessful was due to various staffing issues.

- 3.3 Currently there are no Environmental Enforcement Officers in employment and as the pilot has now come to an end, further instruction is needed on how to proceed with Enforcement. There are four options mentioned above.

#### **4.0 PRESENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The internal environmental enforcement project has been unsuccessful financially with a loss of £36,000 and no fixed penalty notices (FPNs) were issued. However when the officers were patrolling in their uniform it acted as a deterrent and people were using nearby litter bins to dispose of their waste correctly. Members of the public were also approached and educated regarding littering dog fouling offences. During the pilot project, the public perception of how the Council approached Environmental Enforcement vastly improved.

- 4.2 All options available to the Council have been considered. The options are:

- 1) Continue with in-house environmental enforcement in regards to littering and dog fouling;
- 2) Cease all environmental enforcement in regards to littering and dog fouling;
- 3) Look at another external agency to carry out litter and dog fouling enforcement;
- 4) Look at the feasibility of Street Wardens to carry out litter and dog fouling enforcement as well as parking enforcement.

- 4.3 Option 1, 'continue as is' means the two enforcement teams will continue to work separately and two officers will need to be recruited for the Environmental Enforcement Team.

- 4.4 Option 2, 'cease environmental enforcement' is not beneficial as the civil enforcement will continue, but there will be no enforcement officers employed for littering and dog fouling offences, which may be detrimental to the cleanliness of the borough.

- 4.5 Option 3, would mean sourcing an external agency to carry out enforcement for littering and dog fouling.

- 4.6 Option 4 is the most beneficial, as the Civil Enforcement Officers are already patrolling the borough, therefore with extra training, they will be delegated powers to allow them to issue penalty notices for parking offences and offences relating to littering and dog fouling.

- 4.7 It is envisaged that the 'Street Wardens' would cover a wider area of the borough for a variety of offences rather than working in isolation concentrating on one offence. This will also allow the officers to cover 'hot spot' areas for all offences.

## 5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 5.1 If option 4 is agreed, there will be no financial implications as the recommendation is that a feasibility study is carried out to determine if 'Street Wardens' would be practicable.

## 6.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full assessment is not required at this time. The form can be accessed on the Council's website/intranet via the 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
Outline Business Case - Environmental Enforcement	09/07/2018	Business Change O Drive
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		

***Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.***