

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Corporate Enforcement

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny (Communities & Environment) – 12th July 2016

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Environment, Street Scene and Operations – Cllr Robin Carter

Report by: Head of Community – Chris Stopford

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

The report provides an update on the Council's enforcement position regarding environmental crimes, such as abandoned vehicles, littering, fly-tipping, dog fouling and stray dogs. It further provides information regarding the three environmental campaigns that are planned for 2016/17

Recommendation(s):

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel are asked to note, and provide comment, on the proposed environmental campaigns for 2016/17

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members of Overview & Scrutiny (Communities & Environment) an update on Corporate Enforcement.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 7th June 2016, members of Overview & Scrutiny (Communities & Environment) resolved in response to an Environmental Matters Update report, to receive a report on Corporate Enforcement.

3. SUMMARY OF THE CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT POSITION

- 3.1 The Council's enforcement responsibilities within regards to environmental crime (dog fouling, littering, fly-tipping etc.) are, following the recent restructure of the Operations division, all located within the Community division. Education, promotion, and enforcement activities are undertaken by the two Policy and Enforcement Officers, who transferred from Operations, and focus on abandoned vehicles, littering, fly-tipping, and other waste offences; and the Animal Welfare and Pest Control Team Leader, and Pest Control Technician with regarding to dog fouling and stray dogs.
- 3.2 The Council has in place the necessary enforcement policies and practices to undertake enforcement activities. However, a working group is currently reviewing the Enforcement Policy to ensure that this is both current, and reflective of our activities.
- 3.3 Wherever possible the Council will undertake its enforcement activities in a proportionate, consistent and transparent manner and uses fixed penalty notices to support these activities. The current range of fixed penalty notices include:

Offence	Default penalty	Minimum full penalty	Maximum full penalty	Minimum discounted penalty
Littering	£75	£50	£80	£50
Dog control offences	£75	£50	£80	£50
Graffiti	£75	£50	£80	£50
Fly-posting	£75	£50	£80	£50
Abandoning a vehicle	£200	£200	£200	£120
Fly-tipping	£200	£150	£400	£120
Failure to produce a waste transfer note	£300	£300	£300	£180
Domestic waste receptacle offences	£60	£60	£80	£40
Industrial and commercial waste receptacle offences	£100	£75	£110	£60

Table 1: Range of Council Fixed Penalty Notices

4. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND / OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The activities link directly to the Enabling Communities theme in the Council's Corporate Plan 2016-18, specifically:

Create, protect and enhance our safe and clean build and green environment, and develop stronger and more resilient communities to enable people to help themselves. The Council's plan includes ensuring that our streets and open spaces are clean and safe, and working closely with our partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. One of our key actions for 2016-18, is to reduce incidents of littering through targeting of enforcement activities.

5. PROPOSED EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 To ensure that the Corporate Objectives are delivered in 2016/17 it is proposed to run three publicity campaigns to target environmental cleanliness, these are summarised below.

5.1.1 Dog Fouling

The changes in statute arising from the introduction of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Police and Crime Act require the Council to review its existing dog control orders. The legislation also places the responsibility for this activity solely on the District Council, previously, Town and Parish Council could undertake enforcement activity.

The campaign will seek to:-

- Highlight the requirements of dog owners to ensure that they clean up after their dog, and dispose of the waste appropriately
- Ensure that across Huntingdonshire suitable controls exist to deal with dog fouling, and those that allow it to take place
- Build enhanced co-operation between the District Council and Town and Parish Council's to respond to dog fouling in a consistent and co-ordinated manner.
- Use initiatives such as the spray painting of dog fouling instances to highlight the issue, and use targeted education and enforcement activities, including the issue of fixed penalty notices to support the campaign activities.
- Promote within the District Council staff, and within staff and volunteers of our partners, the ability to report in either directly witnessed incidents of dog fouling, or the existence of dog fouling for clearance.

5.1.2 Fly Tipping & Littering

With the recent introduction of a fixed penalty for fly-tipping, the opportunity exists to use this as a trigger for doing some education and promotion work across Huntingdonshire

The campaign will seek to:-

- Provide information to residents, and businesses on their responsibilities to ensure that waste is disposed of appropriately.

- Provide information on the cost of fly-tipping both nationally, and locally where information exists
- Identify the change in legislation that brings about fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping
- Promote within the District Council staff, and within staff and volunteers of our partners, the ability to report in either directly witnessed incidents of littering, or the existence of fly-tipping for clearance

5.1.3 Graffiti and Fly-Posting

Recent instances of graffiti resulting, anecdotally, from the EU Referendum, gives an opportunity for the Council to do further education and promotion work regarding graffiti and fly-posting.

The campaign will seek to:-

- Provide information to residents, and businesses regarding the reporting of graffiti, and the responsibilities of the Council and building/structure owners regarding graffiti, and particularly offensive graffiti
- To build enhanced co-operation and relationships between the County Council, District Council, Town and Parish Council's regarding fly-posting
- Promote within the District Council staff, and within staff and volunteers of our partners, the ability to report in either directly witnessed incidents of graffiti (specifically racial and hate), and the existence of fly-posting for removal.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council has access to a range of resources through Keep Britain Tidy, and can use these resources freely across Huntingdonshire. In addition, the campaigns will be supported by press releases, and the use of social media.
- 6.2 The staffing resources will be from within the existing Community teams.

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