

PLACES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 APRIL 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT PILOT UPDATE

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and update of the Environmental enforcement pilot project being provided by Street Scene Services and to provide details on the progress to date.

2. SERVICE OVERVIEW

The Environmental enforcement pilot project has been in operation since 17th October 2016 and will continue until October 2017.

Uniformed officers have been patrolling areas of the borough that have been highlighted by Council officers as having a problem with littering and dog fouling and to the end of February 2017 had issued 2290 fixed penalty notices.

All environmental enforcement officers are fully uniformed and wear body worn cameras, as a measure against the possibility of confrontation, abuse and false accusations whilst providing evidence of conversation with the offender. This has proved to be a valuable asset which has nullified accusations of unfair treatment when being issued with an FPN.

The administrative element of the service has been embedded into the Area Teams offices at Foots Cray and deals with all enquiries, complaints and payments of the FPNs. This aspect of the service also liaises with the Council's Legal Services Team for any prosecutions that may be required resulting from non-payment of fines.

Delegated authority has been given to certain Council Officers to commence criminal proceedings for the offences of littering and failing to clear up after a dog has defecated, which aims to streamline and quicken the prosecution process.

The process for prosecutions for non-payment of the fines has commenced and cases are to be passed through the Magistrates Court using the Single Justice Process, which enables bulk prosecutions to be dealt with.

3. STATISTICS ON SERVICE OPERATION

The tables below provide information on the types of offences; numbers of fixed penalty notices issued; areas of the borough that enforcement officers have issued FPNs and the age ranges of offenders.

Offence Type Summary		
Offence Type	Offence Type Count	Percentage
Dog Control-Fouling	<u>7</u>	<u>0.31%</u>
Litter Dep-Cigarette	<u>2153</u>	<u>94.04%</u>
Litter Dep-Food	<u>22</u>	<u>0.96%</u>
Litter Dep-OtherL	<u>33</u>	<u>1.45%</u>
Litter Dep-Printed Lite	<u>6</u>	<u>0.26%</u>
Litter Dep-Spitting	<u>69</u>	<u>2.98%</u>
Total :	2290	100.00%

Location Area Summary		
Area	Area Count	Percentage
Abbeywood	<u>3</u>	<u>0.13%</u>
Belvedere	<u>43</u>	<u>1.88%</u>
Bexley	<u>41</u>	<u>1.79%</u>
Bexleyheath	<u>1159</u>	<u>50.61%</u>
Crayford	<u>224</u>	<u>9.78%</u>
Erith	<u>125</u>	<u>5.46%</u>
Sidcup	<u>282</u>	<u>12.31%</u>
Slade Green	<u>3</u>	<u>0.13%</u>
Welling	<u>410</u>	<u>17.91%</u>
Total :	2290	100.00%

Age Band Summary		
Age Banding	Age Banding Count	Percentage
15 and under	<u>1</u>	<u>0.04%</u>
16	<u>1</u>	<u>0.04%</u>
17	<u>8</u>	<u>0.35%</u>
18	<u>31</u>	<u>1.35%</u>
19	<u>46</u>	<u>2.02%</u>
20 - 29	<u>571</u>	<u>24.93%</u>
30 - 39	<u>490</u>	<u>21.40%</u>
40 - 49	<u>446</u>	<u>19.48%</u>
50 - 59	<u>345</u>	<u>15.07%</u>
60 - 69	<u>189</u>	<u>8.25%</u>
70 - 79	<u>49</u>	<u>2.14%</u>
Not known	<u>113</u>	<u>4.93%</u>
Total :	2290	100.00%

FPN Payment Summary				
Offence	Issued	Paid	Outstanding	W/O OR Cancelled
Cigarette	2162	1552	465	145
Food	22	15	5	2
Fouling	7	5	1	1
OtherL	34	23	8	3
Printed Lite	6	5	0	1
Spitting	69	45	12	12
Total :	2300	1645	491	164
		-71.52%	-21.35%	-7.13%

4. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The service aims are to meet a minimum of 59% payment rate for fines issued in order to make the service cost neutral however the rate is currently operating above this percentage, with a current payment rate of circa 72%. This return is for the first four months of operation, so at this stage it is not possible to predict the end of year figure, however the pilot is producing positive results. The number of FPNs written off or cancelled is a low percentage and is caused by incorrectly issued FPNs; offender details unable to be confirmed; or other mitigating circumstances. The prosecution processes for non-payment of fines will however, increase the overall payment rate.

5. SUMMARY OF LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal or other implications arising from this report.

Local Government Act 1972-section 100d

List of background documents

None.

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