

SCRUTINY
12TH OCTOBER 2020

UPDATE ON THE STREET SCENE EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICE

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Colin Slade
Responsible Officer: Darren Beer, Interim Group Manager - Street Scene and Open Spaces

Reason for Report: This report outlines the performance of the Street Scene Education and Enforcement service.

Recommendation: That the members note the contents of this report.

Financial Implications: None as this is an information report only.

Budget and Policy Framework: The Street Scene and Enforcement policies previously agreed set out the key aims, principles, priorities and options which secure regulatory compliance and both investigate and, where necessary, undertake enforcement action following breaches of regulations.

Legal Implications: None as this is an information report only.

Risk Assessment: Our risk assessments ensure that the allocation of our efforts and resources are targeted where they would be most effective, by assessing the risks to regulatory outcomes. We will also ensure that risk assessment precedes and informs all aspects of our approaches to regulatory activity, including data collection and other information requirements, inspection programmes, advice and support, enforcement and sanctions.

Equality Impact Assessment: None as this is an information report only.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: Priorities within the Corporate Plan are economy, homes, community and environment. The Street Scene Service is a frontline service, which works throughout the district ensuring cleanliness and attractiveness of our public realm through both education and enforcement to assist in upholding these priorities.

Impact on Climate Change: There are no climate change implications associated with this project. However, MDDC is committed to working with its local residents, business and volunteer communities to provide a safe, healthy and fair living, working and trading environment. Where it can the Council will provide practical and proactive help and advice to all parties to help them achieve compliance with the law ensuring minimal impact to climate change.

1.0 Introduction/Background

The Street Scene Enforcement Service is a frontline service which works throughout the District ensuring cleanliness and attractiveness of our public realm through both education and enforcement. The role of the District Officer is to protect, promote and improve the health and environment of the district and all its people through

education, guidance and enforcement, and by supporting the Corporate Plan to ensure the continued success of Mid Devon.

- 1.1 In March 2020 the Street Scene and Education and enforcement policies were updated and formally adopted. The following changes were approved:
- To increase in fixed penalty notices (FPNs) from £200 to £400
 - To adopt the Littering from Vehicles Regulations 2018
 - To adopt amended Abandoned Vehicle Policy which will enable the District Officers to investigate vehicles within ‘open air’
- 1.2 Covid-19 impacted on the services provided by MDDC in March 2020, therefore District Officers were required to be utilised elsewhere. This was predominantly supporting Waste and Recycling to help ensure these services continued. The three District Officers returned to normal duties in June and the fourth District Officer was recruited and began working for MDDC at the beginning of September, thus providing a full complement of staff to support the service.

2.0 District Officer Activity

The duties carried out by the service are outlined below:

- Statutory – The authority has a legal duty to undertake this activity. This includes: stray dogs, dangerous dogs, fly tipping investigations and abandoned vehicle removal
- Mandatory – Activity which if not undertaken could lead to a loss of income, service disruption or reputational damage for the authority. This includes; car parking enforcement, compulsory recycling, trade waste enforcement and environmental crime investigation
- Discretionary – Activity which the authority can choose how much or little it wants to do. This includes; litter patrols, dog fouling patrols and cleansing inspections

At present the activity for the District Officer Team is monitored by manual timesheets that are submitted by the officers at the end of each week.

The allocation of the 300 discretionary annual hours were allocated as per Table 1.

Table 1:

Duties	Allocation of 300 discretionary hours 19/20
Compulsory Recycling	40% (120 hours)
Cleansing Inspections	10% (30 hours)
Dog Fouling Patrols	10% (30 hours)
Litter Patrols	40% (120 hours)

3.0 Performance Monitoring

3.1 Changing the allocation of time for the discretionary duties has allowed for resources to be channelled directly to the areas of most concern allowing for increased patrols and the ability to be reactive to reports logged. The investigations, FPN issued and the FPN's paid are shown in Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Table 2:

Fly tipping	2018/2019	2019/2020
Fly tipping investigations	590	573
FPNs Issued	0	2
FPNs Paid	0	2

Table 3:

Littering	2018/2019	2019/2020
Fines Issued	17	17
FPN Paid	15	17

Note: No repeat offenders and issued on foot patrols

Table 4:

Dog Fouling	2018/2019	2019/2020
Fines Issued	1	0
FPNs Paid	1	0

Table 5:

Compulsory Recycling	2018/2019	2019/2020
Letters Sent - Stage 1	727	148
Letters Sent - Stage 2	36	5

3.2 A total of 637 Street Cleaning inspections were undertaken. The results from the inspections can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6:

	Litter	Detritus
Number of Wards Surveyed	26	26
Total Number of Transects Surveyed	637	637
% of Transects Graded A	50.1%	21.6%
% of Transects Graded B	46.7%	69.7%
% of Transects Graded C	3.2%	8.7%
% of Transects Graded D	0.0%	0.0%

Grade A – No litter or refuse

Grade B – Predominantly free of litter and refuse except for some small items

Grade C – Widespread distribution of litter and refuse, with minor accumulations

Grade D – Heavily littered, with significant accumulations

3.3 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs), more commonly known as parking tickets, are issued for vehicles found to be in contravention of parking restrictions. These statistics present the number of PCNs issued in contravention of off-street parking restrictions. PCN's issued can be seen in Table 7.

Table 7:

Month	PCN'S 2018/2019	PCN'S 2019/2020
April	151	197
May	187	157
June	181	196
Total Q1	519	550
July	195	159
August	202	161
September	165	150
Total Q2	562	470
October	180	168
November	204	166
December	146	86
Total Q3	530	420
January	256	210
February	210	250
March	187	140
Total Q4	653	600
Grand Total	2264	2040

4.0 Private Enforcement

In March 2020 East Hampshire District Council were contacted by MDDC to enquire about private enforcement for the issuing of FPN's. A virtual meeting took place in July 2020 to set out requirements for the enforcement and to discuss the possibility of a trial. The aim of this trial would be to reduce on street littering at a cost neutral service. A draft deed of delegation was received at the end of July 2020, legal services have identified a few issues regarding the deed and these have been sent back to East Hampshire District Council for clarification.

Contact for more Information:

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Circulation of the Report:

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