

ENVIRONMENT ENFORCEMENT; QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Colin Slade, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change

Responsible Officer: Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager

Reason for Report: This report provides update on the quarter one performance in relation to Environment and Enforcement service.

Recommendation:

No recommendation required. This report is solely for note only.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

Budget and Policy Framework: No additional budgetary requirements in relation to this report.

Legal Implications: The Authority has a statutory responsibility to fulfil investigation and enforcement into environmental crimes such as abandoned vehicles, littering, fly tipping and public space protection orders.

Risk Assessment: Risk assessments in relation to the role of district officer in place. No further risk assessment required

Equality Impact Assessment: There are no equality issues identified in this report.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The service development is designed to align with corporate plan on reducing environmental crime issues within the district.

Impact on Climate Change: The report is focussed on advising how the service is actively working to reducing environmental crime. This will have a positive impact on climate and the corporate strategy relating to this.

1.0 Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Quarter Two (Q2) has provided the team a stable platform to continue to build on the good work conducted in Quarter 1. The service was able to identify efficiencies for ways of working in Quarter 1 and development on these has continued in Quarter 2.
- 1.2 Further discussions on the use of body worn video has been undertaken with our data protection team following questions received at the last PDG meeting. They have provided the following advice and guidance on the parameters and restrictions that guide how footage captured from the camera can be used.
- 1.3 For clarity, where a criminal act is captured on a Body Worn Video device this can be submitted to the Police for consideration of prosecution. The devices

cannot be used for generic recording or to specifically capture offences, which have yet to occur in their own right, e.g. we cannot set out to capture criminal activity. Consideration must also be given to the user of the device who has individual rights and freedoms which they may not wish to be captured and processed.

1.4 Part of this is shaped by The European Court of Human Rights (Article 8) which gives each individual a right to respect for both a private and personal life. This states the following:

1. Everyone must have the right for a private and family life, their home and individual correspondence

2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others

1.5 In addition to the above directed surveillance is not permitted for a local authority under the Regulation Investigatory Powers Act 2000. This detail is below.

directed surveillance	Following people	interests of national security, for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or of preventing disorder, in the interests of the economic well-being of the United Kingdom, in the interests of public safety, for the purpose of protecting public health and for the purpose of assessing or collecting any tax, duty, levy or other imposition, contribution or charge payable to a government department.	GCHQ, Secret Intelligence Service, Security Service, Ministry of Defence, armed forces, His Majesty's Prison Service or Northern Ireland Prison Service. The territorial police forces, the Ministry of Defence Police, the British Transport Police, the Royal Navy Regulating Branch, Royal Military Police, Royal Air Force Police and HM Revenue and Customs.	Senior member of that authority
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2.0 Quarter Two

2.1 The statistics for quarter two show a continued ascension in the efforts from the team. A focus on environmental crime has been at the forefront of the teams work during the quarter, who have conducted multiple investigations into fly tipping reports and Public Space Protection Order related issues.

2.2 Completion of the cleansing inspections for Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton have all been achieved. The resulting survey identified very few issues in relation to litter and debris build up on our highways and footpaths. This is a

credit to the cleansing team for their efforts in ensuring our communities remain generally clean and safe.

2.3 The summer months have been stable by way of staffing resource. This has allowed the team to focus and manage their workloads accordingly, providing time to conclude investigations in a timely manner.

3.0 Car Parking

3.1 The District Officers continue to provide a daily parking service and this is reflected within all areas regarding parking. Evening patrols continue twice monthly, assisting with out of hours concerns within town centre and residential car parks.

3.2 Revenue from pay and display machines is consistently around the £60k region for each month in Q2 which includes card and Ringo payments. This has generated an income via pay and display of £182,637.80 for the quarter. The service continues to rectify first line machine faults within 24hrs. During Q2, 15 machines went out of order, 13 of which were fixed by District Officers and 2 required an engineer visit.

3.3 Quarter two statistics in relation PCN's issued.

Quarter 2 PCN Issuance	2019	2020	2021	2022
PCN's issued	470	236	469	664

3.4 The following statistics show a comparison with regards to recovery for quarter 2. The recovered percentages for previous years have had at least a 1 year additional collection period compared to 2022. The recovered percentage for FY 22/23 looks positive when considering the additional time period of collection accrued in previous years.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
PCN Recovery	65%	62%	69%	62%
Written Off	17%	26%	19%	18%
Outstanding	18%	12%	12%	20%

4.0 Abandoned Vehicles

4.1 During Q2 the team have dealt with 77 reports of abandoned vehicles. Two of these resulted in the vehicle being removed from the highway and being subsequently destroyed. All other reports resulted in the vehicle not being in situ or being moved after a 7 day removal notice was issued.

4.2 One Fixed penalty notice was issued in Q2 in relation to abandonment of vehicles.

4.3 The team have worked proactively to resolve abandoned vehicle reports during Q2, this has included forming a close working relationship with housing neighbourhood officers.

5.0 Littering and Public Space Protection Order

- 5.1 The confidence in dealing with environmental issues from the District Officers since their training has strengthened.
- 5.2 During Q2 there have been 43 patrols directly related to littering and PSPO.

6.0 Fly tipping

- 6.1 There have been multiple investigations into fly tipping conducted by the district officer team. This has resulted in two Fixed Penalty Notices being issued. I can confirm that both of these Fixed Penalty Notices have been paid within 7 days of issue.
- 6.2 Exposing fly tipping and awareness in communities is something the service continues to work towards and improve. We have been working closely with the communications team to plan and publish press releases and educational advice regarding fly tipping.

Contact for more Information:

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Circulation of the Report:

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List of Background Papers:

None