

Report for: Environment PDG

Date of Meeting:	15 August 2023
Subject:	Environment and Enforcement Quarter 1 Performance Update
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Josh Wright, Cabinet Member for Environment and Services
Responsible Officer:	Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	N/A
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

This report will provide members with an overview of performance from the Environment and Enforcement service during Quarter 1 of financial year 2023/24.

Recommendation(s): Report for note only

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Quarter one has seen the service continue with the same high performance as financial year 2022/23. The quarter has been a busy one for the service, not only continuing with the work the team continually deliver, but further developing the approach to issues.
- 1.2 The service is now leading on a task group designed to share best practice and strategy in relation to fly tipping. This group comprises of many district councils in the Devon region as well as Torbay and Plymouth Council. This group, which is chaired by the Environment and Enforcement Manager from MDDC, enables best practice to be shared throughout the County, to ensure efficient procedures and data sharing.

2.0 Quarter One

- 2.1 The statistics for quarter one of this year show strong improvement against similar statistics for last year. The depth of knowledge within the team, combined with clear procedural direction, enables the service to perform at the highest level.
- 2.2 Cleansing inspections have been completed for Cullompton, Crediton and Tiverton. These inspections have shown a high proportion of highways and footpaths being graded at A or B. This indicates that the introduction of three weekly refuse collection has not significantly impacted on the cleanliness of towns and industrial areas. There were no highway inspections that were categorised as C or D standard. Gradings are determined as Grade A- No litter or refuse, Grade B- Predominantly free of litter or refuse, Grade C- Widespread distribution of litter and refuse, Grade D- Heavily littered with significant accumulations.

Town	Cleansing Checks	Grade A	Grade B
Tiverton	561	335	226
Crediton	418	369	49
Cullompton	438	247	191

- 2.3 The team's focus on investigating fly tipping has resulted in several successful Fixed Penalty Notices being issued to individuals. Moving forward, it is hoped the publicity in relation to this will deter fly tipping and there will be a visible reduction in the number of reported fly tipping incidents as a parallel, see table in 5.2.

3.0 Car Parking

- 3.1 The closing statistics for quarter one show a similar trend to the close of the last financial year, with a strong and consistent volume of users in MDDC car parks.

Quarter 1 pay and display	Coins	Card	Ringo	Total
2023	£78,309.05	£67,931.50	£55,586.35	£201,826.90
2022	£86,580.05	£65,024.81	£41,182.30	£192,787.16

- 3.3 After agreement at the 4 April Cabinet meeting, new pricing tariffs were introduced within Mid Devon. The agreed charges were successfully implemented on 27 June 2023. It was felt that a consultation group, set up to review and include communities, would be beneficial for future reviews. Cllr Guy Cochran is chairing this group with Cllrs Andy Cuddy and Matt Fletcher representing Tiverton and Cullompton. The consultation group will invite town partnerships, business groups and members of communities to explore how car parking space can be best utilised to the greatest benefit of the communities they serve.

3.4 The service has performed well to achieve a strong return following the COVID-19 pandemic. Greater presence from District Officers, combined with early and late patrols, has encouraged users to purchase a pay and display session rather than risk a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). There has also been a noted increase in the volume of users opting to pay using our pay by phone method, Ringo. This could be a demographic reflection on users, as it provides an easy and efficient method of payment; the likelihood is a combination of both, see table 3.5.

3.5 Q1 PCN Statistics

Quarter 1 (April-June) PCN Issuance	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
PCN's issued	550	1	466	447	682

4.0 Environmental Enforcement

4.1 The service has performed exceptionally well during quarter one with regard to investigations and prosecutions for fly tipping, littering, PSPO breaches and abandoned vehicles.

4.2 One highlight point was the prosecution of an offender for a substantial fly tip located off the A361 North Devon link road.

4.3 The service continues to engage with local primary schools, arranging visits to provide education on the climate impacts of littering and fly tipping. We are currently in discussion with Heathcoat and St Johns primary schools to arrange a visit in the new term.

4.4 The service has also arranged regular walk-arounds with the Housing team to address issues in a multi-service approach. These enable both services to actively tackle issues which are directly affecting MDDC residents.

4.5 Abandoned Vehicle Stats Q1

Total Reported	92
Not Abandoned/Gone	73
Action Required	19
Moved by owner after notice	15
Removed by MDDC	4
Fixed Penalty Notices issued	1
Action not Taken	0

4.6 Environmental Enforcement Statistics Q1

Q1	2021/2022	2022/2023	Improvement
Patrols Conducted	38	73	35
FPN's Issued	2	15	13
Dog Fouling/PSPO	0	0	0
Littering	0	12	12
Fly Tipping	2	3	1

5.0 Street Cleansing

5.1 The street cleansing service has recently procured a walk-behind mechanical sweeper. The sweeper will be regularly used to clean and maintain the MSCP in Tiverton. Alongside this, a rota schedule has been drawn up for its use in Crediton, Cullompton and Tiverton town centres. One cycle has already occurred and a significant difference could be noticed in the cleanliness of the towns. Positive feedback has been received by members of the public and elected members regarding the positive impact the sweeper has had on the overall appearance within town centres.

5.2 Fly tipping disposals have been maintained at a steady rate throughout the quarter. Collections for May and June are shown below.

Fly Tipping Collections	Time Spent	Cost of disposal (Tyres and Asbestos) £'s
112	65 Hrs	£0.00

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a direct result of 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.

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.

Equalities 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.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 01 August 2023

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 01 August 2023

Chief Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 01 August 2023

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 28/07/2023

Cabinet member notified: (yes)

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Luke Howard, Environment Enforcement Manager

Email: lhoward@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01884 255255

Background papers: N/A