

Report for: Environment PDG

Date of Meeting:	07 November 2023
Subject:	Environment and Enforcement Quarter 2 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:	All
Enclosures:	N/A

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

This report will provide members with an overview of performance from the Environment and Enforcement service during Quarter 2 of the financial year 2023/24

Recommendation(s): Report for note only

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Quarter two (Q2) has seen the introduction of the new car parking tariff charges introduced in late June. It is likely to take some time to see how this introduction settles with users. Early statistics and data do not indicate a loss in vends or user activity to date. This will be kept under review.
- 1.2 The service has had a particular focus on fly tipping and littering offences during Q2. The team have obtained evidence following investigating several commercial sized fly tipping incidents, liaising closely with 3rd partner agencies and our own cleansing services to resolve and dispose of the waste.

2.0 Quarter two

- 2.1 The service has performed well in the current climate when compared to similar time periods last year.
- 2.2 Due to reduced staffing resource and a high quantity of PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act) interviews during Q2, the team have only been able to part complete the district cleansing inspections. It is expected that the remainder will be completed over the coming weeks with Q3 review commencing straight after.
- 2.3 The enforcement team undertook training relating to interviews under caution following PACE procedures. This training was really useful for the confidence and knowledge of the team, providing them with a greater understanding of the process and confirming our current procedures are correct.

3.0 Car Parking

- 3.1 The introduction of the new tariff changes took place at the end of June. So far, statistics relating to the introduction has not shown a decline in user numbers or vends through our varying payment options. In fact, user uptake appears to have increased – see 3.2. It is felt a period of six to nine months will be needed to gain a true understanding on how these changes have landed. Initial information looks promising.
- 3.2 Pay and Display income

Quarter 2 pay and display	Coins	Card	Ringo	Total
2023*	£91,811.65	£94,722.30	£76,336.80	£262,892.75
2022*	£90,497.85	£74,422.50	£43,367.15	£208,287.50

*all figures include VAT.

The initial parking consultation meeting was held in September. The group was well attended by representatives of Mid Devon Members, communities, local businesses and Town Councils who provided useful feedback and ideas relating to parking and use of the current parking stock. A further meeting is scheduled to take place at the end of the year to revisit some of the ideas suggested and look forward to the financial year 2024/25 to make future recommendations to the Economy PDG.

3.3 Q2 PCN Statistics comparing years 2019-2023

Quarter 2 (July-Sept) PCN Issuance	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
PCN's issued	470	236	469	664	728

4.0 Environmental Enforcement

- 4.1 The team were involved in PACE training during September. This two-day course provided by a Keep Britain Tidy Environmental Legal Specialist, gave the team a deeper knowledge base surrounding interviews under caution. It also highlighted varying sections of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 that were open to use by the authority. The course was extremely beneficial and team feedback has been very positive.
- 4.2 The service has seen the number of fly tipping reports decrease steadily over the last 12 months. However, reports and investigations pertaining to commercial fly tipping seemed to have increased during that time. The team have been active in investigating and taking enforcement action against those individuals found to be fly tipping. During Q2, the team held 14 interviews under caution. Some of these interviews related to the same incident due to multiple names and addresses being found.
- 4.3 The service has been actively working with a small selection of businesses to identify their duty of care in relation to waste. This initial outreach by the team is going to be followed up by a much larger campaign in early 2024, ensuring businesses have the appropriate trade waste agreements and waste transfer notes for their waste.
- 4.4 The service continues to work in cross service walk arounds with the housing team, addressing arising issues that tenants have in respect of environment and street scene.
- 4.5 Abandoned Vehicle Stats Q2

Total Reported	103
Not Abandoned/Gone	85
Action Required	18
Moved by owner after notice	16
Removed by MDDC	2
Fixed Penalty Notices issued	1
Action not Taken	0

4.6 Environmental Enforcement Statistics Q2 comparing 2022/23 with 2023/24

Q2	2022/23	2023/24	Increase/Decrease
Patrols Conducted	43	78	35
FPN's Issued	4	21	17
Dog Fouling/PSPO	2	3	1
Littering	0	15	15
Fly Tipping	2	3	1

5.0 Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance

5.1 During August the Grounds Maintenance service assisted a multi service operation to clear and make safe a property within the district. The work consisted of cutting back and removing very sizeable overgrowth from the front and rear of the property. The team completed the works ahead of predicted schedule and to a very good standard.

5.2 Fly tipping reports have reduced compared to those reported in Q1, however, the team have been involved with the removal of several larger commercial scale fly tipping incidents. The service has removed/disposed of:

Fly Tipping Collections	Time Spent	Cost of disposal (Tyres and Asbestos) £'s
98	58Hrs	£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: 30 October 2023

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 30 October 2023

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford

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

Date: 30 October 2023

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 23 October 2023

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager

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Background papers: