

**Report for: Environment PDG**

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Date of Meeting:	12 March 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Environment and Enforcement Quarter 3 Report</b>
Cabinet Member:	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 3 of the financial year 2023/24

**Recommendation(s): Report for note only**

**Section 2 – Report**

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Quarter 3 (Q3) presented some challenges to the team but these were absorbed and the service continued to perform well under the circumstances. In particular, staffing resource presented the biggest issue with long-term sickness absence and jury service limiting the services ability to undertake duties as normal.
- 1.2 The service dealt with a significant number of fly tipping incidents during Q3, many of which were found to have evidence, thus allowing invites to be sent to the relevant individuals to account for the waste.
- 1.3 The service has also engaged in a funding application from Central Government to assist with highlighting household duty of care and fly tipping within the District. It is expected the outcome of the funding decision will be received in March 2024.

## 2.0 Quarter Three

- 2.1 Despite operating at a lower staffing level for a large proportion of the quarter, the service has maintained all statutory functions.
- 2.2 All cleansing inspections for Q3 were completed and the overall cleanliness of the District remains at a good standard. The service continues to monitor the cleanliness of the District and concerns relating to three weekly collections do not seem to have impacted this in any way. Grading functions remain the same with Grade A - No litter or refuse, Grade B - Predominantly free of litter or refuse, Grade C - Widespread distribution of litter and refuse and Grade D - Heavily littered with significant accumulations. There were none graded at D.

Town	Cleansing Checks	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C
Tiverton	2,105	932	1,137	36
Crediton	863	380	482	1
Cullompton	1,116	499	606	11

- 2.3 The team's investigations into reported fly tipping incidents resulted in 20+ interviews being arranged with individuals. Not all interviews were conducted in Q3 with some falling into the start of Q4. These interviews provide an opportunity for the individual to account for how their information was linked to the incident. Those individuals who were unable to provide a reasonable explanation were issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for the offences of fly tipping or littering.

## 3.0 Car Parking

- 3.1 There has been a significant move toward virtual payments for parking; this has seen a significant rise in user numbers for our Ringo cashless payment option.
- 3.2 User rates continued at a consistent rate throughout Q3 and show a slight increase in user numbers comparative to the same period last year.
- 3.3 Pay and display income for Q3

Quarter 3 Pay and Display revenue	Coins	Card	Ringo	Total
2023*	£81,176.15	£75,868.30	£86,374.00	<b>£243,418.45</b>
2022*	£89,014.10	£69,651.40	£43,862.45	<b>£202,527.95</b>

\*All figures include VAT

3.4 The service also held its first parking consultation group meeting during Q3. The group is made up of community groups, members and officers, and is designed to merge the gap in the respect of decision making and options for parking in the Council's car parks. Initial discussions are promising and the group are about to, at the time of writing, put forward suggestions to the Economy PDG in Q4.

#### 4.0 Environmental Enforcement

4.1 The service continues to monitor reports of fly tipping, littering, abandoned vehicles, PSPO related issues and littering from vehicles. The service heavily relies on feedback from the public to inform us of problematic areas. The service does undertake proactive patrols to tackle these issues; however, public reporting enables the service to focus resource on areas that are identified as particularly problematic.

4.2 Due to the reduced staffing resource, the service has focused on high priority issues during Q3. This has been particularly pertinent to fly tipping and PSPO related reports. The service has been proactive in assisting communities with stickers and posters in relation to dog offences.

#### 4.3 Abandoned Vehicle Statistics Q3

Total Reported	108
Not Abandoned/Gone	76
Action Required	32
Moved by owner after notice	26
Removed by MDDC	5
Fixed Penalty Notices issued	2
Action not Taken	0

#### 4.4 Environmental Enforcement Statistics Q3

Q3	2022	2023
Patrols Conducted	64	51
FPN's Issued	10	6
Dog Fouling/PSPO	3	0
Littering	5	3
Fly Tipping	2	3

## 5.0 Street Cleansing

5.1 The street cleansing service has been focused on litter picking the A361 link road between J27 and Bolham during October. This litter pick is focused on removing litter disposed of by users of the link road during the summer period. Operatives work in compliance with Chapter 8 highway working procedures and do not operate along live carriageways without protection barriers or compliant distance.

5.2 Fly tipping has been consistent throughout the quarter, with reported incidents showing continued decline

5.3 Fly tipping collections Q3

Fly Tipping Collections	Time Spent	Cost of disposal (Tyres and Asbestos) £s
115	69 hrs 30 mins	£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:** 4 March 2024

**Statutory Officer:**

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date:**

**Chief Officer:**

Agreed by Stephen Walford on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Performance and risk:** Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

**Date:** 04 March 2024

**Cabinet member notified:** (yes/no)

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Luke Howard- Environment and Enforcement Manager

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**Background papers:**