

Report for: Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement PDG

Date of Meeting:	24 June 2024
Subject:	Annual Environmental Enforcement Report
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Josh Wright
Responsible Officer:	Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager Matthew Page Head of People, Performance and Waste
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	All – District Wide
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

The aim of this report is to provide an overview and review of the Environment and Enforcement service for the 2023/24 financial year and the improvements that have been made during this period.

Recommendation(s):

- 1. To review the contents of the report**

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 During the 2023/24 financial year, the service has continued to build on changes introduced in the previous year. This has included regular evening patrols to assist with night time economy, increased presence in car parks, daily attendance of all chargeable car parks and 24hr response fault resolution on machines.
- 1.2 The service implemented tariff changes during June 2023 and these have offset the increased operational costs of running the service. Following debate

around these changes, a parking consultation group has been formed to explore and consult on future changes made to parking services and tariffs set. The parking consultation group has been widely praised by those involved for bridging the gap between the Council and the local communities we serve. Representatives from Town Councils, business groups, Chambers of Commerce, elected Members and officers attend the group. In March 2024, the group put forward their first set of proposals to the Economy PDG and then Cabinet for approval. These included increasing the tariff banding for long stay car parks to allow a greater range of choice for users. This implementation will take place alongside inflationary increase in June 2024.

- 1.3 The service is now operating with a full electric fleet, thus reducing our climate impact. On this theme, new public electric vehicle charging points have begun to be installed in central car parks throughout the district with tranche one of this phase expected to be completed in late May 2024 with tranche two expected for completion later in the year. Tranche one will deliver six charging units divided between the car parks William Street, Tiverton; Market Street, Crediton; and Forge Way, Cullompton.

2.0 Penalty Charge Notices

- 2.1 The service continues to deliver an enforcement approach aiming to provide a transparent, fair and easy to use service. This is represented in the statistics for appeals, acceptances and rejections with the service attending two Traffic Penalty Tribunals over the year.

2.2 Annual Penalty Charge Notice Issuance Data

<u>Year</u>	<u>PCN issuance</u>
2017/18	1,452
2018/19	2,260
2019/20	2,124
2020/21	897
2021/22	1,745
2022/23	2,540
2023/24	2,734

2.3 PCN Appeals 2023/24

PCN Appeals	Challenges	Accepted	Rejected
2023/24	459	304	155

2.4 Penalty Charge Notice Issuance by month for 2023/24

Month	PCNs
April 2023	206
May 2023	229
June 2023	247
July 2023	265
August 2023	243
September 2023	220
October 2023	280
November 2023	218
December 2023	191
January 2024	234
February 2024	205
March 2024	195

3.0 Pay and Display/Car Parking Service

3.1 The parking service has seen a strong uptake in users over the financial year, this increase is particularly prominent in short stay car parking use. Long stay car parks have seen a decrease in use that has been evident through budget monitoring over the financial year. However, proposals from the car parking consultation group look to remedy this over the coming year with greater tariff options for users. There has been a significant shift in users opting to pay via our Ringo cashless payment option, suggesting trends for easier cashless payment options are increasing.

3.2 Service income and expenditure

Year	Expenditure	Income Type	Income	Variance
2016/17	579,763.36		- 843,875.82	- 264,112.46
		Pay & Display	- 684,982.60	
		Permits	- 78,443.16	
		PCN	- 43,635.00	
		Other	- 36,815.06	
2017/18	651,828.97		- 796,489.91	- 144,660.94
		Pay & Display	- 643,972.01	
		Permits	- 69,108.89	
		PCN	- 47,731.00	
		Other	- 35,678.01	
2018/19	639,831.29		- 760,062.26	- 120,230.97
		Pay & Display	- 636,219.84	
		Permits	- 57,480.28	
		PCN	- 44,338.00	
		Other	- 22,024.14	
2019/20	708,218.42		- 797,055.23	- 88,836.81
		Pay & Display	- 648,134.10	
		Permits	- 90,775.03	
		PCN	- 46,397.70	
		Other	- 11,748.40	
2020/21	690,204.33		- 382,173.84	308,030.49
		Pay & Display	- 271,958.28	
		Permits	- 72,057.36	
		PCN	- 30,522.24	
		Other	- 7,635.96	
2021/22	781,191.37		- 737,621.61	43,569.76
		Pay & Display	- 583,634.89	
		Permits	- 96,411.33	
		PCN	- 49,939.43	
		Other	- 7,635.96	
2022/23	801,068.98		- 844,541.55	- 43,472.57
		Pay & Display	- 659,695.28	
		Permits	- 113,839.47	
		PCN	- 62,450.83	
		Other	- 8,555.97	
2023/24	843,252.92		- 999,519.46	- 156,266.54
		Pay & Display	- 774,565.06	
		Permits	- 149,524.52	
		PCN	- 67,626.92	
		Other	- 7,802.96	

4.0 Environmental Enforcement

- 4.1 The service has steadily built on progress made in 2022/23. Better knowledge, training and experience has enabled the service to explore efficient working practices and manage cases in an expedient manner. Working alongside colleagues in waste and recycling, the service has assisted in the delivery of Bin-It 123 and the subsequent cessation of side waste collections.
- 4.2 Fly tipping continues to affect the District. However, incidents of fly tipping have dropped steadily throughout 2023/24. This can be accredited to the active work undertaken by the service to pursue fly tippers and ensure those responsible are held accountable for their actions. Statistics suggest that changes to refuse collections have had no impact on reported incidents of fly

tipping, and contrary to expectations, reports of fly tipping have actually fallen against the same time periods for last year.

4.3 Environment Enforcement Statistics

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Improvement
Patrols Conducted	67	224	271	47
FPN's Issued	0	28	54	26
Dog Fouling/ PSPO	0	8	5	-3
Littering*	0	12	31	19
Fly Tipping	0	8	10	2
ABV	0	9	8	-2

4.4 Fly Tipping

Fly tip reports	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Totals
2022/23	47	51	33	42	43	49	44	34	48	63	71	80	605
2023/24	55	34	27	33	31	34	35	52	28	34	42	58	463
Diff	8	-17	-6	-9	-12	-15	-9	18	-20	-29	-29	-22	142

4.5 Abandoned vehicles

Abandoned Vehicles Total Reported	2023/24
Abandoned vehicle reports	460
Not Abandoned/ Gone	357
Action Required	103
Moved by owner after notice	88
Removed by MDDC	15
Fixed Penalty Notices issued	8
Action not Taken	0

5.0 Staffing

5.1 The service is currently operating with five District Officers, this is due to the impending retirement in June 2024 of one of our longest serving officers in the role, which will reduce the team back to four. The additional officer has been put in place to allow for a smooth transition and for suitable training and knowledge base to be achieved. During 2023/24, the service has absorbed some challenges with staffing. However, core service functions continued without issue and the service was able to maintain a consistent approach to demands without any significant drop in service standards.

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: 13 June 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leburne
Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 13 June 2024

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford
Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director
Date: 13 June 2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr
Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager
Date: 03/06/2024

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Luke Howard- Environment and Enforcement Manager
Email: lhoward@middevon.gov.uk
Telephone: 01884 255 255

Background papers: None