

Report of:	Head of Environmental Health
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Portfolio Leader:	Cllr C Bennett
Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	EPDC 13/3/2014

ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
13th MARCH 2014
ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT ACTION PLAN 2014-15

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform members of the Objectives, Actions and Targets to be included in the annual Environmental Action Plan to address current and upcoming issues of environmental crime.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members note and endorse the proposals detailed in the Action Plan.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Plan is prepared annually and seeks to identify current and upcoming issues related to environmental crime that falls within the Council's remit.
- 3.2 The Council's resources are limited and in view of the current and anticipated budget and staffing constraints imposed on local authorities generally, it is considered imperative that the resources are targeted to achieve maximum benefit.
- 3.3 The Plan details the measures to be adopted and actions to be taken both in preventing incidents and pursuing those responsible for environmental crime.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Priorities as follows:
- (i) The Environmental Enforcement Action Plan details the work programme designed to achieve the "PLACE – Improved Living Environment" Corporate Priority.

5 Report Detail**Background**

- 5.1 The initiative has been in use for a number of years and provides an effective means of determining the work programme for officers of the Council's Environmental Protection Team against which performance can be reported.

Current situation

- 5.2 The Plan for 2014-15 details the measures to be adopted in preventing incidents and actions to be taken in the pursuit those responsible for environmental crime which have been grouped into the following broad Objectives :-
- Determine Duty of Care arrangements of small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
 - Work with partners to ensure vehicles capable of carrying waste/scrap metal are assessed and paperwork in order as necessary
 - Raise awareness of Duty of Care and Fly tipping
 - Reduce incidence of fly tipping
 - Reduce littering
 - Reduce Dog Fouling and promote responsible dog ownership
- 5.3 Members have the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan and other Partner Agencies, such as the Police, who work in conjunction with the Council to tackle the environmental crime element of Anti Social Behaviour Agenda have been also been consulted through the Joint Operations Group (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership).
- 5.4 A review of the outcomes implementation of the annual Plan for 2013-14 will be presented to the Committee following the end of the current financial year.

6 Implications**6.1 Financial**

None

6.2 Legal

The Council has a legal obligation to investigate complaints made to it about statutory nuisance and remove litter and dog fouling. The Council must comply with the legal requirements regarding the use of surveillance techniques when investigating environmental crime.

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

The proactive measures including education are intended to reduce the incidence of environmental crime and the enforcement actions are designed to have a deterrent effect.

6.5 Human Rights Act

The use of covert surveillance techniques will be subject to the provisions of the Human Rights Act and the specific requirements of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA).

6.6 Data Protection

None

6.7 Risk Management

None

6.8 Equality & Diversity

None

6.9 Best Value

The Plan provides for the targeted use of the limited resources available to areas and issues that are of highest priority thereby seeking to achieve best value.

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1

Draft Environmental Enforcement Action Plan
2014-15

Previous Consideration

Not Applicable

Background Papers

None

APPENDIX 1

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT ACTION PLAN 2014/15

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Comments/Areas for Improvement</u>
1. Determine Duty of Care arrangements of small and medium enterprises (SMEs)	i) Review databases to determine companies offering electrical, plumbing & building services. Engage with businesses to ensure compliance	Oct 14 – Feb 15	Senior EHO in conjunction with Environmental Enforcement Assistants		
	ii) Survey all food businesses in the workplace inspected during the year to determine compliance.	April 14 – March 15	Environmental Health Officers/Food and Safety Officers (F&S)		
	iii) Survey industrial estates to determine any installations that require permitting under IPC/ LAPC	April 14 – March 15	Scientific Officer		
2. Work with partners to ensure vehicles capable of carrying waste/scrap metal are assessed and paperwork in order as necessary	i) Undertake 2 Stop and Search exercises with Staffordshire Police, targeting waste vehicles & scrap metal collectors	To be arranged with Police agreement	Pollution Control Officer		
	ii) Targetted inspections of licensed scrap metal sites	April 14 – March 15	Scientific Officer / Licensing Enforcement Officer		

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Comments/Areas for Improvement</u>
3. Raise awareness of Duty of Care and Flytipping	i) Include information about Duty of Care and flytipping with literature on waste/recycling given or sent to residents.	Ongoing	EP Manager/Waste and Engineering Manager / Finance		Consideration of inclusion of information in waste/recycling schedules
	ii) Work with Housing both Council and Private Sector Housing, through the Landlords' Forum to provide literature to all tenants who have given/been given Notice to Quit, new tenants and mutual exchange tenants.	Oct 14 onwards	Environmental Protection Manager		
	iii) Promote £100 reward for information leading to the successful prosecution of flytippers.	ongoing	EP Manager / PR & Marketing		Link with successful enforcement action/initiatives

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Comments/Areas for Improvement</u>
4. Reduce incidence of flytipping	i) Maintain signage in hotspot areas.	Ongoing	Environmental Enforcement Assistants		
	ii) Liaise with businesses to display signage & share CCTV images.	Ongoing	Pollution Control Officer / Environmental Enforcement Assistants		
	iii) Deploy covert CCTV wherever considered appropriate and proportionate.	Ongoing	As above		
	iv) Undertake covert surveillance whenever considered appropriate and proportionate.	Ongoing	As Above		

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Comments/Areas for Improvement</u>
5. Reduce littering	i) Display signage and posters/banners at hotspots, particularly in town centres.	Subject to resources	Environmental Enforcement Assistants		
	ii) Patrol hotspot areas.	Ongoing	Environmental Enforcement Assistants in conjunction with Staffs Police		
	iii) Maintain engagement with Schools in respect of Juveniles who litter.	Sept 2014	Environmental Enforcement Assistants		
	iv) develop multi-agency presentations for primary schools highlighting ASB including littering and dog fouling	Sept 2014	EP Manager and Environmental Enforcement assistants in conjunction with Community Safety Partnership		
	iv) Undertake covert litter patrols at fast food outlets.	Ongoing	Environmental Enforcement Assistants.		
	v) Issue Press Releases whenever successful prosecutions take place and at least twice in year to raise awareness of number of FPNs issued.	Ongoing	EP Manager in conjunction with PR & Marketing		

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Comments/Areas for Improvement</u>
6. Reduce Dog Fouling and promote responsible dog ownership	i) Patrol hotspot areas for dog fouling.	Ongoing	Environmental Enforcement Assistants		
	ii) Stencil and maintain footpaths and cycleways across district.	Ongoing	Environmental Enforcement Assistants		
	ii) Display signage wherever practicable to inform of responsibilities.	Ongoing	Environmental Enforcement Assistants		
	iv) Deliver awareness raising sessions on responsible dog ownership to primary Schools	April- June 2014 Sept 2014-Mar 2015	Environmental Protection Manager in conjunction with Noah's Ark		
	v) Promote micro-chipping of dogs initiatives to reduce strays requiring kennelling	Ongoing	Environmental Protection Manager in conjunction with Dog's Trust		
	vi) Work with voluntary and community groups to promote initiatives encompassing responsible dog ownership	Ongoing	EP Manager in conjunction with JOG		Provision of supplies of promotional materials eg dog poo bags and staff resources where appropriate