

Action – Declare the second AQMA by 31 May 2014.

The Head of Housing & Waste Management reported that this action had not achieved 'green' status as the AQMA had been declared on 1 September instead.

The Chairman commented he was pleased with the hard work undertaken by officers to achieve the actions/performance measures detailed in the report.

Cllr. J. Bernard queried if the recycling and waste figures shown under item 4.2 were the updated figures as discussed at the previous meeting.

The Head of Housing & Waste Management replied that the old figures were still shown as the new figures had not yet been agreed by the Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Environment Priority Delivery Plan 2014-15 quarter one performance update be noted.

13. Environmental Crime

Members received a presentation for the Environmental Protection Manager on the following topics:

- Enforcement Action Plan 2013/14 Outcomes –
 - Duty of Care
 - Waste Carriers
 - Scrap Metal Dealers Act
 - Awareness Raising
 - Reduce Fly Tipping
 - Reduce Littering
 - Reduce Dog Fouling
- Intentions for 2014-15

Members also received for information a detailed copy of the Environmental Enforcement Action Plan 2013-14 which was circulated at the meeting.

Cllr. Toth asked if when visits to scrap metal dealers were undertaken, did they provide information on other dealers operating outside of the legislation or were they more guarded.

The Environmental Protection Manager responded that they tended to be more guarded on such matters, but word had gone round recently that stricter enforcement action would be carried out.

Cllr. R. Jones queried that as there had been instances of scrap metal dealers taking electrical items which had been left out for recycling, what should residents do to ensure smaller items weren't taken.

The Waste & Engineering Services Manager replied that generally scrap metal dealers were only interested in larger electrical items, so smaller items should continue to be placed on top of the blue bins for recycling.

Cllr. J. Bernard queried if the number of food businesses assessed as being compliant covered all such businesses in the District and whether it also include mobile catering units.

The Environmental Protection Manager replied that the number was not the total for the District, but did include mobile catering units. Assessments of food businesses were on a regular basis, but how often would depend on the risk status of the business.

Cllr. Freeman queried if all the scrap metal dealers monitored were based in the District.

The Environmental Protection Manager replied that all the licensed Sites were based in the district. However the Collectors could be based in other areas of the country and had been specifically licensed to enable them to operate in this district

Councillor J. Bernard asked how many enforcement officers the Council had to combat littering, spitting and dog fouling and at what times of day they operated.

The Environmental Protection Manager replied there were three dedicated officers in place who patrolled during the day, for a combined total of 15-18 hours per week as they were also involved in supporting other enforcement activity.

Cllr. Bennett commented that enforcement to combat spitting was a challenge but needed to be done, as would prefer for people to keep the District clean rather than having to issue them with fines.

Cllr. Toth commented that the use of 'normal' litter bins for disposing of dog waste needed better advertising.

The Chairman replied that the necessary signage was already displayed on all new litter bins and being installed on existing bins as necessary.

Cllr. R. Jones commented there were problems around Etching Hill of dog mess being left behind by dog owners even when bins were available only within a short walking distance.

Cllr. Freeman commented that despite raising last year the issue of dog fouling in parks, it was still a considerable issue now, and suggested that enforcement officers should patrol the parks in the early morning and late evening as these tended be the peak times for such problems occurring.

The Environmental Protection Manager replied that the parks were patrolled when possible, and early morning/late night patrols had taken place. At

present the Fixed Penalty Notice charge for both dog fouling and littering was £75, but maximum fines of £1,000 and £2,500 respectively could be imposed on conviction in the Magistrates Court. A press release was due to be released shortly to encourage residents to report instances of dog fouling, littering and fly tipping when they see it happen.

The Chairman recommended that greater focus should be placed on activity taking place in the early morning and late evening periods, as this should focus peoples' attention and hopefully reduce the problem.

Councillor Freeman suggested that the Council should speak with the parks wardens as they had seen incidents of dog fouling happen and recorded them, so it would be helpful to determine if the incidents were also being reported.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation and outcomes of the Environmental Enforcement Action Plan 2013-14 be noted.

14. Work Programme for 2014-15

Consideration was given to the Committee's updated work programme for 2014-15 (Item 6.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the updated Environment Policy Development Committee work programme for 2014-15 be approved.

The meeting closed at 5:40pm

CHAIRMAN