

<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Head of Environmental Health</b>
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<b>Portfolio Leader:</b>	<b>Environment</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Report Track:</b>	<b>EPDC 19/03/2015</b>

**ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**19 MARCH 2015**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT ACTION PLAN 2015-16**

**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 approve 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 2015-16 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, including the requirement for dogs to be micro-chipped from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

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 2014-15 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  
2015-16

**Previous Consideration**

Not applicable

**Background Papers**

None

APPENDIX 1

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT ACTION PLAN 2015/16**

<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 gardening, landscaping and waste contractors. Engage with businesses to ensure compliance	Oct 15 – Feb 16	Senior EHO in conjunction with Environmental Enforcement Assistants		
	ii) Survey all food businesses in the workplace inspected during the year to determine compliance.	April 15 – March 16	Environmental Health Officers/Food and Safety Officers (F&S)		
	iii) Survey industrial estates to determine any installations that require permitting under IPC/ LAPC	April 15 – March 16	Scientific Officer		
2. Work with partners to ensure vehicles capable of carrying waste/scrap metal are assessed and	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) Targeted inspections of licensed scrap metal sites	April 15 – March 16	Scientific Officer / Licensing		

<p>paperwork in order as necessary</p>			<p>Enforcement Officer</p>		
<p>3. Raise awareness of Duty of Care and Flytipping</p>	<p>i) Include information about Duty of Care and flytipping with literature on waste/recycling given or sent to residents.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EP Manager/Waste and Engineering Manager / Finance</p>		<p>Consideration of inclusion of information in waste/recycling schedules</p>
	<p>ii) Promote £100 reward for information leading to the successful prosecution of flytippers.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EP Manager / PR &amp; Marketing</p>		<p>Link with successful enforcement action/initiatives</p>
<p>4. Reduce incidence of flytipping</p>	<p>i) Maintain signage in hotspot areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Environmental Enforcement Assistants</p>		
	<p>ii) Liaise with businesses to display signage &amp; share CCTV images.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Pollution Control Officer / Environmental Enforcement Assistants</p>		
	<p>iii) Deploy covert CCTV wherever considered appropriate and proportionate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>As above</p>		
	<p>iv) Undertake covert surveillance whenever</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>As Above</p>		

<p>5. Reduce littering</p>	<p>considered appropriate and proportionate.</p> <p>i) Display signage and posters/banners at hotspots, particularly in town centres.</p> <p>ii) Patrol hotspot areas.</p> <p>iii) Maintain engagement with Schools in respect of Juveniles who litter.</p> <p>iv) develop multi-agency presentations for primary schools highlighting ASB including littering and dog fouling</p> <p>iv) Undertake covert litter patrols at fast food outlets.</p> <p>v) Issue Press Releases whenever successful</p>	<p>Subject to resources</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Sept 2015</p> <p>Sept 2015</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Environmental Enforcement Assistants</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement Assistants in conjunction with Staffs Police</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement Assistants</p> <p>EP Manager and Environmental Enforcement assistants in conjunction with Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement Assistants.</p> <p>EP Manager in conjunction with PR &amp;</p>		
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<p>6. Reduce Dog Fouling and promote responsible dog ownership</p>	<p>prosecutions take place and at least twice in year to raise awareness of number of FPNs issued.</p> <p>i) Patrol hotspot areas for dog fouling.</p> <p>ii) Stencil and maintain footpaths and cycleways across district.</p> <p>ii) Display signage wherever practicable to inform of responsibilities.</p> <p>iv) Deliver awareness raising sessions on responsible dog ownership to primary Schools</p> <p>v) Promote micro-chipping of dogs initiatives to reduce strays requiring kennelling</p> <p>vi) Work with voluntary and community groups to promote initiatives encompassing responsible dog ownership</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>April- June 2015 Sept 2015-Mar 2016</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Marketing</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement Assistants</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement Assistants</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement Assistants</p> <p>Environmental Protection Manager in conjunction with Noah's Ark</p> <p>Environmental Protection Manager in conjunction with Dog's Trust</p> <p>Environmental Protection Manager in conjunction with Joint Operations Group</p>		<p>Provision of supplies of promotional materials eg dog poo bags and staff resources where appropriate</p>
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**ITEM NO. 6.9**

	vii) Promote and raise awareness of new requirement to microchip dogs from 6 April 2016	Sept 2015	Environmental Protection Manager in conjunction with Comms Team		Production of appropriate literature, update of website , press releases, etc.
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