

Report of the Executive Director

Update Report – Environmental Enforcement
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1. Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the environmental enforcement pilot project, which was approved by Cabinet on 3 September 2024.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

In September 2024, Cabinet approved the appointment of a third-party environmental enforcement contractor (WISE) to support the work of the Neighbourhood Wardens. The contract is intended to complement local enforcement activities and enhance the Council's ability to enforce environmental regulations for littering, fly tipping and dog fouling (the latter when there is a PSPO in place). The arrangement was proposed as an initial 12-month trial.

The WISE contract commenced towards the end of April 2025, with progress and outcomes being monitored throughout the pilot period. To date, 758 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) have been issued with 741 (97.8%) for various littering offences and 17 (2.2%) for fly tipping). Further details can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Members agreed that a report would be presented back to Cabinet on 6 January 2026 detailing progress, impact and resident feedback. Depending on the outcome, Members were to consider a further one-year extension.

As the environmental enforcement contract has been in place for just over four months, only three months of complete data is currently available for analysis. Early indications suggest a positive impact from the enforcement approach, with details outlined in **Appendix 1**.

Details on FPN issuance, fine levels and the process to challenge an FPN are provided in **Appendix 2**.

This initial snapshot will be complemented by fuller data as the pilot progresses, informing ongoing assessment and decision-making.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Assistant Director Finance Services were as follows:

The contract with WISE is provided at nil cost to the Council. The revenues received from the FPN issued are being used to support free bulky waste collection days and to offset fly-tipping collection costs, which will help to relieve pressures on the Council's budgets.

When the contract is benchmarked against the proposed in-house option, with estimated initial set-up and first year running cost of around £450,000 and annual running costs thereafter of £290,000, the current pilot presents a compelling financial business case.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The environmental enforcement contract supports climate resilience by reducing litter, fly tipping and waste from entering the environment, which in turn lowers emissions with associate waste collection and disposal and mitigates local pollution.

By promoting greater waste prevention and responsible disposal practices, the contract complements broader climate goals and helps improve land and water quality. While the primary focus is enforcement and cleanliness, the initiative also encourages behavioural change and community engagement, contributing to more sustainable waste management and small-step carbon reductions across the Borough.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Nil.