

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change****Environmental Enforcement Update****1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval to extend the contract with the third-party Environmental Enforcement contractor for one year.

**2. Recommendation**

**Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the contract with the third-party Environmental Enforcement contractor be extended for one further year be approved.**

**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 the end of November 2025, 1,685 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) had been issued with 1,662 (99%) for various littering offences and 23 (1%) for fly tipping. Further details can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Members agreed that a report would be presented back to Cabinet in early 2026, providing a detailed account of progress, the impact of actions taken, and feedback received from residents. This commitment reflects the importance placed on transparency and ongoing evaluation of the initiative. To support this process, an interim report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 September 2025, which outlined progress achieved to that point and highlighted key developments.

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**.

During the initial Cabinet report in September 2024, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was not completed. An assessment has now been completed to support the decision on the pilot extension and can be viewed in **Appendix 3**.

#### **4. Key Decision**

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as it effects two or more Wards.

#### **5. Updates from Scrutiny**

An interim report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 September 2025 as part of an initial review of progress. One of the key outcomes from this review was the introduction of a 24-hour notice for items left out on the street for collection. The purpose of this notice is to inform residents that WISE will return to inspect the location and that any items left on the street must be removed; otherwise, where appropriate, a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) will be issued for fly-tipping. This measure applies specifically to items left out on the street and not to those that have been deliberately dumped.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and the Section 151 Officer 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.

#### **7. Legal Implications**

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

As the report states the contract initial term was 12 months with an option to extend the service for a further 12 months, subject to a review.

If this extension is not agreed, then the contract will automatically end.

**8. Human Resources Implications**

Not applicable.

**9. Union Comments**

Not applicable.

**10. Climate Change Implications**

While the contract itself does not carry any direct climate change implications, it does prevent littering and fly tipping from entering the environment.

**11. 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.

**12. Equality Impact Assessment**

This has been completed and is found in **Appendix 3**.

**13. Background Papers**

Nil.