

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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| Report to: | Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 21 July 2015 |
| Subject: | Enviro-Crimes Review Monitoring Report |
| Report of: | Val Garside, Environmental and Housing Services Group Manager |
| Corporate Lead: | Rachel North, Deputy Chief Executive |
| Lead Member: | Councillor J R Mason |
| Number of Appendices: | One |

Executive Summary:

The report provides an update on actions carried out, as contained in the Environmental Crime Report approved by the Executive Committee on 16 July 2014.

Recommendation:

To consider progress against the recommendations arising from the Enviro-Crimes Review.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To improve the way that environmental crimes are investigated in Tewkesbury Borough. Improving recycling and caring for our environment is a key objective within the Council Plan.

Resource Implications:

Environmental Health will carry out fly-tipping and abandoned vehicle enforcement work through funding from existing vacant posts in Direct Services.

Educational and promotional work in relation to dog fouling will be carried out using existing resources, including the Environmental Health, Community Safety and Communications teams.

Purchase of new signage for dog fouling and fly-tipping has been taken from existing budgets.

Legal Implications:

The recommendations/actions may give rise to an increased demand for support from legal services in relation to enforcement action, Court proceedings and providing legal advice generally.

Risk Management Implications:

If the Council does not have in place effective arrangements for reducing the level of environmental crimes then there is a reputational risk due to resident's dissatisfaction leading to increased complaints and reported incidents.

Performance Management Follow-up:

The recommendations of all Overview and Scrutiny Reviews are monitored every six months.

The number of reported environmental crimes is monitored by means of a performance indicator.

Environmental Implications:

Implementation will result in an improvement in the environment.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 A review of the way in which Tewkesbury Borough Council investigates environmental crimes was undertaken by a Working Group of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The review considered the Council's current approach in tackling environmental crimes, and considered what legislative powers are available in addition to those currently employed. The resulting report set out the findings from the review and made recommendations in respect of how environmental crimes can be dealt with in the future. The report was considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 June 2014 and adopted at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 16 July 2014 due to the resource implications contained within it.

1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered an update on actions carried out at the meeting of 13 January 2015.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES REPORT ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

2.1 The environmental crimes report actions to be carried out is at Appendix A. The appendix also shows the work carried out to date.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 The Working Group considered a number of options and these are contained in the report.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 None

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 Environmental and Housing Service Plan.
Council Plan 2012 – 2016.

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 Environmental Protection Act 1990.
Dog Fouling of Land Act 1996.
Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 A resource was identified as part of the Direct Services service review; the allocated budget for this resource was transferred to Environmental Health.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

8.1 Implementation will result in an improvement in the environment and sustainability.

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed. Fly-tipping and dog faeces in particular can pose serious risks to health.

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 10 June 2014 “Enviro-Crimes Review Report”
Executive Committee: 16 July 2014 “Review of Environmental Crimes”

Background Papers: Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 10 June 2014 “Enviro-Crimes Review Report”
Executive Committee: 16 July 2014 “Review of Environmental Crimes”

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Enviro-Crimes Review Action Plan