

Meeting: Council

Date: 7 April 2016

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Environmental Enforcement Pilot

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

When does the decision need to be implemented?

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 In July 2015, the Council made a decision to commence a 12 month environmental crime pilot project with 3GS, following the outcome of a competitive tendering process. The 12 month project is due to be completed in September 2016.
- 1.2 The current scheme provides a mechanism to tackle such environmental issues as litter and dog fouling, through the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's). It also has the ability to broaden its remit to tackle other environmental concerns that the local authority investigates. FPNs are a valuable addition to the enforcement toolkit to protect both the individual and community as a whole, with the benefits including:-
- Having an appropriate and proportionate means of dealing with low level offending.
 - Dealing with infringements in a swift, simple, efficient and cost effective way.
 - Reducing demand on officer time such as preparing for prosecutions when an FPN can be issued instead.
 - Reserving court cases for the more serious and / or persistent offenders, reducing demand on legal support services.
 - Inducing behaviour change through financial penalty, often similar to the fine the court might impose for minor offences.
- 1.3 The code of practice clearly states that the FPN regime is not intended as an additional source of income for authorities. Any income generated is designed to address all aspects of environmental crime. Any income will be used to offset costs

associated with issuing the FPN's as well increasing awareness and compliance. To this end the income should be ring fenced for this area of work.

- 1.4 In general, as the success of any FPN is advertised, the public become more compliant and fewer offences are committed and less income received. This is the main intention of the programme.

2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 The current pilot is due to come to an end in September 2016. A decision is required in order to progress.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That a 2 year extension be granted to the scheme with the current provider.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Background Documents