ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22nd FEBRUARY 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM ACTIVITY UPDATE

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To receive information relating to the work undertaken by the Environmental Enforcement activities.

Reasons:

For the Committee's information; this report provides an update on the type of work and activity undertaken by the Environmental Enforcement Unit.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holders:
Cllr. Philip Hughes (Public Protection)

Directorate: Environment	**Designations:**	**Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:**
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22nd FEBRUARY 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM ACTIVITY UPDATE

1. Introduction

1.1 The Environmental Enforcement Unit consists of 4 teams that cover Carmarthenshire and are split into 4 areas or beats. These beats are: the North West covering Carmarthen/Whitland/Newcastle Emlyn, the North East covering Llandeilo/Ammanford/Crosshands, the South West covering Llanelli West/Burry Port/Kidwelly and the South East covering Llanelli East/Llywnhendy/Bynea.

1.2 The unit is primarily focused on dealing with litter, dog fouling and fly tipping however they are responsible for dealing with environmental crime that has an adverse impact on local environmental quality namely graffiti, fly posting, abandoned and nuisance vehicles, highways offences and waste offences. Preventing offences is equally important and officers conduct talks in schools highlighting the issues surrounding litter and dog fouling.

1.3 The Officers are responsible for reactive and pro-active enforcement by responding to complaints and also providing a patrolling element detecting offenders who commit offences within the officer's authorised powers.

1.4 The officers respond to around 300 to 350 incidents per month dealing with the spectrum of environmental crime utilising the Flare operational system that is shared between Public Protection, Trading Standards and the Environmental Enforcement Section this allows for data sharing between the teams.

2. Background

2.1 The unit was originally created in response to the need to take action to deal with dog fouling, litter and fly tipping. Once established the unit began to issue fixed penalty fines, interview suspects under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act which led to prosecutions in both the Magistrates/Crown Court and issued notices in compliance of our waste policies.

2.2 To ensure the section was adhering to good enforcement principles the enforcement concordat was adopted, this promoted best practice values that have recently been implemented into the current Corporate Enforcement Policy (Appendix A).

2.3 Legislation has dictated how the unit can function and over the years the law has evolved to reflect current society. The section has been at the forefront of interpretation and implementation of these laws an example being the current Public Space Protection Orders.

2.4 There has been much research undertaken that without effective and efficient enforcement areas would become degraded, anti-social behaviour increases which links in with an increase in crime. The unit aspires to undertake all enforcement activities across the spectrum of environmental crime to restrict and reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.

2.5 Offences dealt with are:

- Dog Fouling
- Litter
- Fly- tipping
- Duty of care- including waste related offences
- Graffiti and fly posting
- Abandoned/ nuisance vehicles
- Highway Offences

3. Current situation

3.1 The section utilises the Flare operational system to manage complaints from a variety of sources and operates the system for case file preparation and letter generation. The system is shared between Environmental Health and Trading Standards and allows for data sharing as there is cross departmental working between the respective units.

3.2 Officers provide input into the Local Environmental Quality forum whereby agenda items are provided via Grounds, Cleansing, Refuse, Policy and Enforcement. As a result of the meetings, actions are created in order to provide a holistic approach in dealing with Waste and Environmental issues.

3.3 Officers attend the National Enforcement Forum in order to obtain the latest updates in Enforcement and share best practice.

3.4 The Unit work closely with the Council's Communications Unit in highlighting fines and prosecutions for maximum effect in deterring individuals to commit crime.

3.5 Officers attend local groups like the needle exchange programme and CCTV operational meetings, to provide expertise and direction.

3.6 The Unit follows a work programme that encapsulates current trends and focus on the issues at hand. (Appendix B). By the nature of the work undertaken, the programme of work must be flexible to allow reactive work to take place.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	**YES and** Appendix A – Enforcement Policy Appendix B – Enforcement Work Programme

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: A I Williams Title: Head of Waste & Environmental Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**	**NONE**

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: A I Williams Title: Head of Waste & Environmental Services

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Councils – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

These are detailed below:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Environmental Protection Act 1990	Legislation.gov.uk/ https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents
Anti-Social Crime and Policing Act 2014	Legislation.gov.uk/ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/contents/enacted
Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005	Legislation.gov.uk/ https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/16/contents
Highways Act 1980	Legislation.gov.uk/ https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66
Welsh Government Stats	Welsh Government Webpage/ https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Fly-tipping