

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
6 November 2018

Subject: LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT ENFORCEMENT POLICY

All Wards
Portfolio holder for Leisure and Environment: Councillor S Watson

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 In 2017 Scrutiny Committee investigated whether the Council's policy on fly tipping was fit for purpose. A report on the policy and issues surrounding fly tipping was presented to Scrutiny Committee on 19 October 2017. Scrutiny Committee concluded their review at their meeting on 15 February 2018 (Minute SC.31), in summary the key points were:

- (1) The current enforcement policy on fly tipping was no longer effective and required updating. The Committee did recognise that this work was already being undertaken;
- (2) A draft updated Enforcement Policy be reported to Scrutiny Committee;
- (3) There should be greater promotion and publicity about fly tipping to raise public awareness;
- (4) Information on the Council's website about fly tipping should be updated, and the possibility of an interactive portal to report incidents should be looked at; and
- (5) More multi-agency working to tackle fly tipping should be considered.

2.0 REVISED POLICY AND ACTIONS

2.1 There has been progress made in the areas that Scrutiny Committee identified. A project group made up of officers from Legal, Environmental Health, Waste and Street Scene, IT and Communications have developed a policy that covers enforcement activities across the Leisure and Environment Directorate with enforcement schedules for Waste and Street Scene and Environmental Health that sit behind so giving greater detail on enforcement options available to the services.

2.2 The approach was taken to have a directorate wide policy to provide a consistent approach to enforcement with appropriate officers given authority to carry out enforcement actions through the scheme of delegation; it also ensures that all relevant and new legislation is included.

2.3 The project scope includes all the areas that Scrutiny required further action on. As such, Hambleton has signed up to Operation Eyeball, a multi-agency operation throughout North Yorkshire looking to tackle fly tipping. Partners such as North Yorkshire Police, other local authorities and the Environment Agency are working together to share intelligence and information. A key component will be targeted enforcement action days. Discussions have also taken place with senior officers within Trading Standards at North Yorkshire County Council to forge closer links for joint working and information sharing.

2.4 Local actions being taken by the Waste and Street Scene and wider project team include:-

- Purchasing more CCTV equipment.
- Signage around reporting fly tipping and fly tipping enforcement being placed on the small vehicle fleet.
- Small fleet drivers ie pest control and dog warden to patrol fly tipping hotspots with appropriately liveried vehicles.
- Dash cameras to be fitted to the small vehicle fleet to enforce littering from cars and aid evidence gathering.

2.5 In addition, Hambleton officers are working closely with IT staff at North Yorkshire County Council to potentially develop a system for on-line and mobile reporting of fly tipping and other environmental crime. It is envisaged this will be complete in 2019/20. In the meantime officers are working to develop the existing website to be more focussed on ease of reporting fly tipping, including a link straight from the homepage. A communication plan runs alongside the project plan and targeted press releases and social media statements are being co-ordinated to run alongside enforcement or education activities.

3.0 LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

3.1 The work on enforcement fits within the Council’s priorities of Enhancing Health and Wellbeing and Caring for the Environment, by ensuring that neighbourhoods are kept clean and safe and attractive to residents and visitors.

4.0 RISK ASSESMENT

4.1 There are no risks in approving the recommendation.

4.2 The key risk in not approving the recommendation is shown below:

Risk	Implication	Prob*	Imp*	Total	Preventative action
Failure to implement a robust policy that underpins the directorate’s enforcement activities allows environmental offences to continue.	Fly tipping, dog fouling, food, residential and other environmental offences are not enforced leading to an increase in infringements and a threat to public health.	4	3	12	Approve the recommendation of the policy

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications in approving the recommendation.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The policy has been prepared in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance.

7.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 Equality and Diversity issues have been considered, however there are no issues associated with this report.

8.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

8.1 The policy seeks to protect the health and safety of the public through enforcement of environmental legislation.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1. It is recommended that Cabinet approves and recommends to Council the Leisure and Environment Enforcement Policy.

PAUL STAINES
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Background papers: Leisure and Environment Enforcement Policy

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