

Environmental Enforcement Contract Workshop

North East Area Council

Thursday, August 1st, 2018, at the Bow Street Offices.

Present:

Councillor Joe Hayward

Councillor Caroline Makinson

Councillor Jeff Ennis

Paul Brannan

Head of Safer Communities

Caroline Donovan

North East Area Council Manager

1. The Current Commission

The Area Manager circulated the papers with regard to the current commission. This included a report of the Milestones, Outputs and Interventions performance targets, an Overview narrative, the Tasking report with details of actions taken, the number of Fixed Penalty Notices per activity' and per Ward, the number of hours patrolled and two Case Studies.

The Area Manager went through each report and explained the information received. The Councillors noted that these reports were submitted for each quarterly Contract meeting.

The Area Manager asked for it to be noted that the communications and feedback had improved significantly since Adrian, the new Team Manager, was in post. Additionally the Case Studies were a lot better quality and gave a more detailed picture of improvements made. It was noted that Adrian had won Kingdom's Employee of the Month award.

It was also noted that relationships with Parking Services were improving. Meetings have taken place to resolve any operational issues and Parking Services are sending a daily email about which area they will be patrolling to Adrian. Additionally regular monthly meetings have been organised between Parking Services and Adrian.

The joint operation Duxford with all the enforcement services taking part in Grimethorpe had been very successful. A reparation litter pick will be held in Grimethorpe with 24 juveniles. Kingdom will provide all the equipment required such as gloves, litter pickers and black bags.

To date for Quarter One 132 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued, with 128 for littering and 4 for dog fouling. Additionally 113 PCN's have been issued. It was noted that on average it takes 6 hours to get one FPN for dog fouling and that dog fouling is more difficult than littering to address.

There has been an increase in specific witness information regarding offenders throwing litter from vehicles. It was explained that Kingdom will contact the offender

when a witness statement has been completed, and offer them, in the first instance, to opportunity to pay a FPN rather than going to court. The charge for FPN for littering is £100.00.

The revenue raised for the North East for this quarter for littering and dog fouling is £5,699.00. It was noted that the income received does not reflect the amounts of tickets issued as 60% of people prefer to pay through instalments.

Operations have taken place at the Millennium Green in Grimethorpe which has been a hot spot for litter. Stickers and signage has been put up in the area, and regular patrols are taking place. A combined littering and parking operation took place on Carlton Street and Robert Street in Cudworth and 47 PCN's and 19 FPN's were issued.

It was noted that the quality of the intelligence is very important and as much information should be given as possible regarding description, times and locations.

2. Costs

The cost of the commission and service level agreement were circulated for the Councillors' information. It was noted that the current cost of the commission, including the service level agreement is £66,796, and that the fines received in 2017 / 2018 were approximately 50% of this figure.

3. Joint commission

The Area Manager explained that this was a joint commission with the South, Central and Dearne Area Councils. However the other Area Councils were reviewing their individual commissions and it was likely that there may be some amended changes to the Environmental Enforcement Services provided by the Central Area Council and the South Area Council.

4. Paul Brannan, Head of Safer Communities, Update

Paul explained that nationally concerns had been raised with regard to incentivised ticket issuing taken place, however this is not the case in Barnsley. The Barnsley Town Centre is operating as a cost neutral commission with a uniformed service always visible.

A discussion was held with regard to several options that the Councillors may want to consider for 2019 / 2020. These included:

- Do not recommission an Environmental Enforcement Service
- Recommission a similar Zero Tolerance service but enhance it to cover areas discussed such as a more visible uniformed presence, and educational activities focusing on keeping the local communities clean and tidy.
- Commission a cost Neutral Service similar to that in the Town Centre

- Consider including other service provision such as fly tipping in residential areas, but this would involve an increased cost. Paul said that there are five companies nationally who may be interested in submitting a tender.

The Area Manager asked Paul if it would be possible to renegotiate the Service Level Agreement with the Community Safety Service and it was agreed that they would discuss this further.

The Councillors considered all the options available to them, and unanimously agreed that they thought an Environmental Enforcement commission which would provide a highly visible uniformed presence, which would act as a deterrent, would be the best option for their communities. It was agreed that the commissioned service should include an educational element in the service provision which would include educational activities about the importance of keeping communities clean and tidy.

5. Workshop Recommendation

- **For the North East Area Council to recommission a similar Zero Tolerance enhanced Service to include a more visible uniformed presence, and an educational element.**
- **It should be noted that the tender may be issued in Lots alongside amended Enforcement Services to be delivered by the South Area Council and Central Area Council.**
- **It can be noted that the Head of Stronger Communities, Kate Faulkes, the Head of Safer Communities, Paul Brannan and Dale Sparks, Head of Commercial and Operational Service Support will be meeting to discuss how in the longer term the mainstream Services and the Area Council commissions can provide a more effective and efficient service through partnership working.**

**Caroline Donovan
Area Council Manager
27th September 2018**