

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>REGULATORY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>8 MAY 2012</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>REPORT ON ACTIVITY OF COMMUNITY PROTECTION TEAM</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>SHANE HANCOCK, COMMUNITY PROTECTION MANAGER</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open.

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

To note the main activities of the Community Protection Team for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

### **Recommendation**

**THAT:** the report be received and noted

### **Key Points Summary**

The report provides the Committee with an update on the activities of the Community Protection Team in respect of its key roles in dealing with:

- Fly-tipping
- Other environmental anti-social behaviour – litter, graffiti, fly-posting, & dog fouling
- Abandoned vehicles
- Stray dogs

### **Alternative Options**

- 1 There are no alternative options relevant to this information report

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 The report provides the Committee with information about the main activities carried out by the Community Protection Team and gives the opportunity for Members to ask for any additional information they require.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Shane Hancock, Community Protection Manager on (01432) 261752

## Report on Activity

### 3 Fly-tipping

- During the period 1 October 2011 to 31 March 2012 there were 352 incidents of fly-tipping recorded. The total recorded incidents in 2011/12 was 711 compared to 769 in 2010/11, representing a 7.5% reduction. This is the third consecutive year on year decrease in recorded incidents and a 16.6% reduction since 2008/09. The positive environmental impact of this aside, the financial consequence has been that removal and disposal costs of £49,144 in 2008/09 were reduced to £30,667 in 2011/12.
- In this same period (1/10/11 to 31/3/12) 98 duty of care inspections were carried out, designed to ensure that the producers of commercial waste have appropriate arrangements in place for its correct disposal.
- Twelve (12) Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for failing to produce waste transfer notes when required to do so.
- In November 2011 a male was issued with a formal warning for fly-tipping.
- In December 2011 a male was convicted at Magistrates Court for a duty of care offence that resulted in waste being fly-tipped. He was given a conditional discharge for 12 months and ordered to pay £299.68 costs.
- In January 2012 a male was convicted of a fly-tipping offence and fined £250.00 with £250.00 costs.
- In February 2012 a male was convicted of fly-tipping and duty of care offences linked with his trade as a licensee. He was given a conditional discharge for 18 months and ordered to pay £2466.06 costs. A second male was convicted of fly-tipping, given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £345.56 costs.

### 4. Other environmental anti-social behaviour

- During the period October 2011 to March 2012 the team recorded and responded to 398 complaints falling into the 'other' category of environmental anti-social behaviour, namely litter, graffiti, fly-posting and dog-fouling. Total recorded complaints of this nature for 2011/12 was 713 compared to 754 in 2010/11, representing a 5.4% reduction.
- In response to these complaints, in the same six month period 305 targeted patrols were carried out, 46 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in respect of litter offences (68 in full year); and 17 for dog fouling offences (21 in full year).
- In October 2011 a female was convicted of a littering offence, having failed to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice. She was fined £80.00 with £137.63 costs. A second female was convicted of an offence of failing to pick up dog faeces. She was fined £80.00 with £133.50 costs.
- In February 2012 a male was convicted of failing to pick up dog faeces, fined £140.00 and ordered to pay £159.67 costs.
- In March 2012 two females were given a written warning for littering offences.

5. **Abandoned vehicles**

- During this reporting period 67 reports were received about abandoned vehicles (130 in the full year 2011/12 compared to 248 in 2010/11, a reduction of 47%). Following enquiries 3 vehicles were seized as abandoned (7 in the full year).

6. **Stray Dogs**

- In the period October 2011 to March 2012 a total of 197 dogs were seized as stray (428 in full year 2011/12). Of the 428 seized 266 were returned to their owner, 154 were re-homed and 8 were destroyed.

7. In 2011/12 the total number of requests for service to the Community Protection Team was 3410 with 93.3% of these being dealt with within the 5 day response target.

8. Outside of these reactive matters the Community Protection Team has been involved in the following proactive initiatives between October 2011 and March 2012 –

- October 2011 – Operation Rogue Trader – a joint operation with the police and Trading Standards targeting unlawful and unscrupulous doorstep traders;
- November 2011 – Dog Fouling campaign focused on Ross-on-Wye – this campaign inspired Ross Town Council to initiate a project to introduce volunteer Community Dog Wardens which the Community Protection Team is supporting and which has already sparked some interest from other town councils;
- Operation Ignite – an ongoing police operation aimed at tackling the rise in theft of metal. A part of this operation has targeted scrap metal carriers, and the Community Protection Team has been able to add value to the operation with its knowledge and powers in respect of waste carrier registration, taking part in a number of 'roadside stop' days;
- Operation Tip - it has been established that the amount of waste passing through the Rotherwas household waste site is significantly more than a site of an equivalent size in Worcestershire. It is suspected that a reason for this may be that trade waste is being presented as household waste. Operation Tip brings an overt enforcement presence to household waste sites on selected days to challenge suspected trade waste presentations;
- March 2012 – the commencement of a 6 month joint-patrolling initiative around littering hot spots such as Cathedral Close, Castle Green, Churchill Gardens, and other areas across the County.

## **Community Impact**

9 The report provides information about those matters which have an impact on the public, specifically the environment and animal welfare.

## **Equality and Human Rights**

10 In its enforcement role the Community Protection Team works to the principles of the councils enforcement concordat and the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Prosecution policy which acknowledge equality and human rights issues.

## **Financial Implications**

11 There are no direct financial implications regarding the information set out in this report.

## **Legal Implications**

12 The Community Protection Teams activities are undertaken within the scope of the relevant legislation and Council policies.

## **Risk Management**

13 There are no particular risk management matters associated with the contents of this report.

## **Consultees**

14 None

## **Appendices**

15 None.

## **Background Papers**

- None identified.