

<b>Key Decision Required</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>In the Forward Plan</b>	<b>No</b>
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## CABINET

7 NOVEMBER 2014

### REFERENCE FROM SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 22 SEPTEMBER 2014

#### **A.2 ENFORCEMENT OF DOG-FOULING AND LITTER-DROPPING OFFENCES WITHIN TENDRING**

(Report Prepared by Colin Sweeney)

#### **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting held on 22 September 2014, the Committee considered a report, which provided Members with details of the Council's enforcement practices, as these related to dog-fouling and litter-dropping offences within the Tendring District.

The report was before the Committee, following a decision by it at its meeting held on 19 May 2014, to consider enforcement. Given that the matter of enforcement was wide and varied, it was considered more appropriate to identify one or two key areas of concern, from an enforcement perspective, and to consider whether to make recommendations to Cabinet to review the Council's practices in these areas

Accordingly, the Committee opted to scrutinise the Council's current enforcement practices as these related to dog-fouling and litter-dropping offences within the Tendring District and to consider the level of fixed penalty notices issued, as well as any prosecutions pursued as a result of non-payment.

Other local authorities in Essex had been written to, to enquire into the practices adopted there and to seek details as to the number of fixed penalty notices issued and subsequent prosecutions pursued as a result of non-payment.

In collating this information, two questions were posed:

1. How many fixed penalty notices (FPN) has your Council issued in respect of (a) dog-fouling and (b) litter-dropping? and
2. How many subsequent prosecutions has your Council pursued due to non-payment of fixed penalty notices?

Responses were received from Basildon, Braintree, Castle Point and Epping Forest Councils and the figures showed some interesting, though unpredictable trends in terms of FPNs issued etc. and the level of income generated by some local authorities (Basildon, in particular) was not insignificant (e.g. the income generated alone from the issue of litter-related FPNs by Basildon BC in 2012 to 2013 was **£130,950**).

The Committee was advised that here at Tendring, the enforcement of litter and dog fouling was carried out by officers as part of their wider job role. For example, all of the officers within Street Scene and Environmental Services were authorised to issue fixed penalty notices but would only do so if they happened to be in the right place at the right time and witnessed an offence taking place.

Members were advised that the Council's Dog Wardens had a role dedicated to this work as they undertook daily patrols with a view to engaging with dog owners and catching offenders.

The Committee was advised that the Council had undertaken a number of promotional activities recently that were aimed at reducing the levels of litter in the District. The Tidy Tendring Campaign was launched in 2012 and aimed to engage communities to undertake environmental clean-ups and litter-picking events. More recently, working with the Clacton Town Partnership, the Council had delivered reusable seagull-proof refuse bags to residents in the Clacton Town Centre area and this had reduced the levels of litter found on those streets, particularly on refuse collection days.

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS TO CABINET**

Cabinet is now asked to consider the recommendation of the Service Development and Delivery Scrutiny Committee and determine its response if any:

The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to **CABINET** that, whilst the Committee appreciated the constraints placed upon the Council's staffing levels, Cabinet be encouraged to use every means possible to bring to the Council's attention, any method or means of minimising the problems of dog-fouling and litter-dropping within Tendring.

#### **PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

Comments will be provided directly at the meeting.