

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMUNITY 27 FEBRUARY 2007

LITTER ENFORCEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members with regards to the litter enforcement work undertaken by the three temporary Litter Enforcement Officers and to seek views on the future of the service.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that a budget was set aside to employ three litter enforcement officers for 12 months in order to tackle littering throughout the city.
- 2.2 A Senior Litter Enforcement Officer and two Litter Enforcement Officers (**LEOs**) have been employed since 12 July 2006 for a period of 12 months which ends on 9 July 2007.
- 2.3 All three officers patrol the city and undertake enforcement action. The Senior Litter Enforcement Officer monitors the work of the others and deals with appeals relating to fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued in addition to undertaking routine patrols.
- 2.4 Initially the city centre was targeted and enforcement of the littering and trade/domestic waste legislation was undertaken, subsequently their activities were expanded into other areas of the city.
- 2.5 In addition to undertaking enforcement action the LEOs have carried out preventative/educational work such as:
- Displaying posters throughout the city for example at Exeter College, Exeter University, NHS walk-in centre and the Job Centre.
 - A display in the Customer Service Centre during December 2006.
 - Working with Stagecoach to tackle littering problems at the Bus Station.
 - Working with a number of commercial premises throughout the city centre where there have been refuse storage issues.
 - Mail shot to all language schools to advise foreign students visiting the city regarding littering.
- 2.6 On the 1 July 2007 smoke free legislation comes into effect in all enclosed public places throughout England. A report elsewhere on the agenda details the implications

of this. The Department of Health has allocated funds to the Council to support the implementation of the new smoke free legislation. The funding will be received in two tranches - £10,789 in March for 06/07 and £52,966 by the end of April 07 for 07/08.

2.7 The table below details the enforcement action taken since July 2006.

Month	FPNs issued
July	32
August	82
September	44
October	58
November	39
December	63
Total	318
FPNs paid	250

The FPNs that remain unpaid are being pursued with a view to formal action.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is proposed to extend the Litter Enforcement Officers' temporary contracts by 12 months part funded by using the money from the litter FPNs with a contribution of up to £30,000 from the Department of Health funding.
- 3.2 To date the LEOs have issued an average of over fifty £75 FPNs per month. It is hoped that by actively enforcing the legislation we will encourage responsible attitudes towards littering so that the number of tickets issued will reduce in time. However, if this occurs, the officers can spend more time dealing with other litter-related issues such as fly tipping and refuse being put out too early for collection and of course in supporting enforcement of the smoke free legislation.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of employing the three LEOs is approximately £6000 per month. Receipts from litter FPNs can be kept by the Council but can only be used to pay for functions relating to Part 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 – the litter legislation.
- 4.2 Assuming that the number of fines issued continues at its present level, over a full 12 months this would amount to income of over £33,000. It would therefore be possible to extend the contracts of the LEOs for a further six months from the fine income.
- 4.3 LEOs could also undertake initial visits to businesses to raise awareness and assess potential compliance with the smoke free legislation. It is therefore proposed to use £30,000 from the money received from the Department of Health to extend the temporary contracts by a further six months so that the posts are continued for a further 12 months in total. Income from the continuing enforcement action taken would also contribute to funding this.

5. RECOMMENDED

- 1) that Members note the work undertaken by the Litter Enforcement Officers;
- 2) that Members' support is sought for the principle of retaining the temporary contracts for a further 12 months.

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

S:PA/LP/ Committee/207SCC11
14.2.07

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling the report:-

None