



Agenda

Report for:	Strategic and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	16th June 2020
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Q4- Performance Report for Environmental and Community Protection
Contact:	Julie Banks, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services Author/Responsible Officer Emma Walker, Group Manager (Environmental and Community Protection) Bill Buckley, Interim Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery)
Purpose of report:	To provide Members with the performance report for quarter 4 in relation to Environmental and Community Protection.
Recommendations	For Information only.
Corporate objectives:	Resources and Value For Money; Optimise Resources and Implement Best Practice.
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> None.
'Value for money' implications	<u>Value for money</u> Monitoring Performance supports the Council in achieving Value for Money for its citizens.
Risk implications	Risk Assessment completed for each service area as part of Service planning and reviewed quarterly. Key risks are recorded on the Council's Risk Register which has been Updated recently. The key risks relate to not achieving statutory targets and failing to protect the public/businesses from Environmental Health Risks : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If statutory targets are not achieved the service can be Taken over and managed by the Government. • Potentially the public & businesses put at risk • Legal action taken against the Council • Reputational damage to Council
Equality Impact	

Assessment	
Health and safety Implications	None
Consultees:	
Background papers:	Quarterly Performance Report – Quarter 4 (attached).
Historical background <i>(please give a brief background to this report to enable it to be considered in the right context).</i>	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

1. Background

1.1 For the purpose of this report, 'Environmental and Community Protection' includes the following services:

- Environmental Health Team (Food Safety, Health and Safety, Statutory Nuisances, Contaminated Land, Drainage, Private Water Supplies, Infectious Diseases, Air Quality Management, High Hedges)
- Operations Team (Public Health, Pest Control, Dog Warden Services, Environmental Enforcement)
- Corporate Health, Safety and Resilience Team (Internal Health and Safety Advice, Technical Support, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity).

2. Environmental and Community Protection – Q4 Performance Indicators

2.1 In Q4, the KPI was 97.56%, slightly below target. Proactive food inspections were suspended on the 23rd March due to Covid19 at the request of the Food Standards Agency. We have written to all 0, 1 and 2 rated premises to remind them of their duties throughout this period and have been responding to complaints.

2.2 91.11% (41/45) of Noise cases were closed within 60 days. The team have worked hard to ensure that the cases are dealt with as swiftly as possible.

2.3 81.14% (1325/1633) of Food Premises are 4 or 5 rated in Dacorum, this shows the excellent compliance we achieve with Officers in the Food Team working

with businesses to ensure high standards. It is the minority of food businesses that are non-compliant.

- 2.4 91.91% (829/902) of Service requests are acknowledged within 3 working days.
- 2.5 91.13% (637/699) of Fly-Tips were visited by an Enforcement Officer within 3 working days. Officers have new ways of working and the database has been reconfigured to ensure this data is captured more easily.
- 2.6 100% (250/250) of Development Control Consultations with Environmental and Community Protection have a formal response within 20 working days. Significant work has been put into responding to planning enquiries.
- 2.7 40 Enforcement Actions were taken by the Environmental Enforcement Team in Q4. The service was suspended for a short period at the end of Q4 due to Covid-19.
- 2.8 32 accidents occurred associated with DBC work activities in Q4.
- 2.9 There were 3 accidents associated with DBC work activity that were reported to the HSE in Q4. These include two accidents where the employee was absent from work for 7 days or more, employee slipped and jarred back, employee slipped on moss. In addition a specified injury where an employee fractured their ankle slipping on step.

3. Environmental Health Team

- 3.1 On the 9th of January a Hemel Food Business (Hemel Food Ltd, Bennetts Gate, Hemel Hempstead) was fined £14, 800 for breaching food safety and hygiene legislation and animal welfare legislation at its premises. Hemel Foods Ltd and company director Ishrat Nasar was fined on 6 March 2020 after an investigation by Dacorum Borough Council's Environmental Health Officers. This was a joint investigation by the Environmental Health and Operations Team.
- 3.2 District Judge Leigh-Smith awarded Dacorum Borough Council full costs of £400K for investigating the accident at Tesco Jarman Park Store in Hemel Hempstead in 2014 and subsequent prosecution of Tesco Stores Limited. Tesco admitted Health and Safety failures and was issued a fine of £733K in addition to the costs awarded to the Council.
- 3.3 The Team have been responsible for enforcing the Coronavirus regulations Borough in at the end of Q4. This resulted in creation of new systems and protocols to enforce the regulations that have been amended twice since they were initially brought in. The team have been working with businesses in the main to advise them on the implementation of the new regulation but have served prohibition notices where we have been unable to secure compliance on a voluntary basis.

3.4 Hertfordshire Environmental Health Officers Group met with Director of Public Health in March to discuss use of Health Protections powers in relation to Covid 19 in February. The Environmental Health Team have powers under Public Health Act 1948 to control infection diseases. We use them to prevent spread of gastroenteritis, for example Salmonella Typhi. The directors of Public Health have requested District representation on a newly formed Officer Board to assist with the planning of localised covid-19 controls.

3.5 Enforcement Action Update,

- Three high Hedges notices served.
- Building Act Notice s59 defective drainage
- 2 Health and Safety (Section 21) Improvement Notice
- A Health and Safety (Section 22) Prohibition Notice
- Hygiene Improvement Notice for Food Safety Issues

4. Corporate, Health, Safety and Resilience Team

4.1 Business Impact Analysis document and process approved through Health and Safety Committee and Corporate Management Team. Environmental & Community Protections Department and Commercial Assets have rolled this out as pilot areas. Other areas will be supported by the team to implement these in their areas. Learning from Covid-19 will be incorporated into these documents.

4.2 The Health, Safety and Resilience Team carried out an audit of the CCG Health and Safety arrangements and have advised the organisations of the outcomes.

4.3 Strategic Liaison Officer training as part of the Emergency Plan has been provided to COG by Hertfordshire County Council.

4.4 The following Health and Safety training has been provided to DBC Staff;

- Pool Plant Operator
- Train the Trainer - Manual Handling
- Work at Height
- Vehicle Marshalling
- General H&S Management

4.5 The following documents have been reviewed and updated for consultation under the Health, Safety and Resilience Committee 6th March

- Hand Arm Vibration Policy (HAV)
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Policy (COSHH)
- Accident and Incident Reporting Policy and supporting accident reporting form
- Reception Centre Plan
- Emergency Duty Officer Guidance

4.6 The Council activated its Business Continuity Arrangements in late March in response to the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic. Representatives from Corporate Health, Safety and Resilience have sat on the Incident Management Team who have met daily for the majority of Q1. The team have been the link to the multi-agency response and co-ordinating between the Strategic Coordinating

Group and the organisations. Throughout the pandemic the team have been advising and supporting managers with Health and Safety advice to ensure the safety of our employees and members of the public.

5. Operations Team

5.1 Officer Paul Coates has been shortlisted and subsequently won an Excellence in Enforcement Award at the 'Keep Britain Tidy' Network Conference & Awards Ceremony on Thursday 6th February 2020 at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole. We are delighted that the team's excellent work has been recognised in this way.

5.2 A new type of covert camera has been purchased by the team, and they have been deployed in the Borough using Covert Surveillance permission (RIPA Authorisation) from the Magistrates Courts. This has produced several leads in investigations and will they will be placed in hot spots on a rotational basis according to local intelligence.

5.3 A limited number of new fly-tipping signs were procured by the department and have been put up in hot spot area where we have seen high rates of substantial fly-tipping.

5.4 Enforcement Action Update,

- Community Protection Notice and four warnings
- Public Health Act Filthy and Verminous notice served on tenant in Warners End. Prevention of Damage by Pest notice also served for the garden of the same property.
- Prevention of Damage by Pest Act Notice served.
- Eleven stray dogs were seized, majority were claimed and the remainder were rehomed.
- Twelve abandoned vehicles removed and destroyed.
- Seven FPN's issued (waste duty of care) – following fly tipping investigations in Apsley, Gadebridge, Berkhamsted and Kings Langley, Adeyfield and Grovehill.
- One FPN issued for littering offence in Cholesbury.
- Warrant for entering a suspected hoarded property.

5.5 Two successful prosecutions in Q4

- TALACTAC (Guilty Plea) Prosecuted for duty of care offences 5.2.2020 - Conditional discharge for 12 months Costs: £1,039.96 Victim surcharge: £21
- WITNEY (Guilty Plea) Prosecuted for fly-tipping in Cole Lane, Flamstead, 12.2.2020 - Fine: £640 Victim Surcharge: £64 Costs: £848.68