



Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	30th September 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 1 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 1 (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 Q1, the KPI was 0%. 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. The food hygiene inspection programme was restarted on the 1st September so we have to catch up on Q1 and 2. There has at the time of writing been no further correspondence from the FSA on suspension of the programme.

- 2.2 90.63% (58/64) 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, although this has been difficult to do during the pandemic, the team's resources are incredibly stretched.
- 2.3 79.15% (1325/1674) of Food Premises are 4 or 5 rated in Dacorum.
- 2.4 90.46% (882/975) of Service requests are acknowledged within 3 working days. The number of requests are increasing for the service area, along with the vast amount of resource that the Covid 19 response has taken.
- 2.5 64.02% (507/792) of Fly-Tips were visited by an Enforcement Officer within 3 working days. During the initial stages of the pandemic whilst we risk assessed the Enforcement Officers Activity the service was suspended and straight to collection. The service was reinstated in a covid secure manner and full service is currently in place.
- 2.6 99.66% (291/292) 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 38 accidents occurred associated with DBC work activities in Q1.
- 2.8 There was 1 accident associated with DBC work activity that were reported to the HSE in Q1.

3. Environmental Health Team

- 3.1 We have been working on the implementation Covid-19 Restrictions for businesses which are now on the 7th draft plus umpteen sets of guidance have been issued. A steady number of complaints all of which have been resolved, we have had Daily reporting to the Office Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) on enforcement and advice activities.
- 3.2 In terms of Business Continuity the department have been on 5x Week Incident Management Team Meetings providing feedback from the Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG) and various cells that sit underneath including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Swabbing Cell, and Environmental Health Advisory Cell.
- 3.3 Representation on the COVID19 Shadow Health Protection Officer Board. Opening meeting held on 23rd June. Main points for discussion, High Risk Premises, Vulnerable people, local contact tracing and workplaces.

3.4 Food Service Plan and Annual Air Quality Status Report taken to OSC in June.

3.5 Trainee EHO's all progressed to the next stage of their training. Projected completion dates are 2020, 2022, 2024.

3.6 Recruitment has taken place to support the EH team in its expanding role, 2 permanent staff are expected to join the team in Q3. 3 temporary staff have been appointed to assist with the backlog of food inspections and the increased workload for Covid 19. In addition we have some pay per inspection staff.

4. Corporate, Health, Safety and Resilience Team

4.1 Council wide Covid 19 risk assessment drafted and met with unions to discuss. This has been finalised and published on the DBC website. CHS team has reviewed and provide feedback on departmental Covid 19 risk assessments, this has included challenge and are now looking at audit of departments to ensure that risk assessments are working as expected on the ground.

4.2 The team act as a conduit between the Local Resilience Forum Response and the Councils Incident Management Team, to ensure that the Councils Covid response is tied in with our Local Resilience Forum Partners. .

4.3 Following consultation with relevant staff and the Health Safety and Resilience Committee, CMT approved the following updated policies/plan:

- COSHH policy
- Hand arm vibration
- H&S policy statement
- Resilience policy
- Reception centre plan
- Accident reporting policy
- Corporate Covid Risk Assessment
- Forum Opening Plans

4.4 Final Audit report submitted to the CCG for their consideration. Also working with the CCG to support a potential return to working in the forum.

4.5 Working with HCC to prepare business continuity exercise at September Leadership Event.

4.6 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.

4.7 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.

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

4.9 Team supported the Fire Service in terms of Emergency Planning roles in relation to a house fire in Berkhamsted. Council Teams were mobilised to support the emergency services,

5. Operations Team

5.1 Rachel Smith has been appointed into the position of Lead Animal Welfare and Public Health Officer. Rachel joins us from the RSPCA with a wealth of knowledge.

5.2 A successful prosecution against Mr Witney S34 EPA 1990 (Duty of care fly tipping) 22/7/2020 St Albans Mags Court Order; Fine £533, Costs: £1,000, Victim surcharge: £53 & Criminal Behaviour Order for two years in the terms sought due to repeat offender. The Defendant must not:

- Carry any form of waste material at any time anywhere in Dacorum without a valid waste management licence registered with the waste regulation authority.
- Leave objects in a road or a footway anywhere in Dacorum that could cause obstruction to vehicles or pedestrians and/or an accident.
- Transfer any waste he imports, produces, carries, keeps or disposes of to a person unless he has taken all such measures applicable in his capacity and reasonable in the circumstances to prevent that person from making an unlawful deposit of that waste anywhere in Dacorum.
- Transfer any waste unless he has taken all such measures available to him and reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that the transfer is made to an authorised person in accordance with section 34(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, where applicable.

5.3 Town centre **PSPO** joint operation with police on 26th August. 4 PSPO fixed penalty notices were issued and 3 warnings for cycling/skateboarding in the prohibited area.

5.4 A large increase in the number of Filthy and Verminous properties has been seen throughout the pandemic, this increase has been seen nationally and there are some links to the mental health of those suffering in these types of premises. We prioritise these cases and work with residents where possible to address the issues. Although action has been required in several case to protect the health of both residents and risks to health of near neighbours.