



**Agenda item: Q2- Performance Report
for Environmental and Community
Protection**

Report for:	Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	2nd November 2021
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Q2- 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) Richard LeBrun Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Delivery)
Purpose of report:	To provide Members with the performance report for quarter 2 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 2 to follow.
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 (Covid 19 Outbreak Control, 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, Covid Advisors)
- Corporate Health, Safety and Resilience Team (Internal Health and Safety Advice, Technical Support, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity).

2. Environmental and Community Protection – Q2 Performance Indicators

2.1 ECP09 (Number of High Risk Inspections due in the quarter achieved) is currently sat at 46% (39/84). As discussed last Quarter, this is behind with a significant backlog from last year due to the effects of Covid. There is a report coming to Overview and Scrutiny SPAE later this month to look at the food service plan with a food recovery plan to discuss how the service plans to catch up. This links in with ECP 02 the Number of registered food premises that have

a 4 or 5 rating. The higher risk premises are being prioritised and these are more likely to have a lower rating 74% (1364/1834).

2.2 ECP01 remains that the majority of noise cases are closed within 60 days at 88% (85/97).

2.3 ECP continues to respond to the majority of service requests within 3 working days, at 96% (1526/1596).

2.4 ECP has visited 87% (629/719) fly-tips within three days to check for evidence.

2.5 ECP continues to respond to all consultations from Development control within the deadline.

2.6 57 Accidents relating to the workplace were reported to the Corporate Health, Safety and Resilience Team.

3. Environmental Health Team

3.1 Covid- 19 Continues to have a significant impact on resources.

- Test and Trace, Environmental Health Officers and Covid Advisors have been working on the Test and Trace Service, numbers greatly increased in Q2 (1105) some days the demand was 400% the number of cases the model was designed for. This meant that other staff brought in to support the demand.
- A Red Quarantine Hotel was set up in Dacorum. Local Resilience Forum set up a Tactical Co-ordinating Group attended by Emma Walker and Claire Hamilton. EH Team were working with the hotel to ensure Infection Control measures and risk assessments were in place.
- EH Team assisted with the Bridging hotel to ensure safe methods of work were in place.
- Recruitment took place for the third Test and Trace Officer. Tanya Percy has been in post since September.
- Health Protection Board are seeking clarification from the Department for Health and Social Care as to whether the 'Contain Outbreak Management Funding' can be extended past the end of the financial year, currently approximately 12 FTE posts are being funded through this stream.

3.2 Health and Safety Prohibition Notice and several food safety Improvement Notices were served on a premises in Bell Gate, Hemel Hempstead.

3.3 The Team has concluded a 4 year prosecution into Health and Safety Offences relating to the collapse of an external wooden staircase at Holiday Inn Premises on Breakspear Way, Hemel Hempstead. HICP were fined £80K and £30K Costs, Interstate were fined £19.6k and £30K costs.

3.4 Paul O'Day has contributed to the new Home Officer National Enforcement Powers Guide on behalf of Local Authorities. Paul has now resigned his post. The Team Leader role is currently out to advert.

4. Corporate, Health, Safety and Resilience Team

- 4.1 Team are continuing to support the departments with changes in Covid 19 guidance and legislation. Continued reporting to Local Resilience Forum on Event Safety, they have continued to oversee the Safety Advisory Group and provide advice to departments on events.
- 4.2 Provided CCG Health and Safety support and advice on implementing a Health and Safety Management System. They have also provided managers training for a fee to the CCG.
- 4.3 Health and safety Committee met and updated policies include, Work at Height, Noise at Work and Violence and Aggression Policies. The Team provided an update to Senior Leadership Team on the Committees activities.
- 4.4 Advice provided by the team on the New Ways of Working Work stream, which looks at how the Forum will be used as a workspace in the future by officers.
- 4.5 Information has been gathered from the Incident Management Team to feedback into the Business Continuity Plan on how to manage during an emergency situation.

5. Operations Team

- 5.1 The Littering and Public Space Protection Order pilot has been awarded to District Enforcement LTD. Mobilisation of the contract has been undertaken and liaison with Police Colleagues, Communications, IT Support, Legal Services and Environmental Projects Team has been carried out. The pilot will be launching with a series of educational days in late October. The enforcement activities will be starting on the 1st November. A communications campaign is underway. This is a trial of this method of enforcement for a year, the contract will be closely monitored by Environmental and Community Protection Department, with feedback to Overview and Scrutiny in the Quarterly performance reports.
- 5.2 Mr Stephen FLITTON, Ms Suzi TOWERS & Miss Leanne RICHARDSON of Gade Valley Cottages, pleaded guilty to 4 counts of allowing an animal to suffering unnecessarily and 4 counts of failing to meet the needs of an animal, relating to 4 dogs that were removed from their home in December 2020. Mr FLITTON was ordered to a 12 month community order, 100 hours of unpaid work, £300 costs and a £95 victim surcharge. Mrs TOWERS was ordered to a 12 month community order, 30 RAR (rehabilitation activity requirement) days, £120 fine, £300 costs and a £95 victim surcharge. Miss RICHARDSON was ordered to a 12 month community order, 30 RAR (rehabilitation activity requirement) days, £120 fine, £300 costs and a £95 victim surcharge. All three were disqualified from keeping and owning all animals for life.

- 5.3 24 Stray dogs were seized this quarter, 19 reunited with owners, 3 were sent for rehoming, One was passed to another Local Authority, the remaining animal is in DBC care pending investigation due to the poor condition.
- 5.4 Fly tipping prosecution for residential waste duty of care offence – DBC v Jenkins 29/9/21. Guilty plea entered. Ordered to pay Fine: £200, Victim Surcharge: £44, Costs: £566.48
- 5.5 6 Abandoned vehicles have been removed and destroyed. 8 Fixed Penalty notices have been served for fly-tipping offences. 2 Fixed Penalty Notice for duty of care offences and 1 fixed penalty notices for littering offences.
- 5.6 Town centre - Rezone prosecution for cycling in town centre - Defendant did not attend and proved in absence on 1/9/21. Band A fine £220.00, VS £34.00 & costs £200. Contribution collection order made
- 5.7 The Environmental Enforcement team have 6 cases currently pending court action. The delays with the court system due to the pandemic has effected this team more than other teams in the department.
- 5.8 The Covid Advisors Team have been supporting businesses, the test and trace service and the vaccinations programme. They have been well received by the public, staff and members and the service have received compliments on their performance.