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Spatial Planning and Environment

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report for:	Spatial Planning and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Title of report:	Q3 Environmental and Community Protection Update
Date:	14 th March 2023
Report on behalf of:	Councillor Julie Banks , Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community
Part:	I
If Part II, reason:	N/A
Appendices:	
Background papers:	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

Report Author / Responsible Officer

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Corporate Priorities	A clean, safe and enjoyable environment Building strong and vibrant communities Ensuring economic growth and prosperity Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular for those most in need Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery Climate and ecological emergency
Wards affected	All

Purpose of the report:	1. To provide Members with the performance report for quarter 3 in relation to Environmental and Community Protection
Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):	1. For information only.
Period for post policy/project review:	

1 Introduction/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 Enforcement, Statutory Nuisances, Contaminated Land, Drainage, Private Water Supplies, Infectious Diseases, Air Quality Management, High Hedges)
- Operations Team (Public Health, Pest Control, Animal Welfare, 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 – Q3 Performance Indicators

2.1 ECP09, Number of High risk food hygiene inspections carried achieved within the quarter is 58.70%. This is due to the backlog of inspections that arose during Covid. The Food Safety Recovery Plan that was discussed with members is running to target and is due to see this resolved by Q2 23/24.

3 Environmental Health Team

- The Team are continuing to follow the Food Recovery Plan. The Team continue to receive a steady flow of new Food Business Registrations and participated in the register your business publicity campaign. Contractors are continuing to inspect new businesses funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund as part of the recovery plan following Covid Pandemic.
- Air Quality Steering Group was held in October. Aims for the steering group have been re-drafted. Our Scientific Officer David Carr sits on the Defra Advisory Group on the development of Best Available Techniques (BAT) with respect to Air Quality to enable influence at a national level as well as being the Chair of the Herts and Beds Air Quality Group. Annual Status Report was drafted and submitted to DEFRA for approval.
- The Team continuing to support the Local Resilience Forum Working Groups for Covid and attend District Outbreak Planning Meetings and Winter Planning Groups.
- Pollution have a number of resource intensive cases over Q3 in relation to noise these are actively being managed to resolution. One case of cross boarder working in Markyate/Kensworth resulted in working closely with Central Bedfordshire Council regarding this case as the premises is in that area and the complainant across the road in Dacorum. The license for this premises was called in for review and a hearing heard on 30th November 2022. The Designated Premises Supervisor was removed from their role and numerous conditions were placed on the licence regarding the Prevention of Public Nuisance and Crime and Disorder.

4 Corporate Health and Safety Team

- 4.1 Corporate Health Safety and Resilience Board was held on the 16th December 2022. Corporate Health Safety and Resilience Policies were reviewed with minor changes, they were agreed by the committee and send to Senior Leadership Team for ratification. Policies included,
- Reviewed First Aid policy
 - Reviewed DSE policy
 - Reviewed Lone Working policy
 - Resilience Policy
- 4.2 Funding from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund was secured to plan for potential future pandemics. Resilience training for Corporate Leadership Team has been arranged for Q4 from the Emergency Planning College. Health and Safety Training has also been arranged for Team Leaders and above to better support managers in the event of new and emerging risks including pandemic Flu or further waves of Covid.
- 4.3 Members Health and Safety Training brief was delivery by the team on the 1st December to communicate members and Council responsibilities for Health and Safety matters.

5 Operation Team

- 5.1 41 Animal Welfare Cases, 20 Dangerous Dog Cases, 25 Prevention of Damage by Pests Queries, were investigated in Q3.
- 5.2 5 Community Protection Warnings were served, 2Community Protection Notices, 7 Microchipping of Dogs Notice. 2 Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts Notices and 1 Animal Welfare Act Notice.
- 5.3 We continue to see an uptick in Filthy and Verminous complex cases, a further 10 in Q3. Officer work with multiple agency partners to ensure that rick to Public Health is removed, preference as always is working with residents however enforcement action is taken. These cases are particularly time consuming and difficult to resolve.
- 5.4 We are very proud to let you know that Ben Stevens and Team have been shortlisted for a Keep Britain Tidy, Excellence in Enforcement Award. As members will be aware this team is now the most proactive Enforcement Team in Hertfordshire has recently introduced a new way of enforcing littering making a modest income for the team to reinvest in enforcement activities and has been recognised as one of the best Teams this year by Keep Britain Tidy a national organisation. This has really supported the Councils objectives and the place based strategies. The Team members are Ben Stevens, Paul Coates, Chris Briancon, Julie Fear (Temp) and Abdullah Khalil (Temp) and Team is led by Dawn Rhoden.
- 5.5 Martyn Woodbridge, of Poynters Road, Luton, was sentenced on Thursday 17 November after a two-day trial in August where he was found guilty on two counts of fly-tipping. He was charged with two incidents of the unauthorised deposit of controlled waste in Coles Lane, Markyate contrary to S.33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 between the 27 and 29 March 2021. Woodbridge was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment (suspended for 12 months), ordered to attend 15 days of rehab activity and pay a contribution toward prosecutions costs for the sum of £900 and compensation of £600 for clear up costs.
- 5.6 Dacorum Borough Council has once again achieved gold standard in the annual RSPCA Paw Prints awards. Both the Environmental Community Protection Animal Welfare service and the Housing teams have been recognised for good practice, exceeding basic and statutory service requirements with the aim of achieving higher animal welfare standards.

5.7 Full Year Data is now available for District Enforcement Contract. A total of 3536 FPNs have been issued successfully. Of which 2666 have been paid and 870 have been cancelled, written off after issuance or referred for prosecution. There were 327 cases prosecuted through the Single Justice Procedure during the 12 month period. Total income to DBC received (which is a 22% share of all paid FPNs) is £ £45,992. The FPN payment rate achieved = 75%.

7 Options and alternatives considered

No options to consider, for information only.

8 Consultation

N/A

9 Financial and value for money implications:

N/A

10 Legal Implications

N/A

11 Risk implications:

N/A

12 Equalities, Community Impact and Human Rights:

There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this report.

13 Sustainability implications (including climate change, health and wellbeing, community safety)

N/A

14 Council infrastructure (including Health and Safety, HR/OD, assets and other resources)

N/A

15 Conclusions:

Report to be noted by the Committee.