

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Report

Subject : EH Commercial Services - Litter Enforcement Annual Review
Committee : Environmental Services & Climate Committee
Date : 5 Jul 2022
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1. Background:

- 1.1. Responding to residents' concerns about littering and dog fouling, Salisbury City Council teamed up with EH Commercial Services Ltd (a commercial arm of East Hampshire District Council) in summer 2018, to improve the environment through ethical litter enforcement. EH Commercial Services Ltd public service-ethos sets it apart from private litter enforcement companies that are naturally motivated primary by profit.
- 1.2. Salisbury City Council aspires to enforce environmental offences in order to help create a cleaner place, improve residents' feelings of safety and satisfaction relating to where they live and work and protect the environment within Salisbury City Council's administrative area.
- 1.3. The scope of the service specification is the patrolling, issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) and preparation of witness statements for specific environmental offences as detailed under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- 1.4. EH Commercial Services Ltd provide an average of two (2) enforcement officers to patrol for 2 days per week, including weekends to patrol SCC's area (save for any weeks during which EHDC is closed for the Christmas break).
- 1.5. The service aim is to run on a cost-neutral basis, with any surplus being reinvested into our environmental services.
- 1.6. A 3 year memorandum of understanding was signed in November 2021, with a 6 month notice period, should the Council or EH Commercial Services Ltd, wish to end the arrangement.

2. Fixed Penalty Notices & Service Costs:

- 2.1. Since the service was first introduced in summer 2018, a total of 2627 fixed penalty notices (FPN's) have been issued. All of these have been for the discarding of cigarette butts with the exception of one FPN for dog fouling.
- 2.2. The service aim of being cost neutral is not currently being met with the cost of the service to the Council, since the start of the service in August 2018 to the end of March 2022 being £12,790.
Full breakdown of details in the table below:

Year	Period	FPN's	Expenditure £	Income £	Variance £
2018/19	From start of patrols in August 2018	975	46,416	51,510	5,094
2019/20	April to March	902	60,344	55,535	(4,809)
2020/21	Between lockdowns – Late August to early November only	186	10,920	12,020	1,100
2021/22	May 2021 to end of March 2022	564	42,691	28,516	(14,175)
Totals	May 2021 to end of March 2022	2627	160,371	147,581	(12,790)

2.3. In response EH Commercial Services Ltd, have said that:

- 2.3.1. Although the pandemic was mainly within 2020/21 it did extend into 2021/22, which led to a reduction in footfall.
- 2.3.2. The removal of the ability to be able to patrol Wiltshire Council car parks in April 2019 saw a drop in FPN's issued (It should be noted that Wiltshire Council removed permission due to concerns over officer conduct. After some negotiation via SCC Streetscene Team, permission was reinstated in January 2022. This has, to date, not increased the number of FPN's issued).
- 2.3.3. Early morning foot patrols were trialled, however, the footfall was low and only 3 FPNs were issued.
- 2.3.4. The introduction of hi-vis jackets means the team are very visible. (It should be noted that this was introduced as accusations were made that EH Commercial Services Officers were 'hiding in shadows waiting to pounce', so SCC took the decision to provide tabards in SCC colours and logo).
- 2.3.5. The officers have noted a change in behaviour with members of the public and littering has reduced.
- 2.3.6. There has been a high turnover of staff and there have been periods of new starters getting on the job training.

3. Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 3.1. Note the report
- 3.2. Consider if the service should continue, given that the operation is not currently cost neutral.

4. Background papers:

- 4.1. DOC86603 - Appendix A – Salisbury City Council review provided by EH Commercial Services Ltd.

5. Implications:

- 5.1. **Financial:** As outlined in the report.
- 5.2. **Legal:** As outlined in the report
- 5.3. **Personnel:** None in relation to this report
- 5.4. **Environmental Impact:** As outlined in the report
- 5.5. **Equality Impact Statement:** None in relation to this report