

ENFORCEMENT CO-ORDINATION PANEL

18 July 2018

Commenced: 10.30 am

Terminated: 11.40 am

Present: Councillors Bowerman, D Lane and Robinson

In Attendance:

Aileen Johnson	Head of Legal Services
Sharon Smith	Head of Public Protection
Khush Ahmed	Environmental Services Manager
Kevin Garside	Integrated Neighbourhood Services Manager
Gary Mongan	Regulatory Services Manager
Mike Pavasovic	Marketing and Communications Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Quinn, Gwynne and Ward

Election of Chair

RESOLVED:

That in the absence of the Chair, Councillor Bowerman be appointed Chair for the duration of the meeting.

Councillor Bowerman in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Enforcement Co-ordination Panel held on 28 March 2018 were approved as a correct record.

3. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE - STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods submitted a report, which gave an update on the Single Regulatory Service and information on enforcement activities undertaken by the service during the period 1 April to 30 June 2018.

The Head of Public Protection reported that during the period the service had received 943 requests, the majority of which related to noise and general waste. The team had visited 396 fly-tipping complaints and 180 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued for littering offences, which had a potential income of £14,400. The Fixed Penalty Notice process was currently under review and it was being considered for the full process to be completed by Neighbourhoods and Operations rather than the current arrangement of two different teams sharing the process.

It was reported that there had been 105 reports of abandoned vehicles, 61 scaffolding permits had been issued and 416 skip permits. Information was provided on the monthly income that was generated from issuing scaffolding and skip permits, which remained static. Statistical information

was given with regard to Penalty Charge Notices issued in Pay and Display Car Parks, On-Street Car Parking and bus lane enforcement.

With regard to new roads and street works activities, it was reported that the number of utility openings had increased to 1239 although the number of defects had decreased to 52. There had been an increase in the number of banner permits issued and the number of illegal banners that had been removed had reduced to 2.

The Days of Action calendar was outlined to the Panel. Operation Nightsafe had recently concluded and a number of community clean up events had been held across the Borough.

With regard to bus lane enforcement, Members requested that future reports contain a comparison between the different towns in Tameside. With regard to abandoned vehicles, Members enquired if owners were fined. It was confirmed that a set process was followed and if a vehicle was not taxed or insured it was removed.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

4. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE - ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

The Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods submitted a report summarising the key enforcement activities undertaken by the Environmental Enforcement Team during the period 1 April to 30 June 2018.

The Environmental Services Manager reported that four Hygiene Improvement Notices had been served during the quarter at two premises. Data had been uploaded to the Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System and a table summarising the total interventions during 2017/18 was outlined in the report and highlighted to the Panel. A Food Service Plan had been produced following the audit that was undertaken last year.

It was reported that a routine inspection at a retail outlet in Ashton had uncovered a significant risk of food contamination with raw chicken being stored next to cooked and ready-to-eat food. A considerable amount of blood was also found on the floor and the structure, equipment and general cleanliness at the premises was poor. Two Hygiene Improvement Notices were immediately served with improvements required to the structure and flooring and a suitable documented Food Safety Management System to be implemented. The business was given a zero rating on the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme and officers continued to work with the business to ensure that the requirements were adhered to.

It was further reported that Officers found numerous Food Hygiene contraventions at a takeaway in Ashton during an inspection including risk of cross-contamination between raw and cooked food, poor hygiene practices, poor structure and cleaning practices, poor storage methods, a lack of food allergen information and a lack of Food Safety Training by staff. The business was given a zero rating on the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. Officers had since revisited the premises and observed some improvements.

The Panel were told that 152kg of beef had been recalled by a wholesaler in Tameside as it had been discovered that the meat had been released from a cold store in Lancaster too early. The Food Standards Agency had been notified who planned to follow up the issue with Lancashire County Council.

As part of National Food Safety Week in June Tameside's Public Protection Team was partnered with the Food Standards Agency to highlight the people who worked behind the scenes to ensure that premises had acceptable hygiene standards and the food that the public bought was safe. The Manager was pleased to report that 95% of business that had been inspected in Tameside had a

Food Hygiene Rating of 3 or higher. Food Safety Week had received good publicity with a press release of the Leader of the Council accompanying officers on an inspection, which included a quote from a representative of the Food Standards Agency.

The Panel were informed that Trading Standards had inspected 7 shops across the Borough in conjunction with Greater Manchester Police and tobacco detection dogs as a result from complaints, intelligence reports or previous dealings with the premises. One arrest was made, tobacco was seized from two shops and investigations into the premises had commenced.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

5. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, HOUSING & PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

The Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods submitted a report summarising the key enforcement activities undertaken by the Environmental Enforcement Team during the period 1 April to 30 June 2018.

The Regulatory Services Manager provided an update on the illegal landfill site that had been discovered following a number of complaints regarding noxious odours. The Environment Agency, as the primary enforcement body, had served legal notices on both the land owner and occupier of the site requiring removal of the materials. In addition, the Council had also served legal notices to the land owner and occupier for statutory nuisance following numerous complaints regarding foul odours. The removal of waste at the site had commenced and was monitored to ensure that it was taken to an appropriately permitted facility. The number of odour complaints had reduced and residents in the locality of the site had been kept updated on progress.

In relation to Local Air Quality Management, an initial Strategic Outline Case had been submitted to the government for approval, which outlined a list of potential measures that would be considered to improve air quality across Greater Manchester. Work was now underway to develop an Outline Business Case that would be submitted to the government by 31 December 2018. However, clarity was needed from the government around a number of areas including the role of Highways England, the level of funding for preferred measures that Local Authorities would include in their Outline Business Case and funding for various national measures, such as scrappage schemes.

It was reported that a range of events had been held across the Borough to promote Clean Air Day on 21 June 2018. A large social media campaign asked members of the public to make a pledge to reduce air pollution and promotional events were run by Tameside General Hospital and Ashton Market Hall. One of the main aims of the campaign was to reduce the number of short car journeys – across Greater Manchester 1 in 3 trips less than 1km were made by car.

In the run up to Clean Air Day, Officers delivered a presentation on the effects of air pollution to pupils at Russell Scott Primary School, Denton and children at the school ran their own enforcement campaign targeting car users who left their engines running outside school or who parked inconsiderately. The children's campaign proved to be very successful therefore officers were considering promoting the scheme to other schools to adopt a similar approach. A presentation on how the Council had monitored air pollution over 40 years was given to the eco-committee at Gorse Hall Primary School.

The Panel were informed that Public Protection officers had been involved in monitoring air pollution levels that had been generated by the fires on Saddleworth Moor, which started on 24 June 2018. Equipment was deployed at 3 locations and information gathered was passed onto Public Health England to enable them to give appropriate health advice to members of the public. Local schools made the decision to close for several days due to the high temperatures in the classrooms and

reopened once portable air conditioning units had been sourced. The Manager was pleased to report that the fires had been extinguished and air quality levels had returned to normal.

In relation to Planning Enforcement, there had been 110 requests for service during the period 1 April until 30 June 2018 and no formal notices had been issued. The vacant Senior Planning Enforcement Officer role had been filled and the officer was currently receiving planning enforcement training. Ten Regulatory Support Officers had recently been trained in the principles of planning enforcement in order to provide support to the Senior Planning Enforcement Officer.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

6. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE - LICENSING

The Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods submitted a report, which provided an update on the key enforcement activities undertaken by Licensing during the period 1 April to 30 June 2018.

The Head of Public Protection notified the Panel that the Speakers Panel (Liquor Licensing) considered an application for a premises licence for Neha Stores, 66-68 Yew Tree Lane, Dukinfield on 9 April 2018. The premises was previously licenced but had surrendered their licence in May 2017 following the submission of a review application. Representations were submitted by Tameside MBC Licensing and Trading Standards in their role as a responsible authority. After hearing all the evidence the Panel determined to grant the licence subject to a number of conditions to ensure that the premises remained compliant in the future.

The Speakers Panel (Liquor Licensing) met on 13 April 2018 to consider a premises licence application for 112 Queens Road, Ashton-under-Lyne. Representations had been submitted by Tameside MBC Licensing and Trading Standards in their role as a responsible authority. After hearing all the evidence the Panel determined to refuse the application. A second application, which was almost identical to the first application, was then submitted by a different applicant and considered by the Panel on 2 July 2018. Representations had been submitted by Tameside MBC Licensing and Trading Standards in their role as a responsible authority. After hearing all the evidence the Panel determined to refuse the application.

The Panel were informed that Greater Manchester Police had submitted a premises licence review application for the Jolly Hatters Pub, 67 Stockport Road, Denton due to intelligence received. Officers met with the premises licence holder to discuss the issue and a number of conditions were added to the licence. The actions of the premises licence holder satisfied the Police therefore they withdrew their application for a review.

It was reported that on 24 June 2018 a serious incident occurred outside the Dog & Partridge Pub, Mottram Road, Stalybridge following the screening of the England World Cup game. A large brawl took place and Police had to deploy significant resources to deal with the disorder. Four arrests were made for public order offences. In response, the licensee voluntarily closed the premises and met with Licensing Officers and the Police. As a result of this meeting a number of management conditions were agreed to help prevent similar incidents occurring in the future.

The Panel were told that intelligence had been received about illicit tobacco sales at The Witchwood, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne and The Lazy Toad, Ashton Hill Lane, Droylsden. Officers visited both premises to carry out checks but no illegal products were found. On 21 June 2018 a Gambling Day of Action took place as part of national licensing week. A variety of premises were visited including 2 bookmakers, an adult gaming centre and a bingo premises. Serious failings were discovered at an independent bookmakers and the Licensing team would work with the Gambling Commission to ensure compliance at the premises. The other premises were well managed and compliant.

In relation to Licensing matters, the Panel were informed that there had been two immediate revocations of private hire driver's licences in May and June 2018. Following consultation with the Chair of the Speakers Panel (Licensing) and the Borough Solicitor, it was decided based on the evidence received that the drivers were no longer fit and proper and their licences were revoked in the interest of public safety. The driver whose licence had been revoked in May was appealing the decision at the Magistrates Court and the Panel would be advised of the outcome of that appeal in due course. The Head of Public Protection was pleased to announce that there had recently been a successful outcome in an appeal at Tameside Magistrates Court against the revocation of a private hire driver's licence.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

7. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE - NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

The Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods submitted a report, which provided an overview of the activities of Neighbourhood Services throughout the period 1 April to 30 June 2018.

The Integrated Neighbourhood Services Manager told the Panel that the reporting periods for Greater Manchester Police differed to the Council therefore he would be presenting data for the period ending 30 May 2018. During the 12 month period to 30 May 2018 Greater Manchester Police received 8,886 reports of hate crimes with 499 reported in Tameside (5.6%), which was slightly below the neighbouring boroughs of Oldham and Rochdale.

In the 3 month period to 30 May 2018, 135 reports of hate crimes were received in Tameside. The highest numbers of crimes were reported in Ashton town centre and top Mossley in the race hate category. It was explained that the figures for Mossley were unusually high due to repeat reports from the same individual that were incorrectly reported as hate crimes.

During the 3 month period there were two significant incidents in Ashton and Hyde. There was a disturbance at The Eritrean Cycle Festival on 16 June 2018 at Curzon Ashton Football Club. 30 Eritrean nationals infiltrated the event to protest about Human Rights issues and violence broke out resulting in 9 injuries and a number of arrests. In Hyde, tensions were raised through the use of social media regarding an allegation of racially motivated abuse in the grid-iron area. A march was organised to commence from The Cotton Bale pub on 23 June 2018. Neighbourhood Services officers supported by Greater Manchester Police de-escalated the situation and the march did not take place. A restorative justice meeting took place between the victim and offender on 26 June 2018 and extra patrols were carried out in the grid-iron area.

It was reported that the Tameside Hate Incident Panel, which was made up of representatives from the Council, Greater Manchester Police, local housing providers and community and voluntary groups, met quarterly to discuss hate incidents and crimes. A number of projects had been delivered including crime interactive drama sessions at St Damian's RC Science College, All Saints Catholic College, Alder Community High School, Whitebridge College and Denton Community College with sessions planned at Droylsden Academy and Great Academy. Over 1,000 students had participated in the sessions to date and feedback had been very positive from both students and teachers. In response to a number of anti-social behavior / hate crime incidents in the Ridgehill area of Stalybridge a Hate Crime play had been developed in conjunction with the young perpetrators who lived on the estate. The play was delivered at Silver Springs School to students, parents and residents and feedback was very positive.

With regards to anti-social behaviour, during the 3 month period Greater Manchester Police received 1718 reports. There were 950 reports in the North of the borough and 768 reports in the South, which equated to 55% in the North and 45% in the South. Incidents of anti-social behaviour had increased in St Peter's Ward mainly in King George's Playing Fields and Holy Trinity. As a result an operation was launched by Greater Manchester Police, New Charter Housing and Council

Officers to help tackle the problem. High visibility patrols were carried out in hot-spot areas and stop and search was utilised, work was undertaken in schools, parents were visited and diversionary work was facilitated. Work was also ongoing with Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre where a well-attended litter-pick was held and a long-term project to engage local young people and allow them to take ownership and responsibility of public facilities within their community had commenced. This approach was already seeing results with Council Officers invited to a youth club to discuss how funding could be raised within the community to improve a nearby football area.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That the dates of future meetings of the Enforcement Co-ordination Panel be held as follows, commencing at 10.30am:-

24 October 2018

23 January 2019

17 April 2019

9. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.