

Committee(s): Environment Enforcement & Housing Committee	Date: 7 March 2022
Subject: National Enforcement Solutions Update Report	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Tracey Lilley, Corporate Director – Housing and Community Safety	Public
Report Author/s: Name: Daniel Cannon, Community Safety Manager, & Eoin Henney, NES Telephone: 01277 312500 E-mail: daniel.cannon@brentwood.gov.uk	For Decision

Summary

The issue of littering across the borough has been raised by members of the public and the Council have worked with National Enforcement Solutions (NES) for the past 12 months to tackle the growing issue effectively without a financial burden to the Council.

It is hoped that through the partnership with NES the Council would extend the 12-month pilot to enhance our provision around environmental enforcement particularly in relation to littering offences and fly tipping.

NES will continue to provide an 'end to end' environmental crime service at no cost to the Council.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

R1. To approve NES to work with delegated authority for a further 12 months.

Main Report

Introduction and Background

1. Brentwood Borough Council recognises the importance of protecting our environment which is a key corporate priority.
2. During the pandemic valuable resource has been moved to other areas of importance particularly around enforcement of ASB and COVID.
3. The Council have disposed 466 fly tips costing approx. £40,000 to remove and dispose of.

4. NES are nationally recognised in the field of environmental enforcement and have investigated 840 fly tips resulting in 135 FPNs for flytips and littering.
5. NES have continued to support the delivery of the Council's environmental enforcement providing an 'end to end' service. The additional valuable resource which will continue to focus on key areas such as littering and dog fouling.
6. They will also continue to support the Council's anti-litter campaigns and volunteer projects through community engagement, education and enforcement which is the ethos already adopted by the Council in relation to its enforcement activity.
7. This has allowed for Council officers to focus on tackling the more complex investigations and work alongside NES as well as increase our enforcement activity and presence significantly with a dedicated resource.
8. The service provided would also cover all back-office functions and collection of fines up to Court action. Full access to data would be provided and reports generated for scrutiny.
9. The Council would receive a return of 10% on all FPNs paid which could provide much needed income stream whilst achieving compliance.

Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

10. Due to competing priorities environmental enforcement would benefit from an increase in capacity without a financial burden on the Council in these challenging times.
11. Extending the SLA with NES will continue to provide a much needed resource to tackle those issues which remain key for the local community.
12. There will remain no cost for Council to pay for the service with all costs being covered by the fines received.
13. The Council will continue to receive 10% of all fines issued and paid which will provide a cost neutral service with the added benefit of potential income generation.

Reasons for Recommendation

14. To ensure that the Council fulfil its Corporate objective around environmental issues and improve our enforcement activity.

Consultation

15. Consultation has taken place through the Community Safety Partnership with partners.

References to Corporate Plan

16. Protecting our environment, developing our communities and delivering an effective and efficient council.

Implications

Financial Implications

Name/Title: Phoebe Barnes, Corporate Manager – Finance (Deputy S151)

Tel/Email: 01277 312500/phoebe.barnes@brentwood.gov.uk

The income received to date for this year from this arrangement is £11,375, with a full year forecast of £15,000. This income which represents 10% of the FPN's charged supports the Corporate Enforcement Service to deliver its services to the residents.

The continuation of this arrangement does not cause any financial resource issues. At the time of setting the budget it was assumed that the arrangement would not be extended. Therefore, the additional income from the issued FPN's for 2022/23 under this scheme will be amended in year through the Council's Budget Monitoring process improving the budgetary position.

Legal Implications (*Please complete for Director review*)

Name & Title: Amanda Julian, Corporate Director (Law & Governance) and Monitoring Officer

Tel & Email: 01277 312500/amanda.julian@brentwood.gov.uk

Legal advice will be provided as necessary throughout the next twelve months.

Economic Implications

Name/Title: Phil Drane, Corporate Director (Planning and Economy)

Tel/Email: 01277 312500/philip.drane@brentwood.gov.uk

There are no direct economic implications. Tye overall aims of maintaining

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

None

Background Papers

None

Appendices to this report

Appendix A: NES Update Report, February 2022