

REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR/ ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
MANAGER

TO: POLICY and RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 26TH MAY 2022

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PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS/DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To receive the findings of the reviews requested at Council in February and Policy and Resources Committee in March 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That the position on replacement signage be noted.
- (2) That the re-tendering exercise be noted and the outcome be reported to this Committee.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To address Members' concerns relating to enforcement.

1. A report to the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 17th March advised that a report would be submitted to this meeting on reviews of the Public Space Protection Order signage and of the District Enforcement contract.

Public Space Protection Order Signage

2. The Council initially introduced a Public Space Protection Order covering parks and other public spaces on 20th September 2019 following public consultation. It was made in response to growing concerns regarding anti-social behaviour. Amongst its provisions were requirements to keep dogs on leads and exclusion of dogs from certain areas covered by the Orders.
3. To inform people of the new provisions and to enable enforcement against offences the Council during 2020 erected 185 signs at all known entrances to parks, cemeteries and sports pitches.

4. The Order was renewed following public consultation in January 2022, subject to further discussion with Earby and Barnoldswick Town Councils. We immediately had to replace 7 signs mostly in Victory Park, Barnoldswick due to vandalism or removal. More recently in carrying out this review we have identified a need for a further 30 signs to be erected due to their absence, vandalism or fading.
5. Where repeated reports of vandalism have been received we will erect anti vandal casings to protect the signage once displayed. The cost of each casing is £380. To provide 7 casings will cost £2716.
6. Arising out of the review we now electronically record the locations of each sign. Records will be updated as additional or replacement signage is erected.

District Enforcement Contract

7. As the Committee was advised at the last meeting, due to the disruption to District Enforcement's service caused by the pandemic the contract was extended in July 2021 for a further period of 12 months.
8. The following is a breakdown of the fixed penalty fines issued in the last three years:

Offence	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Littering	4360	1640	1631
Dog off lead	N/A	N/A	17
Dog fouling	112	7	7
Dog in prohibited area	N/A	N/A	7

9. With the pending expiry of the current contract we are undertaking a formal re-tendering exercise. Invitations to prospective tenderers have been issued and the exercise is due to be completed by the end of May in time for a new contract to commence at the start of July.
10. As with the current contract the Council is seeking to procure a service which has a nil cost to it. The contract will as now cover enforcement of breaches of PSPOs, littering and dog fouling. It will be for three years with a review after 12 months.
11. The main elements will be:
 - A managed service with dedicated and regular contact with Council staff
 - Provision of suitably trained staff to deliver the roles required
 - Management of fixed penalty fines and payments
 - Creation of case files for prosecutions
 - Educational presentations to schools, neighbourhood groups etc
 - Support for volunteer events
 - Responsive management of complaints
12. The tender evaluation criteria will be split 50% for quality and 50% for price and income.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising from the report.

Financial: The current contract provides that District Enforcement retain 100% of the income from FPNs to cover the cost of the service provided and additional income is then shared 50:50 between the Council and District Enforcement. In 2019/20 the Council received £24,910 and in 2020/21 £4760. The figure for 2021/22 is not yet available.

Costs in excess of £3000.00 will be incurred in the replacement and erection of signage which will be met from existing budgets.

Legal: None arising from the report.

Risk Management: None arising from the report.

Health and Safety: None arising from the report.

Sustainability: None arising from the report.

Community Safety: None arising from the report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising from the report.

Background Papers

None

Appendices

None