

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 7(d)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

18 AUGUST 2015

<p style="text-align: center;">ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL - PROGRESS REPORT</p>
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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. Since the last report to OSB, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met on one occasion on 6 August 2015.
3. At that meeting the Head of Environmental Services, the Environmental Protection Manager and the Waste and Environmental Strategy Manager were in attendance to provide the Panel with a setting the scene presentation on the topic of the 'Education/Enforcement – Environmental Issues'.
4. Information was provided to the Panel on a number of issues including:-
 - An overview of the department's Fixed Penalty Enforcement Strategy
 - The offences currently included in the FPN scheme / any offences that could potentially be included in the scheme in the future
 - Statistical data in respect of the number of FPN's issued by Middlesbrough Council in 2013/14 and 2014/15 and offences covered
 - Any work undertaken to gauge public opinion in Middlesbrough on this issue
5. The Panel was advised that the Council's Enforcement Strategy incorporates various levels of interventions including advice and education, informal action letters, statutory notices, fixed penalties and formal prosecutions. Numerous offences are included in the Enforcement Strategy including littering, graffiti, fly-posting, waste offences, parking offences and dog fouling.

6. The panel heard that as a policy Middlesbrough Council will allow an offender to redress on site the first offence. However, second or subsequent offences receive a FPN and repeat offences will result in harder action. It was highlighted that there was a total of 23 FPNs issued in 2013/14 and 12 FPN's issued in 2014/15. In addition there were also 12 prosecutions in 2013/14 and 6 prosecutions in 2014/15. The prosecutions resulted in fines ranging from £60 to £1000, with costs awarded to the Council ranging from £50 to £2074.
7. Following receipt of the information above the panel expressed the view that there were a number of areas they wished to investigate further as part of this review and a paper detailing the scope of the review would be presented at the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

8. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report and the updated position.

COUNCILLOR DENISE ROONEY

**CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT
SCRUTINY PANEL**

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