

East Hants District Council Litter Enforcement Trail

The attached proposal from East Hants District Council (EHDC) outlines the litter enforcement trial. As well as East Hants, the neighbouring authorities of Herts, Arun and Havant are already participating in the trial.

The trial has been extended to run until September 2018 and subject to approval by Cabinet and agreement on legal contracts and details for the operation of the service, CDC should commence the trail by 1 November 2017. Prior to any enforcement being carried out, it is proposed that a publicity campaign will be run to raise public awareness and that any enforcement will be carried out in conjunction with ongoing education and awareness.

This will include a period of pre-trial publicity. One of the aims of the trial is to work collectively with neighbouring authorities and to learn best practice.

The aim is to keep Chichester District clean and attractive place to live and work and to provide a good quality great value service targeted at individuals who disregard the littering laws.

During the trial, it is likely that 2 or 4 EHDC officers, working in pairs will be on patrol for 2/3 days a week, utilising body worn cameras. If implemented, it is proposed that patrol officers will be given the freedom to enforce all public highway and CDC owned land, including public car parks, City and town centres, parks and recreation grounds, promenades/beaches. In addition, Parish Council, landowners where the PSPO Dog Control applies and some local businesses, will be consulted to see if they would wish the patrolling officers to enforce land within their ownership.

Litter includes the dropping of cigarette butts, chewing gum, dog fouling, dog poo bags. Patrols will target those areas where the most littering occurs.

The patrolling staff all received high levels of training and the emphasis on issuing fixed penalty notices (FPNs) is placed on quality of ticket issue rather than number of tickets.

If implemented an approach for issuing FPNs to young persons will need to be agreed. In law a local authority FPN can be issued to anyone over the age of 10. Parents and guardians are not responsible in law for paying fixed penalties issued to young offenders (in this respect FPNs differ from police issued penalty notices for disorder). However, a court before which a young person appears can order the parent/guardian to pay any fine it may impose. In East Hampshire the decision has been taken not to issue FPNs to anyone under the age of 18 years unless there are special circumstances that have been approved by the Cabinet Member. It is recommended that the same policy should be adopted in Chichester.

The level of fine for the trial will be that set by the legislation, currently £80 for littering and £100 for dog fouling, with an early redemption fee. There is no charge by EHDC for the trial, however, the fine is split between EHDC and CDC respectively; (littering £55/£25; dog fouling £75/£25).

There are resource implications for CDC;

- Taking payments over the phone – Contact Centre
- Payments and invoices to EHDC – Environmental Protection admin
- Contract management & monitoring – Environment Manager
- Legal action for non-payment of FPNs – Environment Manager, Legal Services.
- Complaints procedure – Environment Manager

Members and officers have visited EHDC to discuss the details of the proposal with service managers and spent some time shadowing the enforcement officers. This provided reassurance that enforcement would be carried out in a professional and efficient manner. This will be monitored by enforcement officers recording issuing of FPNs via body worn CCTV.