

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

28 JULY 2020

Title:

Litter Enforcement at Frensham

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Nick Palmer Portfolio Holder for Operational and Enforcement Services

Head of Service: Richard Homewood, Head of Environmental & Regulatory Services

Key decision: No

Access: Public

1. Purpose and summary

- 1.1 Members are well aware of the issues at Frensham Pond caused by the volumes of people attending and the amount of litter being generated, and have clearly indicated a desire for increased enforcement to mitigate the impact of significantly increased visitor numbers.
- 1.2 Internal enforcement resources are insufficient to provide the level of enforcement required to adequately mitigate the impact on the local environment.
- 1.3 This report seeks authority to procure external enforcement resources to assist with litter and other enforcement activities at Frensham Pond and other locations during peak periods on a cost neutral basis.

2. Recommendation

That the Executive:

Authorises the Head of Environmental and Regulatory Services to procure additional enforcement resources on a cost neutral basis, from external providers during periods of peak demand as and when required in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Operational and Enforcement Services

3. Reason for the recommendation

- 3.1 To enable the council to provide an effective and speedy response to increased litter and environmental issues during peak periods.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Executive gave approval at its meeting on 6 February 2018 for a one year trial of litter and dog fouling enforcement in partnership with East Hants District Council.
- 4.2 Members will also recall that previously East Hants District Council had been used to assist with litter and other enforcement at Frensham Pond. In July 2019 members received a report on the one year trial of litter enforcement and it was decided to terminate the contract and carry out the enforcement in house.
- 4.3 Our Environmental Enforcement Officers have been able to provide a limited level of litter and dog fouling enforcement across the borough alongside their contract monitoring and fly tipping enforcement. They have also provided some support for the Rangers at Frensham over weekends. This approach had worked reasonably well until the Covid-19 lockdown. Due to the increased level of fly tipping and other activity generated by Covid-19 this enforcement has not been at the level anticipated since then and they are not able to provide this enforcement support during the week or at weekends.
- 4.4 We therefore need to provide additional enforcement resources to support the Rangers at Frensham Pond throughout the week and at weekends. Officers have discussed the possibility of East Hants District Council providing this service at Frensham once again on a short term basis for the peak summer months. The service would be provided, as in the past, on the basis that the cost of the service is recovered by the income from Fixed Penalty Notices issued.

5. Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan

- 5.1 The Recommendations of this report will help support the Corporate Strategy's aims to 'provide high quality public services accessible to all' and 'a sense of responsibility for our environment and protecting our planet'.

6. Implications of decision

6.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)

- 6.1.1 Income from Fixed Penalty Notices will cover the cost of enforcement and generate a small income.

6.2 Risk management

- 6.2.1 Failure to provide adequate resources for litter and other enforcement at Frensham Pond will lead to harm to the natural environment through litter, dog fouling etc.
- 6.2.2 Income from FPNs might not cover the full cost of enforcement if fewer FPNs are issued but experience has shown that this risk is low.

6.3 Legal

6.3.1 A formal contract will need to be entered into.

6.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

6.4.1 There are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implications in this report. Equality impact assessments are carried out when necessary across the council to ensure service delivery meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

6.5 Climate emergency declaration

6.5.1 Effective litter enforcement will promote behaviour change and promote awareness of the adverse effect litter has on the natural environment.

7. Consultation and engagement

Consultation on the proposed policy, conditions and fees etc. has been undertaken with Licensing Managers at Councils across Surrey, Surrey County Council Highways, Surrey Police, Waverley Borough Council Planning Team and Waverley Borough Council Environmental Health.

8. Other options considered

8.1 Use of internal enforcement officers was considered but was not possible due to existing workloads and pressures created by the Covid-19 crisis.

9. Governance journey

9.1 As the proposal involves entering into a contract the matter must be considered by the Executive for approval.

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Agreed and signed off by:
Legal Services: date 8 July 2020
Head of Finance: date
Strategic Director: 17 July 2020
Portfolio Holder: June 2020