

Civil Enforcement Update

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| Joint Transport Board | 6 June 2024 |
| By | Head of Neighbourhoods |
| Cabinet Portfolio | Cllr. Kristian Bright, Cabinet Member for Parking |
| Key Decision | No |
| Decision Classification | Unrestricted |
| Ward: | All |

Purpose of the Report

To update the Joint Transportation Board on the work of the Civil Enforcement Team.

Recommendation(s):

This is an information report.

1. Summary of Reasons

- 1.1 *The Vice-Chair of the Joint Transportation Board requested an update on the enforcement work undertaken by the Civil Enforcement Team*

2. Background

- 2.1 *The Civil Enforcement Team carries out education and enforcement of traffic restrictions across the Thanet District, they work seven days a week from early morning until late at night. Their role is restricted to the enforcement of traffic regulation orders, this means that they are able to enforce double yellow lines, single yellow lines, parking bay infringements and failure to pay and display. They are unable to enforce obstruction of the highway, driveways or pavement parking, these are all enforced by the Police.*

3. Relevant Issues

- 3.1 *The 2023/24 financial year has seen the Civil Enforcement Team go through significant change with staff retention being a particular problem, for most of the year there were between 3-5 officers. The full establishment is 11.5 full time equivalent officers.*

Despite the inconsistent and lack of staff the team have worked hard issuing 13,006 penalty charge notices, a majority of which are for on street infringements such as parking on double yellow lines. 9704 of these penalty charge notices were paid either within the 14 day discount period or in full, 779 were cancelled or written off and 1057 have been sent to the bailiffs for recovery. Some cases are still ongoing as they span more than one financial year which is why the numbers don't neatly add up.

Those in receipt of a penalty charge notice have the option to appeal to the Traffic Penalty Tribunal, 7 cases have been taken this year, 2 were accepted, 2 dismissed and 3 were not contested.

A significant effort has been undertaken over the last year to attract and retain Civil Enforcement Officers including an increase to the market supplement introduced last year. There has been a successful round of recruitment with assistance from an agency which has seen one new officer join in May, two due to join at the beginning of June and one later in June. This will bring us up to seven officers, we have halted the recruitment drive with the agency until these officers are trained. Once they are trained we will look to recruit again.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 *This is a report for information there are no alternative options.*

5. Consultation

5.1 *There is no consultation associated with this report.*

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Finance and Resources

6.1.1 *There are no financial implications from this report.*

6.2 Legal and Constitutional

6.2.1 *There are no legal implications from this report.*

6.3 Council Policies and Priorities

6.3.1 *This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -*

- *To keep our district safe and clean*
- *To protect our environment*
- *To create a thriving place*
- *To work efficiently for you*

6.4 Risk

6.4.1 *This is a report for information only.*

6.5 Climate Change and Biodiversity

6.5.1 *This is a report for information only.*

7. Equality, Equity and Diversity Implications

7.1 *The meeting is to have due regard to their public sector equality duty, which is the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and consider the potential impact decisions and actions on each of the protected characteristics, at the time the decision is taken.*

8. Crime and Disorder Implications and Community impact

8.1 *The meeting is under a duty to consider crime and disorder implications. This is to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent (a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), (b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area, and (c) re-offending in its area.*

9.0 Subject History

9.1 N/A

Annexes

Annex 1 provides the breakdown of the penalty charge notices issued in 2023/24.

Background Papers

None provided

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Report Sign Off

Legal N/A

Finance N/A