



Report to

Council

Meeting Date: 8th November 2022

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Nigel Christian**

PARKING AND ENFORCEMENT

The Enforcement Team have been working in partnership with the DVLA this month, participating in dealing with untaxed vehicles on the road. This joint initiative 'captured' 47 untaxed vehicles which have been reported and 13 Mis-Represented number plates, again all reported. The DVLA also deployed one of their ANPR cameras in Carlisle and 'captured' 55 untaxed vehicles. All registered keepers will be issued with a fine by the DVLA and will have to pay back duty.

City Council Enforcement Officers have also participated in partnership working with the Environment Agency dealing with companies who fail to provide notification of how they transfer their waste. Again, this partnership working has been successful with eight fixed penalties of £300 being issued to those businesses who failed to produce their correct waste transfer notes.

Other ongoing successes for this team since August include nine fixed penalties for littering, one for dog fouling, four for fly-tipping, two for abandoning a vehicle and one for failing to ensure household waste was transferred correctly.

RECYCLING

The value of recycling materials remain high but tonnages are starting to drop but still higher than before lockdown.

- Quarter 1 Refuse tonnages are down 6% when compared to same period in 2021/22
- Quarter 1 Garden waste is up 4% when compared to same period in 2021/22
- Quarter 1 Kerbside recycling tonnages are down 10% when compared to same period in 2021/22 but still 8% higher than before lockdown in 2019/20
- Quarter 1 Bring site recycling tonnages are down 13% when compared to same period in 2021/22 and 5% lower than before lockdown in 2019/20

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

In September 2022 a submission was made to the DEFRA Air Quality Grant fund 2022 / 2023 for Lot 1, to improve local air quality, linked to a Local Air Quality Action Plan. A project bid was submitted that focused on the Air Management Area covering Bridge Street. The Council will find out early in 2023 if we have been successful.

FOOD BUSINESSES UPDATE

As part of the COVID recovery plan, Officers of the Food & Public Protection Team are making good progress in the inspection of food businesses which were due visits during the pandemic. Officers are reporting a drop in hygiene standards; however the percentage of broadly compliant businesses remains high, currently 98%. Food businesses are reporting a significant shortage of staffing availability within the industry. Officers are also noting a shift in food business operating behaviours, with many only opening at peak times and weekends.

THE SWIFTS

The Swifts Nature Reserve featured in Cumbria Wildlife Trust's Big Buzz Conference and Fringe in Carlisle on 23rd – 25th September. Carlisle City Council with the Cumbria Wildlife Trust and help from volunteers planted 4,000 wildflowers at the Swifts Nature Reserve, and created 60 solitary beehotels. Experts were on hand and there were also craft events celebrating "all things pollinators".

The conference discussed the impact of climate change on pollinators and pollination. More information can be found at <https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/big-buzz-national-pollinator-conference-Fringe-2022>

The Swifts partnership has been recognised as best practice and is being presented at the World Health Organisation Annual Business and Technical Conference in November.

CUMBRIA FLOOD AND COASTAL FORUM

In October the Portfolio Holder attended this event, hosted by the Environment Agency. Workshops included: coastal strategy, place-making, nature-based solutions and emergency preparedness and response. Discussion covered the Local Resilience Forum, The Flood Hub and VIPER (a new database drawing together lists held by many agencies of people most likely to need help). Environment Agency work in Cumbria on "natural flood management" (soil management, planting, allowing water courses to meander and other methods of slowing water flow) is leading to a much better understanding of what works and where. Two strong messages were: (1) the importance of engaging with local communities and (2) the difficulty of accurately tracking a severe weather system means that local communities are likely to receive relatively short notice of major events.