

## Executive

Agenda  
Item:

**A.2**

Meeting Date: 06 April 2021  
Portfolio: Environment and Transport  
Key Decision: No  
Within Policy and Budget Framework Yes  
Public / Private Public

Title: RELEASE OF REVENUE BUDGET FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP AND ENFORCEMENT

Report of: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
Report Number: CS 17/21

### Purpose / Summary:

To seek approval from Executive to release £60,000 revenue budget to enhance environmental clean-up and enforcement activity. This funding has already been agreed by Council as part of the budget setting process.

### Recommendations:

Executive is recommended to

- (i) approve the release of the revenue budget of £60,000.
- (ii) Delegate authority to the Neighbourhood Services Manager in consultation with Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport to reallocate the budget within the service area where appropriate to respond to changing demands / emerging priorities

### Tracking

Executive:	06 April 2021
Scrutiny:	N/A
Council:	N/A

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting on 17 February 2021, Council approved both the revenue and capital budgets for 2021/22. This included approval of funding to support a number of separate schemes with funding to be released subject to separate reports to Executive.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval from Executive to release £60,000 revenue budget to support the scheme for environmental clean-up and enforcement in line with the proposals outlined below.

## 2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP AND ENFORCEMENT

- 2.1 The Local Environmental Crime, Action and Enforcement Strategy outlines the Council's commitment to maintaining clean streets and neighbourhoods and highlights the wide ranging activities and action undertaken by the Enforcement Team against those responsible for enviro-crimes such as littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping. The strategy is being considered by Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel in April before consideration by Executive in June.
- 2.2 To support the delivery of the strategy, it is proposed to allocate the additional £60,000 funding as follows:

Enhanced enforcement capacity	£30,300
Behaviour change / awareness raising campaigns	£6,000
Improved reporting / intelligence-led enforcement	£6,400
Enhanced street cleaning capacity	£12,300
Enhanced verge clearance programme	£5,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£60,000</b>

### 2.3 Enhanced enforcement capacity: £30,300

Funding will enhance enforcement capability and response over and above existing resources. This will support the continued employment of an additional Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) for a further 12month period. Subject to separate approval, it may be possible to carry forward some of the un-spent budget from 2020-21 to support the employment of the additional temporary CEO for a further period, potentially to end of October 2022. This was due to the resignation of the previous postholder and time for recruitment of a replacement.

2.4 Executive will be aware that the team of CEOs work generically and flexibly across a wide range of enforcement activities, including car parking enforcement. This approach introduced in the last two years or so has increased the resources available, enabled the service to operate over seven days a week and consistently contributed to sustained increases in team performance. This generic approach will continue, but it is suggested that some officers will be designated with lead responsibilities for taking forward initiatives for example for fly-tipping, dog-fouling and roadside litter. Across the last 12 months for example, we have noted a 33% increase in reports of fly-tipping and there is growing awareness amongst residents of the damage caused to local habitats by those responsible for dropping litter in the roadside and green spaces with increased demands for action. Dog fouling also remains a stubborn issue in some areas particularly during the darker nights.

**2.5 Behaviour change / awareness raising campaigns: £6,000**

This funding will bolster existing communication budgets to support campaigns to drive positive behaviour change. This will make use of existing resources and support the creation of new messages as well as making use of some of the Council's fleet vehicles to carry key messages into every street. More frequent use of social media will also help spread key messages for example using Twitter to let people know that enforcement officers are patrolling or the camera van is deployed in your area to act as a further deterrent.

**2.6 Improved reporting / monitoring / intelligence-led enforcement: £6,400**

A project will be established to support the development / procurement of a mobile App or web-based reporting solution to improve reporting of dog-fouling / fly-tipping incidents by residents. This will develop a 'heat-map' to support intelligence-led intervention and enforcement by officers and where practical swifter, responsive clean-up action.

**2.7 Enhanced street cleaning capacity: £12,300**

It is proposed to continue with the more flexible model tested in 2020 with additional staffing resources allocated at key times of the year such as leaf-fall clearance, where more a more intensive response over a shorter period is more effective. This budget allows for example for two additional staff to bolster existing staffing levels over a three-month period.

**2.8 Enhanced verge clearance programme: £5,000**

This will enable a second programme of litter clearance on roads such as the A7, A6, A689 (Brampton to Carlisle) and A595. This covers the cost of professional

traffic management required to protect staff and other road users. It does not include the costs of staffing (est. £13,000 per clearance) which is met from existing resources as trained and competent staff are diverted to this task. The current clearance of these roads typically takes place in February over a 7 / 8 day period but this would enable a second clearance across the year, bringing it more in line with the programme for the A689 which is picked every six months. The programme is delayed this area by one month due to the staffing pressures associated with the pandemic. The bypass is picked every three months; over time it may be possible to reduce this frequency as the awareness campaign is rolled out and depending upon the impact of the camera enforcement vehicle.

## **2.9 Flexibility**

It is further proposed that the Neighbourhood Services Manager be given delegated responsibility through discussion with the Portfolio Holder to re-allocate the budget differently in response to changing demands / emerging priorities.

## **3.0 CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Council's enforcement and clean neighbourhood teams already operate to a high standard. The package of measures described above will help build on this strong base and will lead to instant, and hopefully, lasting improvements across a number of areas as highlighted in the Local Environmental Crime, Action and Enforcement Strategy. The emphasis is on coordinated action involving, marketing and awareness raising, increased targeted and responsive clean-up, and backed up by robust enforcement and deployment of high-profile resources such as the camera enforcement van.
- 3.2 Improved systems will be developed to support residents to report incidents of dog-fouling and fly-tipping etc. and this will in turn support intelligence-led enforcement activity and more responsive clean-up action. It will be important however not to raise public expectations to levels that cannot be realistically or practically met.
- 3.3 Executive is recommended to approve the release of the £60,000 revenue funding with responsibility delegated to the Neighbourhood Services Manager, through discussion with the Portfolio Holder to re-allocate the funding differently as necessary in response to changing demands / emerging priorities.

## **4.0 CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES**

4.1 This funding directly supports the priority to:

Continue to improve the quality of our local environment and green spaces so that everyone can enjoy living, working in and visiting Carlisle

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**Appendices attached to report:** None

**Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:**

- None

### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:**

**LEGAL** – There are no particular legal implications arising from this report however where the package of measures outlined in this report includes the purchase of goods or equipment or the provision of services by a third party regard should be had to the Council's procurement rules and the need for a contract.

### **PROPERTY SERVICES – No property implications**

**FINANCE** – A non-recurring revenue budget in 2021/22 of £60,000 was approved by Council and was subject to further reports to the Executive prior to the release of the earmarked funding and any expenditure being incurred. This report satisfies that requirement and requests the release of the earmarked budget.

### **EQUALITY – No implications**

**INFORMATION GOVERNANCE** – Due to the intention to utilise new technology to develop a web-based reporting solution or mobile App to support the reporting of incidents by residents, a Data Protection Impact Assessment will be required as part of the initiation phase of the project to ensure appropriate Data Protection by Design.