



Meeting Date: 26th April 2022

Public/Private*: Public

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

Councillor Nigel Christian

REGULATORY SERVICES

The Food & Public Protection Team are actioning the Food Standards Agency's **Food Safety** COVID Recovery Plan which prioritised Carlisle's food safety inspections up until 31st March 2023. I am pleased to report that good progress is being made by Authorised EHOs. A total of 226 visits have been made by Officers since 1st April 2021, with all high-risk premises inspected. A further 526 food businesses will be inspected by March 2023, which equates to approximately 44 inspections per month. I have been assured that the Team are confident of meeting this target. A progress report has been sent to the Food Standards Agency who monitor food safety controls undertaken by Local Authorities. There were initial concerns that standards in premises may have slipped during the pandemic, with limited unannounced inspections being made. However, feedback from Officers indicate that a high percentage of Carlisle food businesses have maintained good standards, with only a small number of Food Businesses having their Food Hygiene rating score reduced.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Parking and Enforcement

The new free parking offer for weekends in Council City Centre Car Parks started on 1st April 2022 and will run for one year designed to support recovery of the high street and the visitor economy. This is complemented by a reduced parking offer mid-week of £1 for the first hour of parking.

I am pleased to report that there is an improving picture in fly-tipping at recycling sites over the Christmas and New Year period, with a year on year reduction in the amount of waste dumped at this time. Clear signage is deployed at the sites and the Council has deployed additional CCTV to record incidents. Action to date includes 51 formal investigations resulting in 23 Fixed Penalty Notices for litter and fly-tipping and 28 warning letters issued, with no repeat offenders from previous years.

The Courts are working hard to work through the backlog of cases with recent successful prosecutions including:

- Failing to attend a PACE interview fined £660, and ordered to pay costs of £408.45 with surcharge of £66
- Failing to produce a waste transfer note fined £660, with Victim Surcharge of £66 and costs of £85
- Failing to get a dog microchipped fined £440 together with costs of £408.47 and victim surcharge of £44
- Failing to attend a PACE interview fined £660, costs of £374.16 and £66 victim surcharge

Access for waste services vehicles

Over the next few weeks, the Waste Services Team is testing out a new approach to address problems of access in a number of locations due to parked cars. New bins are being offered to residents at key locations, displaying highly visible signage asking motorists to keep clear – access needed for Refuse Collection Teams. If successful, the bin sticker idea will be rolled out to other areas with messages adapted as necessary, for example, highlighting fly-tipping or dog-fouling etc.



Electric vehicle charge-points

The City Council is supporting a single, joint bid for Government funding, coordinated by the County Council on behalf of a number of partners across the region, to support the installation of electric vehicle charge-points and encourage motorists to make the shift to electric vehicles. The Energy Saving Trust, responsible for assessing bids for EV Charge-point funding under the Government's £multi-million scheme welcomed the submission of a single coordinated, strategic bid on behalf of a number of partners seeing the potential benefits of scale, efficiencies in procurement and project management and building on the success of other schemes such as the recent SOSCI bid which saw the installation of charge-points at locations across Carlisle. The project is currently looking at appointing a Project Manager to drive this work forward and more information will be provided to Members when available.

GREEN SPACES AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Works to significantly improve the access infrastructure at Hammond's Pond are progressing well following commencement at the end of February. The works completed

so far are resurfaced paths in the western area of the park with new kerbing and asphalt and replacement of an end-of-life timber boardwalk on the island with a new asphalt path. The work currently underway is upgrading paths and path drainage in the eastern area of the park.

Old timber edging to the pond has been removed and is being replaced with rock rolls – medium sized angular stones contained within long netting bags, which dissipate wave action before it strikes the pond bank. Smaller areas are being restored with natural coir rolls, which will be planted with native aquatic plants later in the year.