

# Executive

Agenda  
Item:

**A.5**

Meeting Date: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
 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 29/20

### 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 approve the release of the revenue budget of £60,000.

### Tracking

Executive:	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
Scrutiny:	<b>N/A</b>
Council:	<b>N/A</b>

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 04 February 2020, Council approved both the revenue and capital budgets for 2020/21. 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, already approved by Council, to support the scheme for environmental clean-up and enforcement.
- 1.3 Executive will recall that this additional budget was first approved in 2019/20 with £60,000 allocated to support the recruitment of an additional Civil Enforcement Officer and Street Cleaning Operative to enhance our response to maintaining clean streets and neighbourhoods and to tackle enviro-crimes such as littering and dog-fouling. Council agreed to extend this funding for a further year in 2020/21.

## **2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP AND ENFORCEMENT**

- 2.1 The funding in 2019/20 was used to recruit two x 12month fixed-term postholders to enhance our staffing resources in the Clean Neighbourhoods Team and Parking and Enforcement Team. The funding covered recruitment, employment, training, uniform and PPE for:
  - 1 x Civil Enforcement Officer
  - 1 x Street Cleaning Operative
- 2.2 The additional resource had a positive impact on performance generally in terms of helping to maintain the Council's positive reputation for maintaining clean streets and neighbourhoods and responding swiftly and effectively to concerns raised. The performance of the civil enforcement team has also been on a positive trajectory following changes made in 2018, further supported by the additional resources now available. This is illustrated in the table below:

Offences		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Littering	Fixed penalty notice FPN	52	40	88
	Court action	3	2	3
Fly-tipping	FPN	6	6	23
	Court action	0	0	2
Dog-fouling	FPN	3	5	11
	Court action	0	0	1
Dogs off lead	FPN	6	1	6
	Court action	0	0	1
Dogs:	notice	13	50	67
Microchipping	Court action	0	1	12
Community protection	Community Protection Warning CPW	15	39	98
	Community Protection Notice CPN	3	8	5
	Breach of CPN FPN	0	2	66
	Court action	0	0	1
Section 108	Section 108 interview	8	4	28
	Court action	2	2	10

2.3 The funding in 2020/21 will be used to support the recruitment of a Civil Enforcement Officer, fixed term for 12 months to enhance the work of the existing team. A different, more flexible approach is however suggested for the balance of this funding to provide effective and intensive support at key times of the year for the clean neighbourhoods team as shown in the example below.

2.4 Across the year, the existing resources within our street cleaning team are generally felt to be adequate to meet demand as we work to well established programmes with the support of mechanical sweepers and mobile teams backed up by a rapid response crew when needed. The addition of one extra member of staff, whilst of course welcome, does not necessarily represent the most effective way of making a visible positive impact. The aim for 2020/21 therefore is to use the funding more flexibly to increase resources at key times of the year when the spotlight is on the performance of our street cleaning teams and demands are at their peak. For example, during leaf-fall season when workloads, demands and expectations increase significantly. In this case, bringing in a number of casual operatives over a shorter, intensive period is far more effective than one extra member of staff. Other examples would be to support our response to severe adverse weather or targeted clean-up in preparation for and after local events.

2.5 No staff are impacted as both 'posts' are currently vacant.

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

3.1 Executive is recommended to approve the release of the £60,000 revenue funding endorsing the more flexible and responsive approach outlined above.

### **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** – This Report seeks the release of the budget to fund the proposals set out in the report. The Council's HR procedures which set out best employment practice should be followed when recruiting the proposed officers.

#### **PROPERTY SERVICES – N/A**

**FINANCE** – A non-recurring revenue budget in 2020/21 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 – N/A**

#### **INFORMATION GOVERNANCE – N/A**