
Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

29 September 2022

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities - Councillor A S Khan

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

An enhanced role for the Street Enforcement Team

Is this a key decision?

No - although the proposals affect more than two electoral wards, the impact is not expected to be significant.

Executive summary:

The report details the proposed additional powers for the Street Scene Enforcement Service. These additional highways powers will supplement the environmental powers which are already utilised by the service. The aim is to provide a more comprehensive solution in maintaining standards in our residential streets and commercial areas.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is requested to:

Agree to the role of the Street Enforcement Service being extended to incorporate a collection of highway enforcement powers, which will be used predominantly in those streets which are suffering environmental degradation.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: Existing services performed by the Street Enforcement Service.

Appendix 2: Proposed additional duties to be performed by the Street Enforcement Service.

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None

Has it or will it be considered by scrutiny?

No

Has it or will it be considered by any other council committee, advisory panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. The Street Enforcement Service carries out a wide range of environmental enforcement in public areas and on private land. They also have enforcement roles in what are largely considered to be 'highways' issues. For example, abandoned vehicles, fly posting, cars for sale on the highway etc. A full list of these service can be seen in Appendix 1.
- 1.2. There are a further range of 'highways' issues evident within our streets in the city and these are also closely related to the work which the Street Enforcement Team currently perform; presently they do not fall within their remit. In some cases, this can inhibit the work of the team when looking to address general environmental degradation, in the streets and areas where the service is largely focused. Furthermore, because the service currently focuses largely on environmental issues, our resident's perceive that only part of the problem is being addressed.
- 1.3. A list of the additional 'highways' issues that could be addressed by the Street Enforcement Service and supplement the work that they already do are contained in Appendix 2. It is suggested that if the Street Enforcement Service, addressed these issues where necessary, it would provide a more holistic solution and supports our 'One Coventry' approach.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1. Option1: Do nothing. The Street Enforcement Service continues to enforce largely environmental legislation. Not recommended.
- 2.2. Option 2: The Street Enforcement Service uses appropriate legislation to address the 'highways' issues listed in Appendix 2.
- 2.3. The work of the Street Enforcement Service is often concentrated in those streets which suffer higher levels of fly tipping and other environmental problems; these are referred to as 'hot streets'. It is suggested that these additional powers would supplement and enhance the work that is already performed by the service. It would also appear to be more logical to our residents and elected members.
- 2.4. Recommendation. That the role of the Street Enforcement Service be extended to incorporate a collection of highway powers, which will be used predominantly in those streets which are suffering environmental degradation.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1. None are required. These powers are already vested to the local authority.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1. Officers within the Street Enforcement Service will need to be trained in enforcing these new powers. It is anticipated that officers will be trained and competent to perform these duties by 1st December 2022.

5. Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Governance

- 5.1. Financial Implications

These additional powers will be performed within existing budgets.

5.2. Legal Implications

The appropriate legal powers are already delegated to the relevant Head of Service in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

The use of these powers will help maintain and improve the environment within our residential streets in line with our commitment to create an 'attractive, cleaner and greener city', but also by addressing undesirable behaviours we will be 'making communities safer together with the police, to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour'.

6.2. How is risk being managed?

The Street Enforcement Service is already a busy service and this additional work, particularly in the busier summer months will have the potential to impact upon delivery. However, the service already has processes in place to prioritise work so that our officers can perform their roles as efficiently and effectively as possible.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

None.

6.4. Equalities / EIA?

There are no changes in legislation or in the services the Council performs. The only change is that the Street Enforcement Service will be performing these duties alongside their existing work.

6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

There are no implications for climate change. However, the enhanced role for the Street Enforcement Service will improve the street scene environment.

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

None

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Director: Colin Knight	Transportation and Highways	Transportation and Highways	26.08.2022	05.09.2022
Members: Cllr. A.S.Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities	-	20/09/2022	

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