

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11 NOVEMBER 2014

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 – ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME ENFORCEMENT IMPLICATIONS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report:

- This report gives an overview of the changes resulting from the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and explains how the new legislation will affect current Environmental Crime policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: That:

(A)	Officers to be tasked to report back to a future meeting on how the legislation and emerging guidance could be implemented by the Council; and
(B)	A review of the Council's Environmental Crime Policy to be carried out to ensure that it complies with legislation and best practice.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 was introduced to improve the way that the Police, Council's and Social landlords deal with anti-social behaviour. Final statutory guidance was published in July 2014 and while some changes commenced from March, others which affect East Herts have only been effective since 20 October 2014.

1.2 Many of the changes introduced by the new legislation affect the Police and other agencies. This report focuses only on the parts of the legislation that will impact on Environmental Crime for East Herts Council. The anti-social behaviour aspects will be dealt with

by the Community Scrutiny Committee through a separate report on 10 March 2015.

2.0 Report

2.1 The current Environmental Crime Policy was agreed in 2006 and covered the following items:

- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
- Nuisance Parking Offences
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Litter
- Distribution of Free Literature
- Graffiti and other defacement
- Deposit and Disposal of Waste
- Dog Control Orders
- Noise
- Nuisance from Light and Insects
- Fixed penalty Notices
- Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

2.2 Since the policy was produced there have been a number of minor amendments following clarification of guidance. The Government has recently made several changes to existing legislation as part of an overhaul of offences relating to anti-social behaviour and these include some activities linked to environmental crime.

2.3 The new legislation will affect the following:

- Littering from cars
- Clearing litter and waste on land
- Graffiti and other defacement
- Controlling dogs

2.4 Details of the possible implications for East Herts Council are shown in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

2.5 Although legislation came into effect 20th October 2014 a number of documents are in draft form only and there is some uncertainty about the application of the new legislation.

2.6 It is proposed that officers bring a report to a future meeting once there is greater clarity of statutory guidance.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

Please refer to the report on Environmental Crime Enforcement dated 30 May 2006.

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