

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b> Cleaner, Safer Camden	
<b>REPORT OF:</b> Director of Public Safety	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b>  Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	<b>DATE</b>  9 December 2024
<p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b></p> <p>This report outlines the Council’s approach towards tackling ‘environmental crime’ which supports the strategic aim of a safe and clean Camden. The report refers to the creation of the new multi-disciplinary Community Safety Enforcement service which has been designed to underpin the enhanced Council approach towards tackling on-street anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.</p> <p>The report provides an overview of the remit of the Community Safety Enforcement service and an indication of the activity delivered since its inception earlier this year.</p> <p><b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b></p> <p>No document that requires listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Patrick Coulson Head of Community Safety Safer Communities 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Telephone: 0207 974 5325 Email: <a href="mailto:patrick.coulson2@camden.gov.uk">patrick.coulson2@camden.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>The Committee is asked to note and comment on the contents of the report.</p>	

Signed:   
  
Jamie Akinola  
Director of Public Safety

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. This report sets out the Council's refreshed approach towards the delivery of on-street environmental enforcement activity, driven by the overarching strategic goal of ensuring a safe and clean public realm environment across the borough.
- 1.2. The report focuses primarily on the recent creation of the Camden Community Safety Enforcement service. The report highlights the approach taken by the newly established service to tackle environmental crime, highlights the team's activity to date and outlines some upcoming initiatives.

## **2. Background of the Community Safety and Enforcement Service**

- 2.1. Camden's enforcement and community safety services are central to the We Make Camden challenge that "everyone is safe at home and safe in our communities". Creating a safe and clean public environment, including clean streets, while tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) requires a co-ordinated effort across multiple Council services.
- 2.2. A key focus of We Make Camden is strengthening the voice of local communities and ensuring that services respond to the everyday experiences of residents and businesses. The Supporting Communities Directorate plays a critical role in this, delivering a wide range of engagement, education and enforcement activities.
- 2.3. The Enforcement and Engagement Review assessed a range of previous enforcement and community safety service models. It outlined key options to enhance service effectiveness in addressing the concerns raised by Camden residents, with a focus on making streets safer and cleaner.
- 2.4. A number of themes were identified throughout the Engagement and Enforcement Review. Issues relating to duplication across services and a lack of clarity with regard to roles and responsibilities were highlighted as key issues which needed to be addressed.
- 2.5. In response to the review, the Integrated Community Safety Enforcement Service was established in April 2024 by merging the Community Presence and Education and Enforcement Teams. The new multi-disciplinary enforcement service is supported by the contracted enforcement service delivered by Kingdom Services Group Ltd.
- 2.6. The new approach delivers a unified, multi-disciplinary, flexible and highly visible on-street enforcement presence to address ASB and environmental crime. With a team of 22 Community Safety Enforcement Officers and 10 Kingdom Enforcement Officers, operating a 7-day service.
- 2.7. The new uniformed team plays an important role across the borough with a particular focus tackling fly-tipping and other environmental crime related

offences. A zero-tolerance approach towards fly-tipping and environmental crime has been developed to inform the revised enforcement approach. This has resulted in a significant increase in the issuance of statutory Fixed Penalty Notices to individuals and businesses responsible for environmental offences.

- 2.8. The Community Safety Enforcement Service is designed to address a wide spectrum of environmental crime. Officers have been authorised to issue fixed penalties to address offences such as fly-tipping, fly-posting, unlicensed skips, graffiti and street urination. By working closely with the community, the team identifies local issues and implements proactive solutions to address challenges faced by residents and businesses.
- 2.9. The integration of services under a central enforcement team has produced significant benefits, including greater resilience, improved efficiency, and economies of scale. The new service focuses on the following priorities:
  - **Environmental Crime:** addressing commercial waste, unlicensed street trading, and enforcing domestic and commercial regulations.
  - **Anti-Social Behaviour:** tackling all forms of ASB across the public realm and Camden's estates, in collaboration with partners to deliver statutory enforcement interventions that address resident concerns.

### 3. Environmental Crime

- 3.1. To further strengthen the effectiveness of enforcement activities, a range of measures are being developed, underpinned by an intelligence-led approach to tasking and resource deployment. This approach is being implemented in collaboration with Environmental Services and the Council's contracted waste management partner, Veolia.
- 3.2. This new model is expected to result in a sustained increase in the issuance of statutory Fixed Penalty Notices for environmental crimes. Additionally, it is anticipated that an increased number of offences/cases will be escalated to the local Magistrates Court (where deemed appropriate/proportionate to do so). This approach is designed to underpin the Council's commitment towards ensuring that those responsible for environmental crime are held to account.
- 3.3. The Community Safety Enforcement team leverages a broad range of enforcement powers to address a wider spectrum of environmental crimes, street trading, and highways-related offences. These offences negatively affect the street scene and contribute to public perceptions with regard to environmental quality. The team's proactive efforts aim to improve both the physical environment and the overall community experience, reinforcing the mission of a cleaner, safer Camden. Officers are now utilising the following fixed penalties as part of the zero-tolerance based approach towards environmental crime.

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Fixed Penalty Notice discount</b>	<b>Fixed Penalty Notice full rate</b>	<b>Upon conviction</b>
Section 33ZA EPA 1990 - Fly tipping FPN	£500	£1000	Unlimited on indictment
London Local Authorities Act 1990 – street trading (e.g., Ice Cream vans)	£90	£150	£1000
Section 47 EPA 1990 - Waste presentation	£80	£110	£1000
Section 87/88 EPA 1990 – Littering FPN	£100	£120	£1000
PSPO – Public Space Protection Order (dog controls etc)	£60	£100	£2,500
Breaching a Community Protection Notice – for issues such as waste on land or graffiti issues	£80	£100	£1000 (courts can order remedial work)
Skips, scaffolding, hoarding and building material offences under the Highways Act 1980	£50	£100	£1000

- 3.4. Since the establishment of the Community Safety Enforcement service the level of FPNs relating to fly-tipping, graffiti, flyposting, and littering has increased.
- 3.5. The income that is generated from on-street enforcement activity (issuance of statutory fixed penalties etc) is invested into the enforcement service in line with the relevant guidance.

#### **4. Performance Data**

- 4.1. Since April, Community Safety Enforcement Officers have undergone an intense training program covering relevant legislation, compliance and use of statutory enforcement powers.
- 4.2. Data collected from the period between April to November 2024 highlights the proactive measures taken by the Community Safety Enforcement service to establish the enhanced approach towards the delivery of environmental crime related enforcement activity.

- 4.3 The data has identified the following trends with regard to activity delivered to tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime related offences:
- 4.4 The number of fixed penalties issues for environmental crime related offences increased significantly during the period between April to November 2024 (339) compared to the previous six-month period between September 2023 to February 2024 which saw 175 fixed penalties issued by the Council.
- 4.5 This initial increase reflects the enhanced enforcement approach which has been established, with targeted, pro-active and highly visible approach designed to increase the scope for offences to be identified and provide residents with increased confidence in the Council's approach towards tackling offending behaviour which has a direct impact on levels of environmental quality.

## **5. New and Upcoming Campaigns**

### **5.1. Camden Clean Sheets**

- 5.2. The "Camden Clean Streets" initiative, set to launch in the summer of 2025, is a six-week environmental project aimed at tackling environmental crime and raising awareness around waste compliance in the borough. The project will focus on three main pillars: education, compliance, and enforcement, to ensure sustainable improvements in local environmental standards.
- 5.3. By engaging with residents and businesses, the program will seek to foster a greater sense of responsibility toward waste management and encourage positive behavioural changes to reduce littering, fly-tipping, and improper waste disposal practices. Educational campaigns will be rolled out across various platforms, including social media, local events, and community workshops, with the aim of providing residents with increased knowledge about recycling, waste separation, and the environmental impact of environmental crime.
- 5.4. A key feature of the project will be increased visibility and enforcement of local waste regulations. During the six-week period, Camden Council will deploy environmental officers to conduct on-the-spot checks and issue fines for violations such as fly-tipping and other waste disposal offences. To complement this, an outreach program will be implemented, engaging schools, local organisations, and businesses. Ideas for the initiative include organizing community clean-up events, offering free waste disposal days for residents, and setting up interactive workshops to provide residents with further information with regard to the disposal of hazardous and bulky waste.

### **5.5. Operation Waste Watch**

- 5.6. This is a targeted initiative led by the Community Safety Enforcement Team aimed at improving waste management practices and tackling non-compliance with regard to both domestic and commercial waste disposal. As part of the operation, the team will temporarily suspend the regular "clear all" policy for

street waste collection. This suspension will allow officers to assess waste left on public streets, identify businesses operating without waste contracts, and take immediate enforcement action against those in violation. The "clear all" policy typically allows for the quick removal of waste left on the streets, but in this case, it will be paused to enable a more focused investigation of commercial waste practices and identify those businesses that may be evading proper waste disposal procedures.

- 5.7. Throughout the operation, officers will also focus on domestic waste offenders, issuing fines for improper disposal, fly-tipping, and other environmental crimes. By suspending routine waste collection and enhancing enforcement, "Operation Waste Watch" will enable the team to address gaps in waste management, particularly in identifying businesses that fail to secure legitimate waste disposal contracts.
- 5.8. This initiative will not only reduce environmental harm but will also promote greater compliance with local waste regulations. The operation will be complemented by public awareness campaigns and outreach efforts, urging businesses and residents to understand their responsibilities in waste management and avoid the penalties that come with non-compliance. Through targeted enforcement and education, "Operation Waste Watch" seeks to create a cleaner, more compliant environment.
- 5.9. **Anti-Pee Campaign – “don’t pee on our streets”**
- 5.10. Street urination is a significant issue in parts of Holborn and Covent Garden, particularly in the West End. The problem was recently highlighted during a Camden Council debate which focused proposals for improving the night-time economy. Despite efforts to curb the behaviour, such as police and community safety patrols, the problem persists, especially during evening and late-night hours.
- 5.11. To address the issue more effectively, the Community Safety Enforcement team are launching an innovative solution in partnership with Central District Alliance and potentially Veolia. The initiative involves the use of a special anti-pee paint, which splashed back on individuals who attempt to urinate on treated surfaces. This intervention is inspired by a successful scheme run by Westminster Council, where the use of the paint led to an 80% reduction in complaints in targeted streets.
- 5.12. The initial roll-out will cover three high-priority streets:
  - Flitcroft Street
  - Porpool Lane
  - Leader Lane
- 5.13. If successful, the initiative may expand to other areas where street urination is a recurring problem.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1. The restructuring of Camden's enforcement services into a multi-faceted Integrated Enforcement Service, is a key step toward achieving a Safer, Cleaner Camden. The primary goal of these changes is to create a safer and cleaner environment, measured by both the community's sense of safety and the visible cleanliness of Camden's streets. Evidence of progress includes a significant increase in enforcement actions, such as Fixed Penalty Notices for environmental offences and targeted patrols addressing anti-social behaviour.
- 6.2. Ongoing and upcoming initiatives, including targeted enforcement campaigns and community projects, clearly reflect the Council's commitment to enhancing public safety and environmental quality. The Council will prioritise the safety and cleanliness of Camden's streets, striving to meet the community's needs and expectations through a transparent, proactive, and community-centred approach.

## **7. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services**

- 7.1 This report outlines the Council's approach towards tackling 'environmental crime' which supports the strategic aim of a safe and clean Camden.
- 7.2 The Integrated Community Safety Enforcement Service was established in April 2024 by merging the Community Presence and Education and Enforcement Teams, alongside the use of contracted enforcement services (Kingdom). The service has followed Camden's organisational change procedures when facilitating the integration of the service.
- 7.3 The service expects the contract to generate sufficient income to cover the costs of the new/expanded service, The income that is generated from on-street enforcement (specifically FPNs) will be reinvested into the Community Safety Enforcement Service.

## **8. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

- 8.1 The legal comments are embedded within the report, the report notes that revenue related to the issuance of statutory fixed penalties is ring-fenced to cover Council costs relating to the Community Safety Enforcement service in line with the relevant guidance.

## **9. Environmental Implications**

- 9.1. The Council remains firmly committed to creating and maintaining a safer, cleaner environment for Camden residents. Through targeted enforcement actions, such as addressing fly-tipping, and other environmental offences, as well as community-focused initiatives like Camden Clean Streets and Operation Waste Watch, the Council continues to prioritise clean streets and

public spaces as a core outcome of its enforcement efforts. These measures not only enhance the physical appearance of the borough, but also contribute to improved perceptions of safety and environmental quality across Camden.

**REPORT ENDS**