

Committee	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	19 April, 2018
Title	Street Enforcement Trial
Cabinet Member	Councillor Gareth Wyn Griffith
Purpose	To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the matter and to seek its recommendation as to the way forward.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 22 September, 2016 the Scrutiny Committee accepted the recommendations detailed in the Street Enforcement Scrutiny Investigation Report. One of the recommendations was for *'the Council to look towards externalising aspects of its enforcement work to add to the internal team. That work should focus on swift enforcement and penalties (FPNs) on a zero-cost basis to the Council (this should be trialled for an initial period of 12 months and subsequently reviewed)'*.
- 1.2 In accordance with this recommendation, an external company was commissioned to undertake the street enforcement trial for a year. The trial commenced in February this year but after only a few days the company's request to bring the trial to an end was accepted.
- 1.3 This Report is for the purpose of providing the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the situation and in order to seek the Committee's recommendation as to the next steps to take.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee's recommendation to undertake a trial was based upon the findings of a public consultation held in 2016 and which showed that residents were in favour of the Council being more firm with dealing with people who dropped litter on the street or allowed their dog to foul paths and pavements. A survey carried out at that time showed that 55% of residents who took part in the consultation were in favour of the Council using an external company to undertake the enforcement work for the purpose.
- 2.2 Subsequent to the Gwynedd Challenge public engagement exercise, the number of staff in the Street Enforcement Unit was reduced from 7 to 5 and in order to achieve an annual saving of £64,500. This also led to the Scrutiny Committee's decision to consider the use of an external company to assist in the enforcement work and at no cost to the Council.

3. POSSIBLE OPTIONS

3.1 The following possible options need to be considered in light of the recent failure of the trial carried out by one company:

- (i) To seek another external company to carry out a trial in the County.

There are at least 2 other companies undertaking this provision although they are not currently operational in this part of Wales.

- (ii) To collaborate with other neighbouring authorities in order to improve the provision.

The Isle of Anglesey County Council is also considering the way forward in terms of its Street Enforcement, and there may also be scope to consider the provision at a regional level.

- (iii) Re-consider the current staffing levels of the Street Enforcement Unit.

This is likely to lead to a demand for an increased budget in order to improve resources.

- (iv) Further interdepartmental collaboration whereby staff from other Council departments are delegated street enforcement powers.

This is already a recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee.

- (v) Seek North Wales Police assistance with street enforcement.

This has been attempted on several occasions e.g. the setting up of a protocol for the purpose. This is subject to, and heavily reliant upon, the priorities and resources of the Police.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked for its recommendation as to the way forward in seeking to improve the provision for the purpose of ensuring the cleanliness and appearance of our streets.