

# CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Report Author: Fay Smith, CSP Co-ordinator**

**Subject: Community Safety Partnership Update**

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### REPORT FOR: INFORMATION

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Community Safety Partnership has a duty to report biennially to the Scrutiny Committee on its work. The Partnership has a range of associated organisations all of whom report basic statistical information to the CSP Co-ordinator who assembles them and reports them to relevant bodies.
- 1.2 Attached as **Appendix 1** is the Activity Report for the relevant period – it contains details about most recent crime statistics; the current priorities of the CSP; amongst other matters of interest; plus additional CSP duties including CONTEST; IOM (Integrated Offender Management); Serious & Organised Crime; and Community Cohesion.

#### 2. DOG FOULING

##### 2.1 SUMMARY

2.2 Members will be aware that a number of papers have been presented to various Committees over the past 24 months regarding this subject. The Community Safety Partnership is now seen as the vehicle within the authority that can best develop the strategies required to tackle the problem as an Anti-Social Behaviour issue that communities can deal with from within.

#### 3 OPTIONS EXPLORED

3.1 Whilst this subject is perceived to be the area most complained about by the residents and elected members of Powys, the level of dog fouling complaints reported to the local authority or the Police does not tend to support this and does not show that there are any `hot spots` within the County.

3.2 Members will recall the invitation from the Police and Crime Commissioner that the local Police Community Support Officers could be trained to issue Fixed Penalty Notices but the police have insisted that in order to participate, that a regional approach should be adopted where all four counties in the region supported such a scheme to improve consistency and reduce costs. Unfortunately the other areas of

Dyfed Powys do not see this as a viable option going forward and so this option cannot be pursued with the police. Given this information there is no merit in Powys County Council pursuing a Public Spaces Protection Order for the County.

3.3 Cabinet recently considered a response to the spotlight review into enforcement action against dog fouling and whether Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) could be empowered to take enforcement action. The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability advised that the CEOs did not have the capacity to take this work on.

3.4 The option of whether Town and Community Councils could be empowered to take responsibility for enforcement action has been explored. It was reported to the Environment, Infrastructure and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee that the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 does not allow for Town or Community Councils to declare their own Orders in respect of dog fouling.

3.5 The potential for a private enforcement company to operate within the County serving FPNs for both Dog Fouling and Littering has also been explored. The Environment, Infrastructure and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee was informed that given the large geographical area of Powys, it was unlikely to be cost effective to employ a private enforcement company to tackle dog fouling.

## **4 PROPOSALS**

4.1 Members will be aware of the financial constraints that the authority finds itself in and whilst this subject is considered anti-social in nature there must be merits in utilising existing resources and arrangements to deliver a viable action plan to tackle this issue.

4.2 There currently exists a Memorandum of Understanding with Dyfed Powys Police with regard to how referrals shall take place between the two organisations. This was created in 2007 and largely remains relevant to the current situation whereby PCSO`s can refer a dog fouling offence to the local authority Environmental Health Service for a fixed penalty notice to be served. This Memorandum of Understanding is currently in the process of being reviewed but it is considered that it will still be relevant going forward.

4.3 A communications plan has been developed to attempt to reduce dog fouling across the county by encouraging dog owners to clear up after their pet. The plan includes the distribution of posters in communities, an ongoing social media campaign highlighting the issues with dog fouling and regular news releases to remind dog owners of their responsibilities.

4.4 It is clear that County Council, Town Council and Community Council Members have a key role to play in creating the atmosphere within their geographical location that highlights the anti-social behaviour aspects of this problem and it is recommended that they encourage their constituents to challenge individuals to report dog owners who do not pick up their dog`s faeces.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
1. That Cabinet acknowledges that the Council cannot proceed with the Police and Crime Commissioner's request that PCSO be authorised to issue Fixed Penalty Notices and on this basis there is no merit in changing the current legislative framework.	<b>The Dyfed Powys Police Authority will not support one local authority pursuing PCSO's issuing Fixed Penalty Notices unless a regional approach is taken</b>
2. That Cabinet notes that the existing Memorandum of Understanding with Dyfed Powys Police is currently in the process of being reviewed but is generally 'fit for purpose'.	<b>That existing arrangements are fit for purpose and so we can continue to work with the police on intelligence gathering and where necessary taking enforcement action</b>
3. That the proposed communication and education strategy detailed in this report is invoked by the Local Authority.	<b>To assist in the delivery of a change in culture in relation to dog fouling</b>
4. That Cabinet acknowledges the role that County Council, Town and Community Councillors have to play in reducing the anti-social behaviour of dog owners who do not clean up after their animals	<b>Communities need to be encouraged to adopt an approach where this issue can be tackled locally</b>

4.5 The above report was presented to Cabinet on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The recommendations were accepted.

Recommendation	Reason for Recommendation
The Committee notes the contents of the Report	For Information only

Relevant Policy (ies) :			
<b>Within Policy</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Within Budget</b>	<b>Y/N N/A</b>

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