

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION: Reduction in the Environmental Crime Team from 5 FTE's to 4	Department: Services for Place
Person responsible for assessment: Brian Graham Person responsible for strategy where different from above:	Date of assessment: 12 January 2012

Brief description of strategy, partners and those who will be affected by its delivery:

The Environmental Crime Team consists of 5 members of staff, 1 Senior Enforcement Officer and 4 Environmental Crime Officers. The team deals with a wide range of environmental crimes from litter to dog fouling to abandoned vehicles as well as stray dogs. The impact of reducing the team by 1 FTE will mean there is a reduced capacity to deal with environmental crime proactively. There will naturally be a reduction in the amount of fixed penalty notices issued which may impact upon litter levels. The team will be more reactive as opposed to proactive. Contact has been made with Street champions throughout the Borough but to date no feedback has been received.

The following financial saving has been identified against this proposal:

2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
£000	£000	£000	£000
£20,000	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000

Introduction

Q.1 Is your strategy and the actions it proposes accessible to everyone within the community? Bear in mind any economic, social, environmental, physical, intellectual, cultural, linguistic, technological or other barriers.

This proposal relates to Reduction in the Environmental Crime Team from 5 FTE's to 4, the service will still continue to be available.

Issue	Yes	No	If yes, what evidence do you have to demonstrate this?	If no, what do you plan to do to remove barriers to access?
Equality Act 2010 Protected characteristics:				
Age	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Disability	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Gender reassignment	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Pregnancy and Maternity	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Race	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Religion or belief	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Sex	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Sexual orientation	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Local Priorities:				
Geographical impacts	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Carers	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	

Issue	Yes	No	If yes, what evidence do you have to demonstrate this?	If no, what do you plan to do to remove barriers to access?
Young People leaving care	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Gypsies & Travellers	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Refugees & Asylum Seekers	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
Unemployed or low income	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	
People with spent criminal convictions	✓		Environmental Crime Team assist all groups throughout the Borough	

Q.2 (a) For whatever reason, does your strategy and the actions it proposes treat any group differently from others?

Yes	
No	✓

If you have answered 'yes', please specify those individuals or groups affected and whether the impact has the potential to be adverse.

N/A

(b) What needs to be done to prevent any potentially adverse impact?

Working with Street Scene cleansing teams, Environmental Crime Unit will continue to ensure those irresponsible members of the public who drop litter, allow their dogs to foul etc are apprehended and prosecuted accordingly.

Furthermore, any litter on the streets is removed by Street Scene. Cleanliness standards throughout the Borough are monitored by the Council's Quality & Environment team at Vicarage Road.

Email Contact has been made with a sample of Street Champions with regard to the proposal.

Hello Street Champions,

As part of our ongoing consultation I have been asked to contact you to take part in a short Equality Impact Assessment exercise. This can be completed on line or by telephone and consists of a few simple questions regarding proposed changes to Street Scene services.

If you would be interested in taking part could you please contact me by Thursday 26th January 2012

No specific feedback or impacts were identified through this mechanism.

An email was received with a comment in relation to this proposal as follows.

Email	01/12/2011	569 PENALTY NOTICES If it continues; increase the fines and make the culprits tidy up in public!
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Q.3 (a) Does your strategy promote equality? (e.g. does it contain actions that demonstrate a consideration of community cohesion and the needs of the members of Darlington's diverse communities)

Reduction in the Environmental Crime Team from 5 FTE's to 4

Yes	
No	

If you have answered 'yes', please give examples of how equality is promoted.

Q.4 In the past three years, have you consulted with any of the following groups regarding the development of your strategy?

Group	Yes	No	If yes, please summarise evidence (Who? When? What were the outcomes?)	If no, are you satisfied that the strategy has no impact on this group?
Age	✓		Consultation events have taken place as part of the 2011/2012 MTFP budget consultation events, these include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation events specifically targeted for disabled, young people and older people • Town Crier publications • Online forums • Talking Together Events • Attendance at local community groups and action groups (i.e. Community Partnerships, Carers) 	
Disability	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Gender reassignment	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Pregnancy and Maternity	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Race	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Religion or belief	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Sex	✓		Please refer to comments above.	

Group	Yes	No	If yes, please summarise evidence (Who? When? What were the outcomes?)	If no, are you satisfied that the strategy has no impact on this group?
Sexual orientation	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Geographical impacts	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Carers	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Young people leaving care	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Gypsies & Travellers	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Refugees & asylum seekers	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
Unemployed or low waged	✓		Please refer to comments above.	
People with spent criminal convictions	✓		Please refer to comments above.	

Street Champions from each Electoral Ward are consulted on proposals.