

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

20 September 2016



Title	Joint Enforcement Team		
Purpose of the report	To note		
Report Author	Jackie Taylor Group Head Neighbourhood Services		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Tony Mitchell	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	Clean & Safe Environment		
Recommendations	To note the work of the JET		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on councils to work in partnership with agencies, including the police to help prevent crime and disorder. In 2014 Management Team agreed to create 4 law enforcement posts to contribute towards Spelthorne's legal responsibility to work with and assist the police to enforce relevant Acts of Parliament, Council bye-laws and issue fixed penalty notices when required.
- 1.2 The 4 officers spend 50% of their time dealing with law enforcement issues and 50% supervising frontline service delivery.
- 1.3 The concept brings partners together and makes more efficient use of existing powers and resources both internally and externally and provides an enhanced customer responsive structure due to the creation of a more flexible law enforcement team.
- 1.4 The Joint Enforcement Team (JET) officers are accredited by the police and have powers delegated to them under the Community Safety Accreditation scheme (CSAS).
- 1.5 Work of the JET is fed into 4 separate groups
 - Borough based projects board - This tasking and co-ordinating group is made up of project leads from the local authority, partners and Surrey Police. This board is responsible for developing and agreeing the operational delivery of the JET at a local level, based on local needs and priorities.
 - Surrey-wide governance board - This board is made up of officer and member representatives from those boroughs with a JET along with project leads from Surrey Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

- Community safety board - members of the community safety board are provided with updates on the delivery of the JET, and look at operating models, lessons learnt, issues encountered, performance changes.
- Surrey chief executives and Surrey leaders' meetings - key stakeholders in broadening the delivery of the law enforcement pilot across further boroughs in the County.

2. Work of the JET

- 2.1 The Spelthorne team have been working in many different areas of enforcement since they became established. Their skills base is increasing as they take on more areas of enforcement.
- 2.2 The Council's primary objective of enforcement is to achieve regulatory compliance based on the principles of 'good' regulation. We recognise that prevention is better than cure. However where circumstances warrant, formal action will be taken. Officers have a wide range of delegated powers and will apply the provisions of the legislation in a way that is relevant and proportionate to the offence.
- 2.3 The JET work very closely with our own legal team to ensure that the best and most appropriate powers are used to deal with the relevant offence.
- 2.4 Initially there was an increase in the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) that were issued by the JET but this has now reduced. There may be many reasons for this but various contributing factors could be:-
- The visibility of the uniformed officers and their vehicles
 - Publicity in all media forms of the team and their work
 - Publicity of offenders details who have been convicted of offences in court
 - Word of mouth
 - The improved response to reports & complaints
- 2.5 During 2016 the Joint Enforcement Team have dealt with the following issues:-

	Illegal Estate Agent Boards	Fly tips	Abandoned Vehicles	General Patrols	Illegal Moorings	Reports of Dog Fouling	Fixed Penalty Notices	Interventions
Jan	10	55	34	52	1	16	8	4
Feb	13	46	33	49	0	15	5	3
Mar	7	72	43	40	1	9	13	16
Apr	14	53	19	50	5	2	5	10
May	5	45	18	35	0	3	3	19
Jun	18	63	22	41	2	4	8	17
July	19	45	17	43	3	3	9	9

- 2.6 In addition to the general day to day issues the team have also spent a lot of time this year dealing with traveller incursions on Council owned land. During 2015 to date we have issued notices to both large and small groups of travellers in line with legal processes on 9 separate occasions. This process

is very time consuming and only prevents the travelling group from a no return on a specified area of land within a period of 3 months.

- 2.7 Earlier this year it was highlighted to us that we could take another form of action to prevent the travellers returning to anywhere in Spelthorne at any time, with the use of a Community Protection Notice (CPN). This process falls within the Anti-Social Crime and Behaviour Policing Act 2014 and we issued 3 notices to 3 separate groups of travellers following a park incursion in July 2016.
- 2.8 Failure to comply with a CPN is a criminal offence, liable on summary conviction to a fine, general arrest powers can also apply.
- 2.9 The court can also issue a seizure notice if the CPN is not complied with authorising the seizure of items that have been used in the offence of failing to comply with the CPN i.e. caravans, dogs, vehicles, quad bikes.
- 2.10 As this new process has only just started it is too early to be evaluated as the longer term effect of issuing the CPN will only be evident when action is taken against travellers who have already been issued with a notice, return to the borough.
- 2.11 The JET also take part in events organised by the Spelthorne Community Safety Team:-
 - (a) **Partnership action days (PADS)** -These events bring together many different partners and departments to have a multi-agency approach to engaging with the community and tackling criminality.
 - (b) **Junior Citizen event** -This annual event brings together pupils from local schools and key partners to learn important lessons on personal safety.
 - (c) **Senior Citizen events** -This annual event brings together older residents from across the borough to help safeguard the elderly community of Spelthorne.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 The JET officers are on the payroll of and fully funded by Spelthorne Borough Council.
- 3.2 It is recognised however that since the JET was formed the PCC office have contributed financially towards operational items including, vehicles, body worn cameras, mobile data terminals and defibrillators.

4. Other considerations

When Surrey Police were located at the Council Offices at Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames, the two-way transaction of joint working and information sharing was significantly enhanced with benefits derived for both Surrey Police and Spelthorne Council. This allowed the Partnership to work smarter and more effectively. Since Policing in your Neighbourhood (PIYN) has been introduced within Surrey Police this relationship has deteriorated significantly.

Background papers: There are none

Appendices: There are none