

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES
CABINET MEMBER**

ENVIRO CRIME – FLYERS / INFORMATION LEAFLETS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To advise on the trial use of electronic mail to communicate with Town and Parish Council Clerks on matters relating to the work of the Neighbourhood Response Team.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT) responds to service requests from the public, Town & Parish Councils and partner agencies relating to enviro-crime and low-level anti-social behaviour. Service requests include noise nuisance, drainage issues, fly tipping, littering, graffiti, abandoned cars, pest control, stray dogs / fouling etc.
- 2.2 The NRT persuades, educates and where appropriate enforces the legislation that covers enviro-crime and low-level anti-social behaviour. Outcomes include changes in behaviour and attitudes, verbal and written warnings, fixed penalty notices, formal cautions and prosecutions.
- 2.3 Enviro-crime and low-level anti-social behaviour follows no particular trends or patterns and occurs at all hours of the day and night across North Lincolnshire. The NRT rarely witnesses offences and much of its work involves investigations and partnership working to detect and deliver outcomes. The NRT's biggest and most influential partners are the general public and Town & Parish Councils as it is in their neighbourhoods and communities that enviro-crime and low-level anti-social behaviour occurs. The public are best placed to know who, what, where and when things happen where they live, work and play. Without reports of incidents from the public and the information, intelligence and co-operation given the work and effectiveness of the NRT would be greatly reduced.
- 2.4 Notwithstanding the above the NRT constantly seeks to develop further its communications and partnership working by way of informing the general public and Town & Parish Councils of the work it undertakes, how and when it may be contacted and what services it can provide to make communities cleaner, safer and greener.

- 2.5 The NRT has sent out two emails, with attached documentation, to Town & Parish Council Clerks in the past eight weeks. The emails and attachments detailed the work being undertaken with regard to dog control, fly tipping, noise nuisance and team information on a ward basis. The emails have been well received by Town & Parish Council Clerks who have expressed their thanks and willingness to receive information via electronic communication in the future.
- 2.6 Furthermore, continued direct electronic communication with Town & Parish Councils Clerks will assist the council in its requirement to reduce the number of avoidable contacts – as required by national performance indicator NI14. The NRT has informed Town & Parish Councils Clerks who to contact in relation to specific events enviro-crime and low-level anti-social behaviour.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1 To formally adopt the process of communicating electronically, collectively and routinely, with Town & Parish Council Clerks.
- 3.2 Option 2 To cease the practice of routinely communicating, collectively and electronically, with Town & Parish Council Clerks.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option 1
- 4.1.1 To formally adopt the process of communicating electronically, collectively and routinely, with Town & Parish Council Clerks. This complies with good practice and proactively seeks partnership working and promotes the work of the council in relation to enviro-crime and low-level anti-social behaviour.
- 4.2 Option 2
- 4.2.1 To cease the practice of communicating collectively and electronically with Town & Parish Council Clerks.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Electronic communication is capable with all the Town and Parish Clerks. Ad-hoc and routine communication will ensure the free passage of information, immediate updates on policy and practice and considerably reduce postage and stationary costs to all organisations.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 Adoption of the practice of electronic communication with Town and Parish Clerks relating to enviro-crime / low-level anti-social behaviour is a further step in the council expanding the range of communication practices and actions being taken to deter and investigate enviro-crime and low-level anti-social behaviour.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Electronic and telephone discussions with Town and Parish Clerks relating to enviro-crime / low-level anti-social behaviour have shown a broad support.
- 7.2 The Reputation Group of the council supports regular and enhanced communications with Town and Parish Clerks.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The NRT formally adopts the practice of regular electronic communication, as appropriate, with Town and Parish Clerks relating to enviro-crime / low-level anti-social behaviour

SERVICE DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD & ENVIRONMENT

Church Square House
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6XQ

Author: Stephen Coulman

Date: 14 May 2009

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report - None.