

CABINET



Report subject	Tender for Fly-tipping & Littering; update on progress
Meeting date	8 March 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	On 23 November 2022 Cabinet considered the report 'WISE Fly Tipping Enforcement Review' and resolved that the pilot be extended to March 2023. Cabinet also approved an extension to the scope of the service, to include investigation and issuing of fines for littering in addition to fly-tipping and fly-posting offences which had formed the basis of the pilot. The report gave authorisation to officers to commence a Tender process to select a contractor. This report provides an update on the Tender process to date.
Recommendations	Cabinet is asked to note the update provided.
Reason for recommendations	To update Cabinet on this key programme of activity.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Bobbie Dove, Councillor Mark Anderson
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Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information

Background

1. On 23 November 2022, Cabinet approved the extension of the pilot for enforcement of fly-tipping and fly-posting offences with the Council's appointed contractor, WISE, until March 2023.
2. It was also approved that a contract commences with a private provider following a Tender process which would include investigations and fines of littering offences in addition to fly-tipping and fly-posting from March 2023.

Update

3. The Tender for Enforcement of Environmental Offences was published on 15 December 2022 by the Council's Procurement Team. The deadline for submissions from providers was 27 January 2023.
4. The Tender required providers to illustrate evidence of experience in investigating littering, fly-tipping and fly-posting offences in a professional manner and in line with the Council's Code of Conduct.
5. As per the Cabinet approval, the cost of the contract to the Council is zero and the specification was that 17.5% of all fines received by the successful contractor were paid to the Council to re-invest in the service. For this reason, the scoring on responses was purely qualitative and not cost-related.
6. During the live tender process, bidders clarification questions were received, logged and responded to via a 'Clarification Log' spreadsheet which was included in the list of attachments for all potential bidders to download.
7. The tender closed at 2pm on Friday 27 January 2023 and the Council received one response which was from Waste Investigations Support and Enforcement Ltd (WISE).

Scoring and Selection

8. Scoring of the tender submission was undertaken by three officers of the Council's Regulatory Services Team during the weeks of 30 January and 6 February 2023.
9. The bidder's quality response was scored individually and each evaluator completed an Evaluator Scorecard which recorded the scores awarded with comments detailing the reasons for the scores awarded.

10. Particular attention was given to evidence of quality service delivery by the provider in other areas and their level of experience. Training plans and Values of the company were also considered carefully.
11. Following completion of the individual quality evaluation, a moderation meeting was held on Thursday 09 February 2023 via Microsoft Teams. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the scores awarded and to review areas of where there were differences in the scores awarded, and to agree single consensus scores for all quality criteria, in line with item 5.4.3.5 of the ITT:
"A moderation process will then be undertaken with the evaluation panel to discuss and agree an overall single consensus Quality Score for each response where individual evaluator scores differed in relation to a Bidder's response to a criteria."
12. Following full and detailed consideration, the contract has subsequently been awarded to Waste Investigations Support and Enforcement Ltd (WISE). Their submission scored well and illustrated a professional approach across all required areas of service delivery and in line the Council's Values and Behaviours.
13. The evaluators were also impressed by the providers added value that they can implement through the contract with modern systems and data capture and seeking to employ locally while being accredited as Real National Living Wage Foundation. Evidence to support plans for performance management while working with Council officers was reassuring and a partnership with Eco Green Communities offers opportunities for education and days of action moving forward.
14. The start date of the full contract is planned for 20 March 2023. A smaller team of officers from the provider will commence littering patrols and continue with fly-tipping and business waste investigations while recruitment to expand to a full complement of six officers takes place.
15. As part of the new contract, 24-hour warnings will be issued to residents inadvertently fly-tipping small amounts of waste by their property. This process will be refined in the early weeks of the service and those engaged will be informed of the full breadth of the new service.

Communications

16. Following Cabinet in November 2022, Regulatory Services Officers have met regularly with a lead officer from the Council's Communications Team. Officers have developed a Comms plan, expanding on the Your Waste, Your Duty Campaign, with the primary focus being to inform as many people as possible that fines will be served for littering, fly-tipping, fly-posting and failure of duty of care, for businesses in particular.
17. Since the launch of Your Waste, Your Duty, there has been a marked improvement on understanding of enforcement for fly-tipping offences and officers are confident this will assist in achieving aims of informing the public that littering is not acceptable and will result in enforcement action.
18. A press release and social media promotion will take place prior to the commencement of the contract and information regarding the service and provider will be included in all Council e-newsletters reaching up to 67,500 residents and businesses.

19. Officers have also discussed opportunities to engage with hard-to-reach communities to help ensure the enforcement and consequences of these offences is understood by as many residents as possible.
20. Finally, discussions have also taken place with the Council's Destination and Culture Team in preparation for the anticipated large visitor numbers from Spring 2023. As outlined in the Cabinet report in November 2022, recent summer periods have seen record numbers of visitors and waste left behind on our beaches and officers hope to expand upon new and existing educational media campaigns for tourists, with this service acting in part as a deterrent to people leaving litter.