

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 17 December 2020

Subject: Housing and Community Services Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor H Whitbread

Recommending:

That the report of the Housing and Community Services Portfolio Holder be noted.

Anti-social Behaviour: Over the last month, 18 ASB complaints have been dealt with and one of these cases has resulted in a Criminal Behaviour Order application being completed for two residents who have caused persistent ASB. They have a court appearance in December.

Covid Compliance: Since the recent lockdown, officers and the Councils police team have been working closely with the Councils Environment Health & Licensing Officers, to undertake joint compliance checks local on premises at weekends. This is to continue as required.

Other services: Virtual “Coffee with Cops” sessions have been arranged for December, where our funded police officers and Senior ASB Officer will present the functions of the CST and how internal members of staff can utilise the team within their job roles.

Safeguarding: The number of safeguarding cases being dealt with remains high at 39 for November and will likely see a further increase during the Covid restrictions. This number includes a rough sleeper and a large number of cases related to poor mental health. Covid is causing difficulties in securing evidence as well as preventing visits to Hoarders properties.

CCTV: There are 3 Rapid Deployment Cameras operating out in the district at present, and 3 more waiting to be deployed. Download requests from the police have been consistent and the team are currently assisting police with the possible knife attack in Debden.

The team are to install new CCTV cameras for HMRC at North Weald Airfield by January 2021 and have received a request to supply CCTV for newly acquired car park behind Centric Parade in Loughton, for Qualis.

Environmental Enforcement: The team have been very busy in recent weeks with a mix of noise complaints (105), general fly-tipping (135), EFDC tenants fly-tipping (45) and 373 service requests. Several Noise abatement notices have been served on properties in Loughton and Waltham Abbey, resulting in Community Protection Warnings being served. In addition, Fixed Penalty Notices have been served for fly tipping around bins in Limes Farm and 3 incidents of fly tipping around the bins at Ongar Youth Club.

Action was taken to remove travellers from the carpark in Darby Drive, Waltham Abbey, including a court hearing on 24 November.