

REPORT TO: Housing and Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 16th September 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director Environment and Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Community Safety Division - Enforcement & CCTV Update

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an annual update to the board on progress and the work programme for Environmental Enforcement & CCTV service areas of the Community Safety & Protection Division.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The report provides an update on the ongoing efforts to address environmental crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) within the community, and the role and effectiveness of closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems in deterring crime, gathering evidence, and improving public safety.
- 3.2 While environmental crime and ASB continues to be a persistent challenge for communities and local authorities, this report details the progress made in utilising our designated powers, effective partnership working alongside other strategies, to mitigate its impact and foster safer environments.
- 3.3 **Environmental Crime & Waste Enforcement**
The Environmental Enforcement Team consists of one Principal Enforcement Manager, two Enforcement Officers, one Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and currently there is a two year fixed term pilot resourcing two Neighbourhood Patrol Officers to August 2026. The permanent is at full establishment, however, there are some ongoing step-up secondments whilst the Enforcement and CCTV Manager post is recruited to and one NPO is currently vacant.
- 3.4 During the operating year 2024/25 the enforcement team have been involved with investigating 295 incidents ranging from a single

refuse sack in an entry to fly-tipping of large amounts of building waste. Other investigations include green waste etc. dog fouling complaints, littering complaints, storage and management of commercial waste generated from business premises, incorrect/nuisance storage of waste receptacles, waste being stored on private land, and other forms of environmental crime.

- 3.5 As a result of these investigations and carrying out interviews under caution in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), Officers have been able to take 335 actions including, the issuing of fixed penalty notices (61), issuing of statutory notices (27), the issuing of advisory and warning letters (233) and securing 14 convictions in Magistrates Court against offenders resulting in a criminal record for each offender and financial penalties totalling £10,272.
- 3.6 This work will align with emerging work on waste and recycling including behaviour change and the borough needing to do more recycling.
- 3.7 A pilot of Neighbourhood Patrol Officers has been established providing two officers patrolling the borough enforcing PSPO for dog control and tackling littering offences. The initiative commenced in September for a period of two years supported by external funding. An initial piece of work was auditing signage across the borough to ensure correct signage to support compliance and enforcement, this identified updated signage at sites across the borough. The NPO's also took the opportunity to be visible and engage positively with residents ahead of direct enforcement.
- 3.8 In practice, the initiative has been challenging, initially recruitment was unsuccessful, it took some time to secure two employees into the posts and staff absence and retention have also been challenging resulting thus far in minimal impact. Further recruitment is underway and the initiative will be evaluated with wider consideration of potential approaches.
- 3.9 For the year ahead the team will be looking at increasing community engagement in order to increase awareness of waste related crime. The team have developed a calendar of campaigns around general waste management, householders responsibility, registration of carriers. The team will take an active role in engaging with private landlords in the Borough to ensure compliance with waste presentation and collection procedures at their tenanted properties.
- 3.10 The team are also progressing arrangements for multi-agency roadside checks with the Police, VOSA, Court Bailiffs and HM Revenue and Customs. These have proved very successful in the past with vehicles being seized, arrests being made and FPN's being issued. Details will be shared during the 2025/26 operating

year.

3.11 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The ASB service consists of one ASB Officer, that covers the whole of the borough. This post was vacant for a lengthy period however, an officer is now established in the role and has developed positive working relationships with our Community Safety partners including the Boroughs Registered Social Landlords, Local Policing Units, Cheshire Fire & Rescue, Adult & Children's Safeguarding teams and the Domestic Abuse team, pooling resources and subsequent powers in order to deal with a wide array of Anti-Social Behaviour.

3.12 In the operating year 2024/25 the service dealt with one Anti-social behaviour case review.

3.13 As an average there are ten open cases being supported by the ASB Officer. The service has also recently secured funding from the Police and Crime Commissioners' Office, as part of a wider Cheshire project, to utilise the services of Remedi, one of the UK's leading facilitators of Restorative Justice services across the youth and adult criminal justice arena who will be offering a mediation service for those cases that meet the threshold agreed through the Problem Solving Group.

3.14 The Council's Enforcement & CCTV Manager provides lead officer support to Halton Problem Solving Group, multi-agency officer sub-group to the Boroughs statutory Community Safety Partnership, Safer Halton which meets monthly to review problem matters to the borough to set out collaborative approaches and agree resources to tackle, manage, mitigate and resolve significant community safety issues in Halton.

3.15 In the next operating year, the ASB Service will be rolling out of a referral process to the Boroughs larger RSL's for the use of Community Protection Warnings and Notices to enable them to manage small scale ASB within their communities.

3.16 CCTV

The service is 24/7 365 days of the year. It has experienced some staff turnover during the operating year with four new Operators joining the team helping to ensure that the service is fully operational. Not only is this imperative for public safety reasons but also ensures that the team can meet the requirements of the Service Level Agreement that is in place for the monitoring of the Mersey Gateway Network.

3.17 The service continues to play a key role in assisting the emergency services in keeping our communities and residents safe. During the 2024/25 operating year the team were involved in **389** persons being detained and stop searched, **153** persons being arrested,

assisted in locating **16** missing persons, and **67** concerns for safety. The Operators have also worked alongside the Police providing observations and intel in relation to numerous operations which has also seen the seizure of a number of illegal e-bikes and e-scooters removed from Halton's streets and the perpetrators dealt with accordingly by the local policing units.

- 3.18 In the next 12 months we will be reviewing our CCTV service with the long-term goal of being able to offer a 24/7 surveillance monitoring service to external users and businesses within the Borough. This will not only contribute to tackling crime & disorder whilst supporting residents to feel safe but would present us with a potential opportunity to generate a revenue stream to the service. There is also a wider work programme in its infancy to future proof the service and ensure a co-ordinated approach to the Councils CCTV needs.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council is required to ensure compliance with the Surveillance Camera Commissioner arrangements set out in the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council have agreed investment into the CCTV service to enable a work programme to invest, advance and future proof the service.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

Enforcement and public surveillance tackle anti-social and criminal behaviours and provides reassurance to the Boroughs residents. How residents feel about where they live impacts on their behaviours and resilience contributing to strong, vibrant communities.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

A safe Halton supports the business sector and economic growth. The CCTV function provides surveillance across the Borough, this provides re-assurance and support to businesses, retailers, and service providers.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The function includes the Boroughs Community Safety Partnership, a multi-agency approach to services to support a safer Halton including anti-social behaviour; this work focusses on seeking proactive measures along with partner agencies to provide

diversionary activities, deter criminal behaviours and risks of exploitation.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

Positive enforcement activities and anti-social behaviour (ASB) interventions can significantly contribute to tackling inequality and supporting vulnerable individuals. By addressing ASB, communities can create safer and more inclusive environments, particularly for those most at risk of experiencing its negative impacts. Effective ASB strategies, including early intervention programs, support services for victims, and community engagement, can help reduce the disproportionate burden of ASB on marginalised groups.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

The division seeks opportunities in its working practice and procurement measures to support delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

The divisions functions aim to address community concerns whilst delivering service for vulnerable residents and working to improve behaviours to improve resident's experiences of where they live.

7.0 Risk Analysis

7.1 Failure to tackle environmental crime, support victims of ASB, facilitating multi-agency responses and adequately provide public surveillance would directly impact the quality of the borough's environment, criminal activity thus impacting the investment proposition and civic pride.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The services are universal. There is focus with marginalised communities to support access to services and respond to cultural and faith needs.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None to report.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

'None under the meaning of the Act.'