

7 November 2023

ITEM: 4

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22/23 Annual Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure

Report of: Councillor Andrew Jefferies, Cabinet Member for Environment, Economic Development and Directional Leadership

This report is Public

Introduction

Around a million pound was spent on parks improvements in the last financial year. The Active Thurrock Partnership continued to link with Active Essex, the County Sports Partnership and secured £20k of funding from the County wide “Find your Active Programme” to respond to the challenges of engaging people who have become less physically active due to the pandemic.

We continued to engage with our communities as part of the Active Places Strategy and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the community groups for their ongoing commitment, hard work, and support to the improvement of the borough.

There were some positive improvements across the waste service during the year i.e., the Authority’s levels of residual waste to landfill remains positive with 0% of our waste going to landfill and the flats’ recycling project was completed, with all flats within the borough having received recycling bins and communications and work was started on procuring a long-term waste treatment contract.

Admittedly, the service also experienced issues, mainly in relation to the operating model which is now being addressed with a series of options that will be delivered to members for consideration.

The Clean and Green teams continued to make steady progress maintaining our parks and open spaces, housing estates and highways land. Support from enforcement colleagues saw some excellent results in terms of littering, flyposting, fly tipping and graffiti. Proactive work of the teams working together resulted in offenders receiving fines and criminal charges, reinforcing our zero-tolerance message.

1. Leisure and Recreation

- 1.1 Leisure and recreation services continue to play an important role in the quality of life and wellbeing of residents. The increased cost of living makes the free access to parks and open spaces a welcomed resource to communities as does a range of choices of affordable leisure pursuits.

2. Active Parks

- 2.1 The Active Parks Team partner with the voluntary sector, community, and sports groups; regeneration colleagues, those from public health, the community safety partnership and youth services to develop parks and play areas by supporting external funding bids to attract investment into the borough. The team project manages the improvement of parks by working with residents, community fora, friends of parks groups and contractors.
- 2.2 The park engagement officers deliver community programmes such as school holiday camps for SEN children, themed programmes such as Thurrock Alternative Olympics and afterschool engagement sessions to reduce anti-social behaviour in parks.
- 2.3 Last year, in addition to supporting over 50 groups and events, the Active Parks Team organised over 70 activity sessions resulting in over 1,000 attendances.
- 2.4 Reflecting resources available, the team has focused on park developments and supporting the above partners as well as a range community groups and Friends of Parks Groups in the delivery of park activities. Some examples of the work of the team include:
- New Outdoor Gym Equipment and ball games area at Delafield Open Space, Little Thurrock.
 - New arial runway slides at Lime Close Open space, Hardie Park, Corringham Town Park and Gobions Park, which also had a new play slide.
 - New separate teenage and toddler play equipment and a junior climbing frame at Aveley Recreation Ground, along with new benches around the park.
 - New surfacing funded in Usk Park with money from Friends of Aveley and Kenningtons Parks.
 - New solar lighting along Grays Riverfront as part of the Safer Streets funding, a partnership Essex Fire and Crime Commissioners officer
 - New football practice goals at Bonnygate Park in a joint project with Thurrock's Housing Department.

- Weekly Outreach engagement and multi-sport sessions at West Thurrock Memorial Park in partnership with Thurrock Community Safety Partnership.

3. Impulse Leisure

- 3.1 Our Leisure services continue to be operated by Thurrock Community Leisure who are a registered Charity that operates as Impulse Leisure. They are a successful social enterprise, providing best value for the residents of Thurrock. All surpluses arising from the delivering the service are invested back into the upkeep and delivery of the three sites at Belhus Park, Blackshots and Corringham.
- 3.2 Since the pandemic the relationship with the charity has become significantly stronger with a regular clear and open dialogue concerning issues and opportunities This operating model has protected the Council from the financial exposure that was witnessed in other authorities throughout the pandemic, energy crisis and cost of living crisis. Impulse have been proactive and resourceful in obtaining sufficient support and funding to manage their way through these challenges.
- 3.3 We have maintained our landlord responsibilities, investing in the pool plant equipment at Corringham Leisure Centre and replaced multiple roof coverings at all three Leisure Centres during 22/23. Impulse have also contributed to further cosmetic improvements and absorbed the loss of income during these closures and disruptions.
- 3.4 The results from this more collaborative approach have seen many increases in performance and support. For example: the number of children learning to swim has increased by 32% over the last year to just over 2800 children per week. Impulse Leisure supported public health, delivering ill health prevention and rehabilitation sessions weekly, which has helped many residents with life restricting conditions such as Alzheimer's, COPD and Parkinson's. The feedback and testimonials from these sessions are exceptional and shows the positive impact on physical and mental wellbeing. Impulse Leisure also provided outreach work linking to many Council services on schemes such as Grub Club, Community Gardens, Children's Services Easter egg and Christmas campaigns.
- 3.5 Impulse are committed to providing further education, and training to help employees progress career opportunities in the leisure industry. Over 75% of their workforce are local people.
- 3.6 The Civic Hall continued to support our cultural offering providing a broad range of shows, events, and activities to meet a variety of genres and

interests. As well as delivering the day-to-day leisure and cultural activities at our facilities.

4. Active Thurrock

- 4.1 Active Thurrock is a partnership that includes key council departments as well as external organisations such as: Active Essex; Impulse Leisure; Thurrock and Brentwood MIND; Thurrock CVS and Thurrock Sports Council who work together to support, promote, and improve physical and mental wellbeing through the provision of activities across the borough.
- 4.2 The partnership works collaboratively to share resources and information whilst identifying priorities to lever in external funding. The partnership secured £20,000 of funding from the County Sports Partnership and commissioned three targeted physical health and wellbeing projects.
1. Football vs Fat weight management programme.
 2. A Community Garden at Belhus Park Leisure Centre
 3. Older persons activity programme at Belhus and Blackshots Leisure centres.
- 4.3 The partnership has also successfully worked with Active Essex on the Find Your Active Small Grants Programme and the Together Fund where over £52,000 was allocated to 16 Thurrock projects.

5. Waste Collection Services

- 5.1 The waste collection function is undertaken by an in-house team and in 22/23 provided a weekly collection of residual waste, dry recycling and kitchen waste, with garden waste collected fortnightly.
- 5.2 April and August 2022 saw significant disruption to collections, The Just Stop Oil protests caused some significant delays in bins being collected, with waste crews unable to gain access or leave the depot on several days. It also affected waste lorries access to the site where household waste is off-loaded for onward disposal, creating additional issues for collections.
- 5.3 In addition, operational factors further impacted on the effective delivery of the service in some areas of the borough during the year. Consequently, in September and October it was necessary to reset the green waste and recycling service with amendments to collection dates to enable the service to get back on track.
- 5.4 The service consequently rebalanced the rounds to create achievable and completable workloads on all rounds., it was necessary to increase the number of rounds from 26 to 28. In addition to this, a ‘buddy’ system was

established (whereby crews help each other out if problems are encountered during the day) for all crews to ensure that all work is completed consistently.

- 5.5 The rebalancing of rounds considered the need to allow for housing growth within the borough. The new rounds were introduced in January 2023. The rounds now have the capacity to absorb growth in housing over the next 12 months, but continuous reviews are taking place to ensure that the service has the future capacity to deliver.

6. Recycling

- 6.1 At year end the reported recycling rate was 29%. Admittedly more needs to be done to promote the benefits of recycling waste, but re-use should be the ultimate goal of any waste management hierarchy.
- 6.2 The Council does not send any waste to landfill, during 22/23 residual waste collected at the kerbside, was sent to an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant in Allington, where waste is turned into heat and power.
- 6.3 During the autumn term the waste team, with the support of its partners visited nine primary schools to deliver an exciting waste education campaign using a special mobile classroom built into a waste truck. Engaging with over 1000 children about recycling, recycling motivations and the planned food waste service which is now due to be rolled out in 2024. The children were very willing to learn and enjoyed the interactive sessions.
- 6.4 This project formed part of our wider waste strategy aimed at educating young people to ensure that they are aware of the issues of waste and how to prevent it and dispose of it correctly.
- 6.5 There was minimal cost to the Council, as through their social value obligations our contractor Ahern's, provided funding for an Education Officer from Essex Wildlife Trust to deliver this project, the Council supported this officer with a member of the team. A mobile classroom was provided by Denis Eagle (our vehicle suppliers) for free as well as some educational packs, which also fulfils their social value obligation from their contract for the purchase of new RCVs.
- 6.6 The Council continued to be part of a reuse scheme for the Forward Motion Cycle Hub Thurrock, in Tilbury, where bikes that would have otherwise been thrown away at the Linford Household Waste & Recycling Centre (HWRC) are donated, repaired and reused to provide affordable bikes for our community.

7. Vehicle Procurement

- 7.1 21 new vehicles were delivered in the summer months of 2022. This included 10 podded vehicles, intended for the concurrent collection of food waste and recycling from 2023, (since deferred to 2024), with food loaded from the side and recycling at the rear. However, following operational testing in the final

quarter of the year it was determined that the vehicles could not be utilised as originally envisaged.

7.2 As a result, the service developed an alternative operating model utilising vehicles with rear collection to ensure all vehicles were being deployed/utilise across all waste streams.

7.3 During 22/23 procurement processes were modified to ensure that the policy to eliminate, where possible, single use plastics across the Council was considered at the point of procurement and existing contracts reviewed to ensure compliance where possible. In addition, directorates and services are now required to ensure conditions for hire and events include the non-use of single use plastics and unnecessary packaging and have put in place monitoring arrangements to evidence action taken and impact.

8. Disposal Contracts

8.1 Waste disposal contracts remained compliant within the requirements of the Council's Municipal Waste Strategy, regarding the proximity principal and all future tender documents will specify that the tipping points must be in Thurrock.

9. Projects

9.1 The flats' recycling project was successfully completed, giving all residents in the borough the same access to recycling facilities. The recycling from flats does present a problem to the Council as it has high levels of contamination and impacts the overall quality of the material sent to the materials recycling facility, we are addressing this through communications with residents and managing agents.

10. Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC)

10.1 The Council has a statutory obligation under S51 of the Environmental Protection Act to provide residents with a facility for the disposal of bulky household waste. The Council operates a single site at Buckingham Hill in Linford. The HWRC continues to operate with high levels of recycling rates (47%).

10.2 The service has reacted to significant changes in legislation regarding Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS), for which additional (separate) containers for the storage of soft furnishings have been installed.

11. Grounds Maintenance

11.1 In addition to maintaining the Council's parks and open spaces, the teams are responsible for grass and hedge cutting and shrub pruning on council managed housing estates, highways land and several public rights of way.

11.2 The Grounds Maintenance teams carry out a seasonal programme of activity with a view to enhancing the appearance of the borough. A full programme of grass cutting took place during the spring and summer, with our last grass cuts being in October 2022. The winter maintenance programme commenced at this point through to the end of March 2023. The winter maintenance included path edging, shrub, and hedge pruning. Individual hedges and shrubs on Council owned land are pruned on a regular basis, depending on plant growth, this was undertaken between August and February to avoid disturbing nesting birds.

12. Play Inspection and Maintenance

12.1 The Play Team continued with their programmed safety inspections and the renovations of many of our play sites, these improvements were not only to address identified safety concerns but to also improve the sites aesthetically. The table below provides a summary of the works conducted.

Park Address	Equipment Painted	Flooring	Comments
Corringham Rec/ Pawes Field	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed
Stanford Rec Ground	Yes	Yes	Various play equipment painted and new bark (approx. 50 tons) in play Area and shuttering
Ruskin Road	Yes	Yes	Various play equipment painted and tiles under swing set repaired
Hardie Road Park	No	Yes	Bark pit had top up (approx. 7 ton of bark)
Bulphan Rec Ground	Yes	Yes	Various play equipment painted, and new bark added to play area (approx. 60-70 tons) and new shuttering all round
Linford Rec Ground	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed
Chadwell Rec	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed
St Francis Way/ Wickham Field	Yes	Yes	Various play equipment painted and tiles under swing set repaired
King Georges Park Daisyfield	Yes	Yes	Various play equipment painted and tiles under swing set repaired Bark pit had top up (approx. 6-7 ton of bark)
Cowper Ave	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed
Blackshots Rec Grounds	Yes	Yes	Various play equipment painted, and gym equipment and graffiti removed skate ramp painted wet por flooring attended to
Hillside	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed
Delafield	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed
Hathaway	No	Yes	Bark pit had top up (approx. 7 ton of bark)
Gobions	Yes	Yes	Various play equipment painted, plus skate ramp and new bark added to play area (approx. 70-80 tons) and shuttering plus basket swing reinstalled
Nutberry Field	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed from climbing wall
Grays Beach	Yes	Yes	Various play equipment (5) rebuilt, new decking side and roof panels painted, and graffiti removed
Keir Hardie House	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed
Brannets wood	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed
Dilkes Park	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed
Bonnygate	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed
South Ockendon Rec	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted, and graffiti removed

Palmeston Gdns	Yes	Yes	New Bark and shuttering , some play equipment painted
Corringham Town Park	Yes	Yes	New Bark and shuttering , some play equipment painted
Balstonia Park	Yes	Yes	New Bark and shuttering , some play equipment painted
Linny Close	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted
Coalhouse Fort	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted
Achorfield	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted
Aluric	Yes	Yes	Various play equipment painted , and Sand topped up
Grays Park	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted
West Thurrock	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted
Lime Close	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted
Averly Rec	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted
Martins Lane	Yes	No	Various play equipment painted

13. War Memorials

- 13.1 The team continued to deliver the scheduled inspections and maintenance of war memorials across the borough and ensured that all the memorials were looking their best for the Remembrance events across the borough.

14. Arboriculture

- 14.1 The tree team ensures that public trees (those growing in roadside verges, parks and open spaces, amenity greens and cemeteries) are well maintained and regularly inspected. All the Council's trees are surveyed on a regular basis and mapped on the Arbortrak system allowing for future inspections and works to be scheduled. The team are also reactive to emergency tree removals following high winds.
- 14.2 The tree team carried out tree planting of 210 trees in the last year continuing with the additional trees provided by the funding from the forestry commission. In addition, "Trees for the Queen" were planted in each ward in partnership with the local community to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. In addition, in February 23 a hazel tree gifted to Thurrock from the Tree of Trees that formed the Queen's Platinum Jubilee sculpture was planted in South Ockendon during a special ceremony.



14.3 The tree team had to carry out intensive watering of the trees planted in the winter over the extremely hot period in July 2022, this was very resource intensive and to assist them we used social media to encourage residents to water their local trees where possible.

15. Cemeteries and Burials

15.1 The service is responsible for the maintenance of twelve burial sites, including seven cemeteries and five closed church yards. During the reporting period the presentation standards within the Cemeteries continued to meet the standards expected. The burials team implemented the use of seasonal staff, resulting in an improved appearance of Thurrock's burial grounds, evidenced by the low numbers of complaints and enquiries received throughout the year.

15.2 It was a busy year for the team having been completed the following:

- Total Burials: 292
- Graves Sold: 130
- Stone Works (additional inscriptions etc.): 67
- New Lawn Memorials: 49
- New Traditional Memorials: 49
- New Cremated Remains Memorials: 17
- New Memorial Kerbs Sold: 9
- Memorial Kerb Lease Renewals: 57
- Transfer of Ownership: 106

15.3 Following consultation which took place during the summer of 2022, The Thurrock Burials and Cemeteries Strategy and associated policies were approved in January 2023. The strategy outlined the Council's aims and

ambitions, including a new crematorium in Thurrock and areas for natural burial as well as actions to further improve the presentation of the cemeteries and ensure adequate burials space in future years.

16. Street Cleaning

- 16.1 The team seeks to ensure the Council’s land is kept clear of litter, waste and detritus as required by the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and associated DEFRA code of Practice on Litter and Refuse. This responsibility includes the cleaning of most roads in Thurrock, including footways, however, the Council is not responsible for: National Highways roads (A13 from borough boundary to A1089, and the A1089), private roads, unregistered land, private alleyways.
- 16.2 The team completed all the required monitoring inspections since the introduction of the new Land Audit Management System (LAMS). This is the system that was put in place after the service stopped using Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) to carry out inspections. As well as using this for the monitoring of street cleansing standards the service also uses LAMS to record when inspections of our parks, open spaces, and cemeteries. Whilst the inspection results showed a good result for Litter for the number of inspected streets showing as a grade A, it shows that more work is needed on detritus and weeds.

Grade	A	B	C	D
Litter	347	790	22	2
Detritus	256	819	81	5
Weeds	199	796	142	9

- 16.3 The focus continued to be on high usage areas, such as town centres and shopping parades. In addition to the street cleansing rounds, a small weekend service operates to ensure bins in the high footfall areas are emptied, and accumulations of litter removed. The team deployed a range of mechanical sweepers to cover both roads and footpaths which followed a regime to ensure all areas of the borough were regularly swept. Towards the end of the year a more mobile approach to deployment was introduced, directing staff to where they were most needed, and making greater use of vehicles to cover larger areas.
- 16.4 The service continued working with colleagues in Children’s and Adults services providing 4 work placements for SEND young people through the governments “Kickstart” Programme.

17. Graffiti and fly tip removal.

- 17.1 The teams continued to carry out large scale clearances of graffiti, working closely with the Enforcement Team to address this ongoing issue. Clearances arise because of service requests coming into the teams and through proactive site visits identifying graffiti. In addition, the team work with

enforcement Officers to remove fly tips once they have been inspected for evidence.

18. Environmental Enforcement

- 18.1 The Environmental Enforcement Team provide high visibility, uniformed patrols across the borough, delivering proactive and reactive robust enforcement support related to enviro crime and some aspects of ASB.
- 18.2 The team strive to ensure the streets are clean and a safer place for the residents and businesses of Thurrock to live, work and play. This in turn will support and encourage growth within the community and greater prosperity for the Borough.
- 18.3 The Environmental Enforcement Officers (EEOs) are accredited through the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) and a summary of their key objectives and priorities is provided below.

Key Objectives

- To reduce all types of environmental crime across the borough.
- Act as a visible deterrent to Crime and ASB across the borough.
- Increase public and business confidence in the local authority and Police.
- Provide a high profiled, frontline, proactive and reactive response to all aspects of environmental crime.
- To promote social responsibility, community cohesion and awareness of the issues around environmental crime.
- To conduct specialist investigations incorporating high level legal, case preparation and case management to pursue those suspected of committing environmental crime within the borough.

Key Priorities

- To proactively monitor and patrol hot spot areas, delivering robust enforcement in connection with fly tipping, littering and Enviro related offences.
 - To respond to and effectively resolve environmental issues raised by residents and elected members.
 - To identify, assess and remove abandoned vehicles promptly.
 - Promote and support the Community Safety Partnership - Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states all relevant authorities which include town and parish Councils have a duty to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on Crime and Disorder in their local area.
- 18.4 The team delivered the below operational outcomes between April 2022 to March 2023:

- Increased partnership patrols between the Council and police leading to an added high visibility, deterrent against crime and public reassurance in support of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership (TCSP).
- Increased partnership operations to tackle graffiti, ASB and enviro-crime such as littering, including nitrous oxide canisters.
- The team have **382** prosecutions utilising the single justice process, for those who fail to discharge their liability of Fixed Penalty Notices.
- Daily distribution of intelligence between internal and external partners regarding offenders and hot spots, resulting in more cohesive and robust enforcement.
- Increased enforcement linked to domestic duty of care fixed penalty notices in accordance with DEFRA guidelines.
- Applying to the Home Secretary to adopt further powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for Highways offences.
- Continued operational evidence and quickly removing criminal “tags” graffiti compiling a graffiti index and working with Police to issue fixed penalty notices.
- In partnership with the Council’s contractor, removed **365** untaxed and **52** abandoned vehicles.
- Increased operational support to partners.
- Vehicle seizure for those offenders linked to fly tipping/duty of care offending.
- HGV Enforcement – tackling Anti-social parking by HGV vehicles.
- Increased Patrols by Twilight Enforcement Team to tackle Crime, ASB weekend enforcement patrols, ASB hot spot locations.
- Out of Hours Patrols in partnership with ASB and Housing officers to tackle substance abuse and ASB is hot spot areas identified across the borough.
- Reduce all types of environmental crime across the borough.
- Act as a visible deterrent to Crime and ASB across the borough.
- Increase public and business confidence in the local authority and Police.

- Provide a high profiled, frontline, proactive and reactive response to all aspects of environmental crime.
- To promote social responsibility, community cohesion and awareness of the issues around environmental crime.
- To conduct specialist investigations incorporating high level legal, case preparation and case management to pursue those suspected of committing environmental crime within the borough.

18.5 The Enforcement Team have a range of powers and will take the required and appropriate enforcement action in line with legislation, policy and procedure. this includes, community engagement, issuance of warnings, enforcement notices, Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and prosecution case work.

18.6 The total FPNs issued for the periods April 22 to March 23 in comparison to 2021/22 are provided in the tables below.

Total Fixed Penalty Notices issued April 22 – March 23

Time frame	Enforcement Contract	In House EEO	Total FPNs
April 22 to March 23	District 4140	1024	5164
April 21 to March 22	Kingdom 4156	1007	5163

18.7 The below tables provide a summary breakdown of enforcement investigations, notices and FPNs issued between **April 22 – March 23**

Section 47 Notice (Commercial Waste Receptacle)	25
Section 34 (Domestic Duty of Care)	3
Section 34 Notice (Commercial Duty of Care)	45
Community Protection Warnings	181
Community Protection Notices	284
Abandon Vehicles investigations	737
Fly tip investigations	2525

Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping	198
Domestic Duty of Care	3
FPN for littering:	151
FPN for breach of CPN	235
FPN for breach of PSPO	50
FPN for Fly Posting inc A boards	262
FPN for failing to have Waste Carriers Licence	20
FPN Failing to comply with Waste receptacle notice	11
FPN failing to produce waste transfer notes	45
FPN for nuisance parking: Vehicle Sales	7
FPN for Abandoned vehicles	42
Unauthorised encampments reported	7
Fixed Penalty Notices progressed to prosecution files for littering offences in the Magistrates Court:	382
Vehicles Seized linked to fly tipping offences	5
Cllr / MP Enquiries / Follow Up	232
Stage 1 / Stage 2 Complaints	20 (non-Upheld)

18.8 The below tables provide a summary breakdown of the Abandon Vehicle removals for the period April 21-March 22 in comparison to 2022/23.

Abandoned vehicle Removals

Time frame	Vehicle removed (non compliance)	Removed by the owner following enforcement intervention	Total Removed
April 22 to March 23	52	17	69
April 21 to March 22	38	38	76

19. Community Engagement

19.1 A community engagement officer working alongside and in support of the EEOs has provided a dedicated uniformed presence promoting community engagement and acting as a deterrent against Crime and ASB.

19.2 This officer has delivered excellent results, improving both internal and external partner relationships and seeking to deliver long term sustainable solutions. The Officer works in close partnership with business owners and act as eyes and ears gathering valuable Intel and information that is shared with Police partners, resulting in increased arrests.

19.3 The below table details the returns the community engagement officer has achieved against their performance measures between April 2022 to March 2023.

Annual Returns Year 22/23	Overall Total
Members Enquiries	9
Service Requests	37
FPN's	52
Notices	30
Site visits	4035
KPI (1) Business engagement visits	2233
KPI (2) High Vis patrol in hours	950
KPI (3) Intel reports	171
KPI (4) Referrals	470
KPI (5) CCTV interactions	142
KPI (6) Community Surgeries	13
KPI (7) Community Operations	7

19.4 Partnership operations - The team have consistently delivered and led on partnership operations aimed at delivering long term sustainable solutions utilising education, enforcement and engineering solutions, including:

- **Community Engagement surgeries** – Monthly pop-up community surgeries are held the last Friday of every month.
- **External partnership working:** Enforcement visit to known Vape store following engagement Intel. A joint search was conducted and 778 prohibited vape products were seized. Total value over £8,000
- **Operation Abercrombie** - To target and reduce graffiti offences, to evidence and support quick removal of graffiti tags. To also provide Police partners with information on gang related intelligence.
- **Operation Abbey-** Removal and prosecution of fly poster and fly sticker offenders in Grays Town Centre. The Environment Enforcement Team, working in partnership with Cleansing local businesses completed the removal of fly stickers and fly posters within Grays High Street which have a negative impact on the aesthetic view of the town centre. A co-ordinated clean-up day was organised in partnership work with local business owners, Council officers, street cleansing team and the Enforcement Team. A Total 170 unlawful fly stickers found and removed on shop fronts and fly posters resulted in 45 x FPNs issued
- **Operation Afton-** Working in partnership and patrolling with street cleansing team to identify fly tipping hot spots and identify offenders. A total of 12 x Fixed Penalty notices being issued for fly tipping.

- **Operation Adel** – Working in partnership with Trading Standards Team and Essex police enforcing on unregulated container yards. A total of five stolen motorcycles being recovered. Stolen pharmaceuticals to the value of £1.5 million, 2 x Fixed Penalty Notices issued in relation to waste duty of care and 1 x Notice in relation to waste transfer notes.
- **Operation Addlestone** - To tackle the ASB, Commercial waste in Towers Road and surrounding Industrial area.
- **Operation Allott** - Working in partnership with commercial waste team to identify those businesses breaching their duty of care in relation to duty of care and waste receptacles. A total of 11 businesses were issued with enforcement notices.
- **Operation Cue** – Supporting Essex Police operation Caesar targeting garages being used to store stolen vehicles or vehicles concerned in Anti-social behaviour of quad bikes and motorcycles. A total of 6 x motorcycles were recovered
- **Operation Cape Jarvis** – Working closely with Essex farmers and Rural Engagement Team to tackle fly tipping on rural land. The Environment Enforcement Team, working in partnership with Thurrock Farmers, cleansing teams and police, targeted local fly tip hot spots in Operation Cape Jarvis. This Operation was very successful resulting in the detection of 50 x fly tipping offences, 13 littering offences and the seizure of 7 vehicles for fly tipping.
- **Operation Collie** – Working with residents and businesses and the cleansing team successfully cleared 3 alleyways of waste, including removal of 17 tonnes of waste from 1 alleyway.
- **Operation Croydon** – Community engagement team have successfully moved on 50 mopeds warned in relation to parking on the High Street.
- **Operation Fat-** Environment Enforcement Team Leading operations with Essex Police linked to illegal waste carriers, stopping, and inspecting over 89 vehicles, resulting in 26 x FPNs for noncompliance, 2 uninsured vehicle seizures, and vehicles being seized for being in un-roadworthy condition.
- **Operation Irish Lions** – The Environmental Enforcement Officers worked with Essex Police on 10 x Irish Lions Operations during April 2022 to March 2023 of car cruising in West Thurrock. A total of 44 x Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for offences linked to the breach of the Public Space Protection Order concerning car cruising anti-social behaviour. In addition, 12 x Fixed Penalty Notices relating to other offences, 5 x Community Protection Warning Notices concerning the anti-social use of Nitrous oxide Canister's.
- **Operation Canberra** -The Manor way, Stanford-le-Hope is a known hotspot location for HGV parking, but this area has not been decriminalised, which means the Parking Team is restricted from using their Civil Enforcement powers at this location. Our inability to issue PCNs on The Manor way makes it an inviting hotspot for HGV nuisance parking, littering and ASB out of hours. Alternative enforcement solutions were required and explored resulting in Operation Canberra. An enforcement initiative that successfully gathered vital evidence in support of criminal enforcement action against the nuisance HGV

parking, under Section 43 of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. Total Community Protection Warnings (CPW) issued = 141. Total Community Protection Notices (CPN) issued = 47. Total Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued linked to breach of CPN = 239

- **Operation Community** Working in partnership with Essex Police Towns Team to enforce the Public Space Protection Order in Grays Town Centre, parks and cemeteries. This is to deter substance abuse, street drinking, dog fouling, and associate ASB. This has resulted in 9 x Public Space Protection warning notices being issued, offensive weapons recovered. 3 x referrals to supports agencies in relation to substance abuse.

19.5 The team are part of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) The CSAS devolved powers, authorised by Essex Police, enable the team to wear a high visibility and professional uniform with the CSAS logo and provide them with the following: -

- Power to issue penalty notices for disorder.
- Power to issue fixed penalty notices for cycling on a footpath.
- Power to require giving of name and address.
- Power to deal with begging.
- Power to require name and address for anti-social behaviour.
- Power to require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol.
- Power to seize tobacco from a person aged under 16.
- Power to issue FPN for persons believed to be causing harassment, alarm, or distress.
- Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 or allowing such consumption.