

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

**COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN  
DATE: 28 MARCH 2019**

### **PARKING SERVICES**

Parking Services provides a range of services to support the highways and network management of the Council. The service is a statutory requirement under the Traffic Management Act 2004 with car parking being one of the key elements in managing the highway network. The overall aims are:-

- Balance the needs of a varying number of road users whether for business or personal use
- To maximise the safety and minimise congestion effects of on-street and off-street parking and the Highway Network as a whole
- To improve quality of driving for all traffic network users.

#### **Pay and Display**

January and February are traditionally the quietest months for town centre parking. In January a total of £62,936 was collected from our Pay and Display machines, this was an increase of £11,705 on the previous year. This increase is mainly due to the success of Brown Street Car Park and the extension in May 2018 and the introduction of 20p tariff increase and Sunday charging in October 2018. The £62,936 generated in January came from 39,783 transactions, giving an average transaction of £1.59p.

### **PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE**

#### **Preparations for No-Deal Brexit**

The Public Protection Service has been assessing the potential impact of a no-deal Brexit on the service, based on the available Government guidance, to feed into the Corporate preparations.

Short term, no significant changes to legislation are anticipated, beyond renaming it; therefore, while the provisions will remain the same, all legal documentation referring to EC directives will have to be updated to remain valid. As legislation does change in the medium term, significant officer time is likely to be lost to training.

Medium term, there are concerns about potential risks posed by any decision to relax border controls to ease the flow of goods, and the areas of food and product safety are a particular concern. Should this happen, it could be exploited by serious and organised crime gangs to increase the importation of illicit goods. Public Protection will continue to monitor the situation and report any deterioration of standards in the respective markets.

### **Trading Standards Intelligence Operating Model**

The Trading Standards team is adopting a new mechanism to prioritise its work. The Intelligence Operating Model (IOM) has been developed by National Trading Standards to encourage TS teams to move to problem oriented policing of the fair trading environment.

The IOM is used by national Trading Standards and regional Trading Standards investigation teams, so it makes sense to align Blackburn with Darwen's processes with these.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### **YOUR CALL**

Since January 2019, there have been 2 Your Call clean up events arranged with the Council. However, these events have been added to by the efforts of the Keep Blackburn Tidy and Keep Darwen Tidy Facebook groups. Both of these groups continue to help keep the borough looking clean, whilst also helping with the health and wellbeing of the community.

The Environment department has provided these groups with equipment and tools and they have started to organise their own clean up events, independently of the Council. Since January, we have issued 93 new volunteer packs and the total number of community litter picking volunteers now stands at 625.

#### **WASTE ENFORCEMENT**

The Enviro-crime team have been successful with 7 prosecutions regarding waste offences across the borough, with 6 households being fined £660, plus £200 costs for accumulating waste on their properties and another household being fined £140, plus £250 costs for allowing dog waste to be stored and accumulate within their rear yard.

#### **GARDEN WASTE**

In February 2018, we delivered calendars and subscription packs, including stickers to 10,400 subscribers. In February 2019, calendars and subscription packs were delivered to 9,900 subscribers, which is a reduction of 500 subscribers.

However, it should be noted that the Council has increased the cost of the green waste service by £5.00 per bin per year. So whilst the number of subscribers has reduced, income generated by the service has actually increased. It is also pleasing to note, that since the green waste service commenced on the first weekend in March 2019, we have enrolled a further 1100 subscribers with more residents signing up each day.

#### **NEW TOWN CENTRE TEAM**

The Environment management team have redesigned the Blackburn town centre service to build on the recent success with Blackburn winning three Britain in Bloom awards in 2018, namely:

- Best BID Award 2018
- Gold Award 2018 in the BID Category
- Gold Award 2018 in the Town City Centre Category

The street cleansing and grounds maintenance team are being merged in March 2019. We are confident that this new team, working in partnership with Blackburn BID will make a significant and positive improvement to Blackburn town centre.