

Title – Removal of Warden Service

Intended Outcome

The proposal involves the removal of the Amenity Service Environmental Wardens. This will require the downscaling or stopping of our environmental enforcement activity, or the reconfiguration of enforcement activity within Roads and Infrastructure Services, e.g parking enforcement staff getting more involved in environmental enforcement.

This will involve the deletion of 5 posts at SLGE 7.

Description

This service is delivered across the four geographical areas by 5 staff. The duties provided by the Warden service are as follows.

- Litter enforcement – Issuing fixed penalty notices, undertaking joint patrols with Police Scotland. Speaking to schools regarding local issues. Lettering parents of offending children.
- Fly tipping – Liaising with land owners and other agencies. Issuing fixed penalty notices/reporting to Procurator Fiscal. Where appropriate clearing site/arranging for site clearances.
- Dog control – Investigating complaints and when necessary issuing dog control notices. Monitoring said notices and re-assessing the case ensuring compliance with the notice.
- Dog fouling – Investigating complaints, patrolling problem areas, issuing fixed penalty notices, erecting signage. Educating irresponsible owners on good dog ownership.
- Stray dogs – Removal of stray dogs to pre-arranged boarding kennels for the statutory 7 day period, trained to check for micro-chips, occasionally the service has been involved in the re-homing of dogs.
- Car parking - Assisting Car Parking Services with additional patrols, issuing parking tickets if required. On a daily basis throughout the summer months uplifting monies from car parking machines.

- Abandoned vehicles – Investigation, uplift and removal.
- Enforcement of waste collections – Reducing excess waste, encouraging full recycling of household waste, ensuring non contamination of recycling.
- Commercial waste duty of care (commercial agreements) - Ensuring businesses are compliant with Duty of Care, assessing the refuse requirements of businesses, reducing excess waste.
- Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) – Undertake monthly LEAMS surveys, collate information
- Pest control – Deliver a pest control service to other departments, external customers and pest control of public areas, follow up visits.
- Education – Providing informative talks to schools and community groups. Promoting public campaigns. Attending public events. Working with partner agencies ie landlords, housing associations, speaking to businesses with regards customer habits ie cigarettes outside pubs.
- Travelling Persons Sites – Liaising with persons on site, internal and external agencies. Supply of black bags and arranging uplift whilst persons in situ. Monitoring area for waste deposits. Liaising with social work and education colleagues if there are persons within the encampment that require their services.
- Second domestic bin monitoring – Assess applicants and undertake annual reviews, arrangements for delivery and uplift of bins, applying stickers to bins on annual renewal visit.
- Monitoring and approval of assisted pull-outs - Assessing and reviewing assisted pull-outs.
- Graffiti – Liaise with partner agencies to investigate. Arrange/undertake removal of graffiti from council property.
- Fly posting – Investigation, removal of fly posting.

- Community Clean Ups – Liaising with groups to drop off equipment (black bags, litter pickers etc), arranging for uplift on completion of clean up, offering advice.
- Attending Training – Attending internal and external courses to ensure they are kept up to date with any changes in legislation.
- Admin tasks – Collating monthly Pyramid information, responding to enquiries in person, via email and telephone (for the year 2017 the Wardens had to respond to **4776** enquiries). Collating information for FOIs. Keeping accurate records.
- Enforcement – Investigation, issuing of fixed penalty notices and reports to the Procurator Fiscal.
- Liaising with Housing Associations and other agencies such as Police Scotland, SEPA and SSPCA

It should be noted that due to legal requirements the following tasks cannot be reduced or cease.

- Dog control
- Stray dogs
- Travelling people encampments
- Abandoned vehicles – could be dealt with by the Roads Department
- LEAMS

The Warden service is involved in delivering a wide range of tasks which have a high public expectation in local service delivery. This is an extremely stretched service in delivering the above duties with only 5 permanent employees across the Argyll and Bute area.

The following are the detrimental effects of removing this service.

- The detrimental effect would most certainly cause a Public Backlash
- Environmental impact, additional litter, cigarettes, dog fouling, fly tipping etc this would tarnish the Council's image
- Impact on Tourism and Economic Development, visitor numbers would drop and residents using amenity areas and town centres would fall
- Loss of income from commercial waste – these duties would still be required to be carried out by other members of staff
- Loss of income from pest control

- Increase to Council for pest control services undertaken by Private Contractors on council buildings/grounds

How does your proposal align with strategy?

This proposal is linked to the current budget savings requirement ensuring the Council's shortfall in budget is achieved.

Lead and Appropriate Officers

Lead Officer	Job Title	Service
Andy Summers	Head of Service	RIS
Appropriate Officer	Job Title	Department
Tom Murphy	Operations Manager	RIS

Who will deliver the proposal

Tom Murphy

Signed Off By	Date

Evidence

Data – what data have you used to inform the IIA?

Number of fixed penalty notices issued in previous years.

Other information – This may include reference to reports by other people/organisations relevant to the impacts you identify.

Consultation – What consultation/engagement have you carried out to inform the IIA?

Discussions have taken place with all potentially affected teams to date on two occasions.

Gaps in Evidence – Are there any gaps in evidence?

There has been no consultation with Community Councils, the public or partners.

Knock on Effects

Knock-n effect – will your proposal have knock-on effects?

Yes

Knock on Effects Details

The removal of the Warden service would have a knock-on effect as follows.

- The detrimental effect would most certainly cause a Public Backlash
- Environmental impact, additional litter, cigarettes, dog fouling, fly tipping etc this would tarnish the Council's image
- Impact on Tourism and Economic Development, visitor numbers would drop and residents using amenity areas and town centres would fall
- Loss of income from commercial waste – these duties would still be required to be carried out by other members of staff
- Loss of income from pest control
- Increase to Council for pest control services undertaken by Private Contractors on council buildings/grounds

Monitoring

How will you monitor the impacts of your proposal as it progresses?

The monitoring of the impact will be assessed through future LEAMS scoring. Also through negative publicity, complaints, fly tipping and littering.

Fairer Scotland Duty

Impact on service users

Mainland Rural Population	Island Population	Low Income	Low Wealth	Material Deprivation
Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	No impact
Area Deprivation	Socio-Economic Background	Communities of Place	Communities of Interest	
Negative	No impact	Negative	Negative	

Impacts on service users details

This will have a negative visual impact

Don't knows identified

Impact on service deliverers

Mainland Rural Population	Island Population	Low Income	Low Wealth	Material Deprivation
Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	No impact
Area Deprivation	Socio-Economic Background	Communities of Place	Communities of Interest	
Negative	No impact	Negative	Negative	Negative

Impacts on service deliverers details

Reduction in service will further reduce the aesthetic appearance of Argyll and Bute for visitors and residents as well as loss of income for pest control and commercial waste.

Due regard

No Impact Justification (To be completed if the screening has shown you do not have to complete this impact assessment)

Consumer Duty

Does your proposal affect individuals, businesses or both?

Both

On the basis of your assessment, what are the likely impacts of your proposal?

Choice	Fairness	Redress	Safety
Negative	No impact	Negative	Negative
Information	Access	Representation	
Negative	No impact	Negative	

Describe the positive impacts you have identified

Describe the negative impacts you have identified

The Choice to remove is negative due to the aesthetic appearance of the area.

Regarding Redress, the service still suffers from previous savings options with towns and villages having a poorer perception, therefore further savings will make the situation worse and put pressure on other services.

The reduction in service will have a health and safety aspect through additional litter, dog fouling etc

If not communicated properly the impact of this proposed saving will be viewed worse than expected by residents and visitors.

This saving will result in further representation regarding standards as it will have an environmental impact with additional litter, dog fouling, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles etc

What alternatives have you considered which can improve outcomes for customers and/or reduce harm?

There are no alternatives.

How have you reduced harm to consumers through the development of your proposal?

No

If you have not been able to reduce harm to your consumers, why not?

Potential harm will come from a reduction in dog control.

No Impact Justification (To be completed if the screening has shown you do not have to complete this impact assessment)

Children's Rights and Wellbeing

Direct and indirect impacts on children and young people

Are there any aspects to your proposal which directly impact on children?

No

Are there any aspects to your proposal which indirectly impact on children?

Yes

Describe which groups of children and young people are affected by your proposal.

All children

How are these groups you have identified affected by your proposal.

Reduction in the control of dogs and stray dogs. Increase in dog fouling due to no visible presence to act as a deterrent.

Children's rights

Article 2: (non-discrimination) No impact	Article 3: (best interest of the child) No impact
Article 6: (life, survival and development) No impact	Article 12: (respect for the views of the child) No impact

Have you identified any other articles as being relevant to your proposal?

No / Yes (The system defaults to 'no' if you don't answer this question. List of articles is available in the guidance.)

What articles are relevant to your proposal? (This, along with the following five questions, appears if you answer 'yes' to having identified other articles as being relevant.)

If you have identified any positive impacts, describe what these are?

If you have identified any negative impacts, describe what these are?

What options have you considered to reduce negative impacts?

If you cannot implement measures to mitigate impact why not?

If you have identified relevant articles for which you don't know what the likely impact will be, how will you monitor impact as your proposal progresses?

Children's wellbeing

For each wellbeing indicator, review whether your proposal will result in an improvement to children's wellbeing or not. (More information about the indicators is given in the guidance.)

Safe Negative	Healthy Negative	Achieving No impact	Nurtured No impact
Active No impact	Respected No impact	Responsible No impact	Included No impact

For the indicators where you believe your proposal will result in reduced children's wellbeing, explain what these reductions will be.

For the indicators where you believe your proposal will result in improved children's wellbeing, explain what these improvements will be.

If you have identified any indicators as being relevant to your proposal, but you do not know what the impacts will be, explain how you will monitor impact as your proposal progresses.

No Impact Justification (To be completed if the screening has shown you do not have to complete this impact assessment)

Island Communities

How many islands does your proposal affect?

All

Which islands are affected by your proposal?

Bute, Islay and Mull

Does your proposal impact on island communities...?

Demography	Economy	Society
Negative	Negative	Negative

Describe any positive impacts you have identified.

Describe any negative impacts you have identified.

Reduction in service will further reduce the aesthetic appearance of Argyll and Bute for visitors and residents

If you do not know what the impacts will be, you should reflect this in your monitoring arrangements for the proposal.

Describe how your proposal affects the islands communities you have identified differently from other communities including other islands communities and mainland areas.

How will you ensure your proposal delivers equivalent levels of service to the islands communities you have identified compared to other areas, including mainland areas? (In your answer you should include descriptions of:

- alternatives you have considered to improve or mitigate the impacts identified,
- how you have reduced negative impacts on islands communities, and
- how your mitigations will vary between communities, if relevant).

If you have not been able to mitigate impacts, why not?

No Impact Justification (To be completed if the screening has shown you do not have to complete this impact assessment)

Equality impact

Equality impact on service users

Disability	Race	Marriage and civil partnership	Religion or belief	Sex
Negative	No impact	No impact	No impact	No impact
Pregnancy and maternity	Age	Sexual orientation	Gender reassignment	
Negative	Negative	No impact	No impact	

Impact identified

Due to the removal of the service there may be trip hazards due to littering which may create unnecessary tip hazards for people with disabilities, those who may be pregnant and the elderly.

Don't knows identified

Equality impact on service deliverers

Disability	Race	Marriage and civil partnership	Religion or belief	Sex
No impact	No impact	No impact	No impact	No impact
Pregnancy and maternity	Age	Sexual orientation	Gender reassignment	
No impact	No impact	No impact	No impact	

Impact on service deliverers

Don't knows identified

Due regard

No Impact Justification (To be completed if the screening has shown you do not have to complete this impact assessment)