

ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-IDLING POWERS PROGRESS REPORT

Head of Service: Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
Wards affected: (All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:
Appendices (attached):

Summary

This is a progress report into the adoption and implementation of anti-idling powers.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note the updates contained within this report**
- (2) Approve the steps outlined in section 2.5 relating to communication, engagement and enforcement using these anti-idling powers.**

1 Background

- 1.1 In October 2021 a paper was brought to this Committee recommending the adoption of anti-idling powers by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council.
- 1.2 The report delegated authority to the Head of Housing and Community to
 - 1.2.1 Develop, produce and keep updated policies and procedures for the introduction, service and management of enforcement powers under the 2002 Regulations;
 - 1.2.2 Authorise and train relevant officers, or any other person, to stop the commission of stationary idling offences and issue fixed penalty notices ("FPNs") under Pt 6 and Pt 7 of the 2002 Regulations.
 - 1.2.3 Where appropriate seek relevant permission from Surrey County Council for the erection of signage for enforcement of the 2002 Regulations.

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1.2.4 Launch a public education campaign on the 2002 Regulations in January 2022.

1.2.5 Report progress to Environment and Safer Communities Committee in March 2022.

2 Update

2.1 The powers for enforcing anti-idling will sit primarily with the newly created Environmental Enforcement team with support from Civil Enforcement Officers and Environmental Health Officers.

2.2 In January 2022 a new position of Enforcement Supervisor was recruited to and recruitment is now underway for Enforcement Officers to work within this team.

2.3 The operational anti-idling policy has been prepared and training in line with this policy has been provided to existing staff and will be provided to the new recruits in the Enforcement Team.

2.4 Surrey County Council have been initially approached and are happy to review and co-ordinate with the Borough Council on any highway signage proposals.

2.5 A Communications plan has been proposed as follows:

2.5.1 To notifying all staff, and in particular those who drive Council vehicles, of the campaign to ensure that we do not receive any negative feedback in relation to our own fleet. This will be communicated via Staff Update and to Operational Managers and Supervisors. (Q4 2021/22).

2.5.2 To use the Council's social media platforms to inform the public of these adopted powers and to relay anti-idling messages. To share these messages with key partners such as the police and taxis licensed by the Borough. (Q4 2021/22).

2.5.3 To undertake an initial engagement and education campaign in Council car parks and around any public locations such as Epsom Railway Station where idling may occur. (Q4 2021/22).

2.5.4 To engage with local schools to seek co-operation in displaying anti-idling messages and to carry out engagement and education patrols outside various schools at drop off and collection time. (Q1 2022/23)

Steps 3 and 4 will involve co-operation with Surrey County Council in terms of permission to erect signage on the Highway and co-operation with their education teams to promote and co-ordinate the messaging.

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- 2.5.5 As the year progresses the patrols in Borough Car Parks, known hotspots and outside schools can continue but with a greater emphasis now being placed on enforcement if vehicle owners do not comply.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

3.1 Impact Assessment

- 3.1.1 None for the purposes of this report.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

- 3.2.1 None for the purposes of this report.

3.3 Safeguarding

- 3.3.1 None for the purposes of this report.

3.4 Dependencies

- 3.4.1 None for the purposes of this report.

3.5 Other

- 3.5.1 Epsom & Ewell Borough Council staff will be required to approach vehicles and their owners in order to engage with them. This may involve asking them to switch off their engines and if they do not comply then issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice. In cases such as this body worn cameras will be activated to try to deter any action of an abusive nature being directed towards the officer.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 It is anticipated that most people will comply with a request to switch off their engine but a small income may be generated for the Council from Fixed Penalty Notices should drivers ignore the request and warning.
- 4.2 The cost for signage will be met from existing budgets for signs.
- 4.3 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Any income generated from Fixed Penalty Notices relating to anti-idling will support the funding of the service.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Legal requirements have been addressed in the October 2021 Committee report.

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5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** none arising from the content of this report

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

Effective Council, Green and vibrant

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:**

The adoption of anti-idling powers is included in the Climate Change Action Plan.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**

Reducing engine idling will improve air quality in key locations across the Borough.

6.5 **Partnerships:**

The Council will seek to work with schools and with the County Council to encourage drivers to switch off their engines when stationary.

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- October 2021 – Adoption and implementation of anti-idling enforcement powers

Other papers:

- Climate Change Action Plan