

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Enviro Crime and Dog Control Manager

Officer Making the Decision

Chief Executive

Recommendation

That the 12-week pilot for Littercam is approved and funds are made available to enable the loan of cameras and access to software from Litter Cam for a pilot period of 12 weeks.

The use of the cameras and detection software will enable the Council to issue penalty notices for littering from a vehicle. The pilot is likely to be self-financing, but this will be subject to people depositing litter from their vehicle within the camera range.

The estimated dates would be May to August 2023.

Reason

To sanction those people who deposit litter from their vehicle and also to act as a deterrent to prevent others from depositing litter from vehicles. To change hearts and minds of people living in and visiting the Borough about effective litter disposal.

Authority for Decision

At the SLT meeting on 5th April 2023 it was agreed to go ahead with the 12-week pilot of LitterCam following a presentation by the Enviro Crime and Dog Control Manager.

Decision and Date



Robert Mitchell (he, him, his)

Chief Executive

12th May 2023

Background

Charnwood like other towns and cities in the UK suffers from roadside litter being thrown out of moving vehicles, this is both unsightly and detrimental to the overall environmental quality.

Currently there are powers in place to sanction those people who are caught in the act of depositing litter from a vehicle, but these offences must be witnessed either by an officer, a member of public or by images captured with a camera.

Since the powers were introduced, Officers and members of public were the source of reports of littering which was enforced using witness statements. Since then, there has been a reduction in staff resource over the years which has meant that the number of people fined for this offence has decreased so an alternate method of capturing these offences needed to be sought.

Litter Cam (LC) offers loans of cameras and access to their analytics software to potentially enforce against motorists depositing litter in the borough from their vehicles.

LC's software automatically pinpoints any objects coming out of a vehicle, electronically tracking the arc of each item as it falls to the ground. They are highlighted within a red 'box' that appears on the screen. LC's software can run in real time on a LC server housed in a lamp column mounted cabinet. The software can also use CCTV cameras. Unfortunately, the existing CCTV cameras at Charnwood are not currently fit for this purpose so they cannot be used.

With this new technology deployed across the borough the council can enforce against items such as fast-food cups, burger boxes, empty drink cans, cigarette stubs and crisp packets being discarded from motor vehicles.

LC will help reduce the frequency of litter clearance; reducing the level of exposure to risk during litter clearance, freeing up resource to focus on other essential tasks and reducing the volume of pollutants entering the watercourse.

LC uses a sustainable, lamp column based mounting approach, enabling the rapid and low-cost redeployment of equipment until such time littering behaviours change. LC is a complete, cloud-based, managed service solution, minimising the load and involvement of IT teams.

LC's software provides clips of footage that can then be reviewed by the CBC enforcement team who can then issue penalty notices. LC's equipment can be placed in strategic locations where littering is common, and they will be able to detect litter items as small as cigarette stubs.

If a vehicle is caught committing a littering offence by the software, the footage will be sent to nominated officer who will be able to find out the vehicle's registered keeper via DVLA records, and a subsequent Penalty Notice (PN) could be issued.

Councils outside of London have designated Parking Contravention Code 75 (Littering from A Vehicle) as the method of conducting this type of enforcement via CCTV.

It is proposed to locate the equipment at two locations near fast food outlets where there is a large amount of vehicle movement with traffic lights at junctions where it is shown that people are likely to throw litter from a vehicle

The trial period is for 12 weeks. There will be two locations used within the 12-week period, the camera will be moved after 6 weeks in location one.

In order to ensure people are aware the cameras will be live and operational; the council will publicise the use of cameras with the public. These messages will advise people that the council is undertaking enforcement of littering from vehicles. This will form good practice to let people know there is enforcement taking place and will also let residents know that the council is taking proactive action against littering

Financial Implications

This project should be self-financing from penalty notices issued following positive detections derived from the analytics software. Estimated cost for this 12-week period is £16.9K which is expected to be offset in full by fixed penalty income

The current cost of a littering from vehicle penalty is:

Discount rate	£75 (if penalty paid within 14 days)
Full rate	£150 (if penalty paid after 14 days but before 28 days)
Elevated rate	£300 (if penalty remains unpaid after 28 days)

In order to easily confirm this project is self-financing a new expenditure code (N400 D0128) will be used for the technical costs and an income code (N400 J0487) will be used to collect the receipts paid for the penalty notices,

All income received will be processed by the Chipside Case Manger system which is used to process all other fixed penalty notices.

The technical set up costs of circa £4938 would need to be paid upfront. The cost for the software would also need to be paid upfront.

Risk Management

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Risk Management Actions Planned
Insufficient penalty notices issued to break even	low	low	Low (3 - 4)	Locations must be thoroughly researched, and camera moved at 6 week point to maximise the likelihood of positive detections
Collateral intrusion of camera	low	low	Very Low (1 - 2)	The camera is fixed and will not face any private properties

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: Full financial breakdown

Litter Cam – Financial Breakdown

Set Up costs (A)	Supplier	Quantity	Description	Cost	Total
Calibration	LitterCam	1	Calibrate 2 x cameras for image quality	1400	1400
Engineer	LitterCam	1	Engineer to put cameras up (day rate)	650	650
Structural survey	Roch/Kiwa	2		600	1200
Traffic Management	LCC	2	Engineer to pass streetlamp approval	144	288
Electrical Supply	LCC	2	RCBO and Commando socket @£700	700	1400
Sub Total					4938
Running costs (B)					
Pilot					
11,950	LitterCam	1	Loan of camera for 12 weeks + software		11950
Sub Total of A + B					16888
Income Needed for break even			Breakeven - A + B		16888
Forecast			Number of penalty notices required to break even assuming 100% payment		225
			Number of penalty notices required per month		75
			Number of penalty notices required per week		19
			Number of penalty notices required per day		3
			Number of penalty notices required to break even assuming a 75% payment rate		300
			Number of penalty notices required per month		100
			Number of penalty notices required per week		25
			Number of penalty notices required per day		4