

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel 27th November 2025

Enforcement work WRS undertakes using Community Protection Notices and the impact of this on ASB in Redditch.

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Monica Stringfellow
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Simon Wilkes, Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services.
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Wards Affected	ALL
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	n/a
Relevant Council Priority	Green, Clean and Safe Redditch
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel RESOLVES that the report be noted

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In June 2024 responsibility for Planning Enforcement, Fly-tipping, littering, duty of care of waste offences and dog fouling was passed to WRS. One of the enforcement tools used for dealing with some of these issues is service of a Community Protection Notice (CPN) under Part 4 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which came into effect in England and Wales on 20 October 2014.
- 2.2 Whilst WRS have a remit to undertake enforcement of Planning and Environmental Enforcement related matters such as Fly-tipping, littering, duty of care of waste offences and dog fouling, CPNs can and are being used for a wider range of anti-social behaviours by the Police and other Council departments.
- 2.3 CPNs are intended to stop a person or business continuing with conduct which unacceptably affects victims and the community. They can only be served where there are reasonable grounds to believe the offender's conduct is having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, it is unreasonable and the behaviour is of a persistent or continuing nature. Before one can be served, the offender must be given a formal written warning called a Community Protection

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Warning (CPW) stating that a CPN will be issued unless their conduct ceases to have the detrimental effect.

- 2.4 Failure to comply with a CPN is a summary offence under Section 48. The offence is punishable on conviction in the case of an individual by a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale (currently £2,500) or in the case of a body/business an unlimited fine. In September 2025 Redditch Council adopted the maximum permitted £100 charge for any Fixed Penalty Notice that may be served to discharge liability for failure to comply with a CPN.
- 2.5 Section 52 of the act provides that an authorised person may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) as an alternative to prosecution for breach of a CPN. Payment of the FPN within 14 days from the date of issue has the effect of discharging any liability to convict for the offence but allows for action to be taken for subsequent offences.
- 2.6 At the Redditch Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) meeting on 1 September 2025, Members asked that the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel (O&S sub-committee) consider a report on the use of Community Protection Notices (CPNs) by Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS), and the recent adoption of £100 fixed penalty notice for breaches of CPN, on influencing offenders/potential offenders' behaviours and reducing ASB in Redditch.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 Historically the Council has issued CPWs, and where non-compliance has continued, CPNs for a variety of anti-social behaviours. The table below provides numbers of known CPWs and CPNs served per year by all Council departments. The final line in the table indicates the number of CPNs that were served which are now within the remit of WRS (Planning Enforcement, Fly-tipping, littering, duty of care of waste offences and dog fouling).

Redditch	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 to date
Number of CPWs served	35	12	2	0	0	0
Number of CPNs served	6	6	0	1	1	0
Number of CPNs served relating to subjects now within WRS	1	1	n/a	2	0	n/a

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- 3.3 The number of CPNs served in relation to Planning Enforcement, Fly-tipping, littering, duty of care of waste offences and dog fouling have been traditionally low with most anti-social behaviour issues relating to other matters. Whilst WRS have not served any CPWs or CPNs to date in Redditch, we have served 12 CPWs and 11 CPNs in Bromsgrove District Council area for anti-social behaviour issues (primarily planning and untidy land) over the same period which demonstrates the ability of WRS to utilise them as a tool and serve them successfully where required.
- 3.4 Following adoption of the Fixed Penalty Notice charge for failure to comply with a CPN, WRS has the ability to consider enforcement alternatives where partial compliance or mitigation is in place.

Influencing behaviour

- 3.5 The service of a CPN is a matter that is not widely publicised as there are data protection implications. The only exception is that the law encourages the sharing of information with victims that a notice has been served so that they have knowledge of action taken, compliance periods and any restrictions or requirements put in place by the notice. Whilst there is little that can be proactively published relating to specific cases, in general we are able to highlight the use of CPNs to dissuade others from similar anti-social behaviour as a deterrent. A report is scheduled for Executive in April 2026.
- 3.6 However, the enforcement process does provide steps to warn and encourage responsible behaviour. There are policies in place to ensure, with consideration for proportionality, that wherever possible perpetrators are advised of the impact on their behaviour and what they need to do to reduce that impact informally. Where this does not resolve the issue, there is a process of escalation including CPWs and CPNs.
- 3.7 CPNs influence behaviour through coercion and the threat of criminal sanctions. WRS' experience to date is that CPN recipients comply with the notice's requirements, at least initially, to avoid fines (up to £2,500, or £20,000 for organisations) or a potential criminal conviction and even imprisonment for ongoing breaches.
- 3.8 Notices can compel individuals to undertake specific actions (e.g., tidy a messy garden) or stop certain activities (e.g., allowing their dog to foul). This directly alters their behaviour to conform to the standards set by the Council. By targeting behaviour that the council deems to have a "detrimental effect" on the community's quality of life, CPNs work to

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enforce specific social norms about what is considered acceptable public or neighbourly conduct.

- 3.9 CPNs are issued without a court hearing and with a relatively low standard of proof, which some may have concerns about. However, WRS has adopted a process to identify and document detriment, unreasonableness and persistence identified which meets the threshold for a CPN with oversight by a Case Manager. Furthermore, the WRS enforcement policy is followed to ensure informal approaches have been exhausted first providing safeguards to appropriate enforcement practices.
- 3.10 There is very little research or literature on the use of CPNs and none on their effectiveness despite the Act being in place for a while. This is likely due to the diverse nature of anti-social behaviours which can be covered by CPNs. However, there is one piece of research which is relevant and mirrors the experience of WRS Officers in that where anti-social behaviours have been identified, informal approaches such as door knocking or warning letters work to resolve some of the issues, particularly where the impact on others can be articulated easily. This has been the experience within Redditch, where informal approaches with residents have resolved the matter without the need to move to formal action. Leaving waste out early, alongside their wheelie bin or similar have been matters addressed in this way. However, whilst a warning letter reduces the number of cases which proceed to CPWs some are still required to be served. Similarly, CPWs in turn reduce the number of CPNs that need to be served.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Income from any FPNs served is reinvested into service delivery in this specific function area.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Antisocial Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 gave Council's powers to take action on behalf of victims of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) alongside the Police and other responsible authorities. The use of the ASB Tools & Powers also supports the Council's statutory duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent crime and disorder legislation.
- 5.2 It is worth noting the elements within the remit of WRS have been delegated to the WRS Board although as per schedule 2 paragraph 2 of the partnership agreement the council could make any necessary

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recommendations regarding policy in relation to any aspect (other than operational matters) of the functions delegated to the Board.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

6.1 None.

Relevant Council Priority

6.2 The Council Plan sets out our commitment to making Redditch a cleaner and safer place for our residents and it specifically refers to addressing litter and dog mess or the impact of fly-tipping and antisocial behaviour, all elements within the WRS remit which may cause a Community Protection Notice to be served.

Climate Change Implications

6.3 None.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.4 None.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 If the statutory processes to utilise CPWs and CPNs are not followed correctly this could lead to challenge, which would mean the Council could face legal costs and reputational damage. Officers follow the processes laid out in the Enforcement Policy, which follows the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 Statutory Guidance for Frontline Professionals to ensure that all requirements for effective use have been met. The impact and effectiveness of the use of CPWs and CPNs across all Council services will be subject to monitoring and evaluation and will also be discussed in partnership forums as part of a wider multi-agency problem solving approach.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

WRS Enforcement Policy

[Worcestershire Regulatory Service Enforcement Policy.](#)

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Monica Stringfellow	18.11.2025
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Simon Wilkes	3.11.2025
Financial Services	Debra Goodall	3.11.2025
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings	3.11.2025
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	N/A	N/A
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	N/A	N/A