



DERWENTSIDE GETS ITS TEETH INTO THE LITTER LOUTS – AS EXECUTIVE APPROVES MOVE TO INTRODUCE ‘ON THE SPOT FINES’

£100 Fixed Penalty Notices to be served on ‘envirocrime’ Offenders

Derwentside District Council has decided to introduce fixed penalty system to curb anti-social behaviour through littering and fly tipping.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 the council has a legal duty to ensure streets are kept clean and that cleanliness is maintained. People caught red handed by community police officers and council officials will be fined.

Councillor Alex Watson, Leader of Derwentside District Council, said

‘We’re taking a tough stance on the litter louts. Clean, litter free towns, villages and countryside are important assets of any district and this is a high priority for this council. We set our clear targets in our current corporate strategic plan and we are determined to achieve them.’

The Council has agreed to provide £100,000 of additional funding for street and highways cleaning bringing the annual budget to about £1.2m. **Funding from the Derwentside Partnership has been used to employ two Litter Enforcement Officers under the Litter Enforcement Action Force Scheme.**

The level of fines will be the maximum permitted under Government guidance. All income raised from the scheme will stay within the District Council.

Peter Reynolds, Director of Environmental Services, said:

“The range of work covered in this area is very wide, including mechanical sweeping, manual litter picking, emptying litter and dog bins, cleaning bus shelters, play areas and changing rooms, removal of fly tipping, animal carcasses and graffiti and emergency cleaning following incidents.

Our tough position against envirocrime will bring great benefit to everyone – households, businesses and visitors alike.”

