

Title of Report:	Environmental Crime Online Reporting Tool
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	9th June 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Improvement and Innovation Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Implementation of statutory requirements
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	N/A

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date:01.06.26
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date: 01.06.26
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes	Date: 01.06.26
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date: 01.06.26
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes	Date: 01.06.26
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes	Date: 01.06.26

1.0 Purpose of Paper

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the development of a new online tool on the Council website for the reporting of environmental crime.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Environmental Services currently receives complaints regarding littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping through a variety of channels, including telephone, email, and direct contact with staff.
- 2.2 In 2022, the Environmental Health Department subscribed to the 'Reportable' App to improve public accessibility for the reporting of such environmental crime. The service was subsequently discontinued by the provider in 2024.
- 2.3 An alternative online reporting tool has been developed by the Council's ICT Department and will shortly be made available on the Council website, with details to be publicised in due course.
- 2.4 The new online reporting tool will enable members of the public to easily report environmental crime to the Council. The system allows photographs and comments to be submitted and can automatically generate a Global Positioning System (GPS) grid reference to identify the precise location of reported incidents. This will assist investigating officers and support referrals to Operations or the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) where clean-up action is required. The system will be particularly beneficial in remote locations where no specific address can be provided.
- 2.5 The introduction of this reporting tool enhances Council digital service delivery and responsiveness. It will improve the efficiency of reporting by directing submissions more effectively to the relevant service area, enhancing data quality, and reducing administrative handling time. It will also support the identification of hotspot areas to assist in the targeting of resources by the Council's Enforcement Team and the contracted enforcement provider, 3GS.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee notes the above information.