

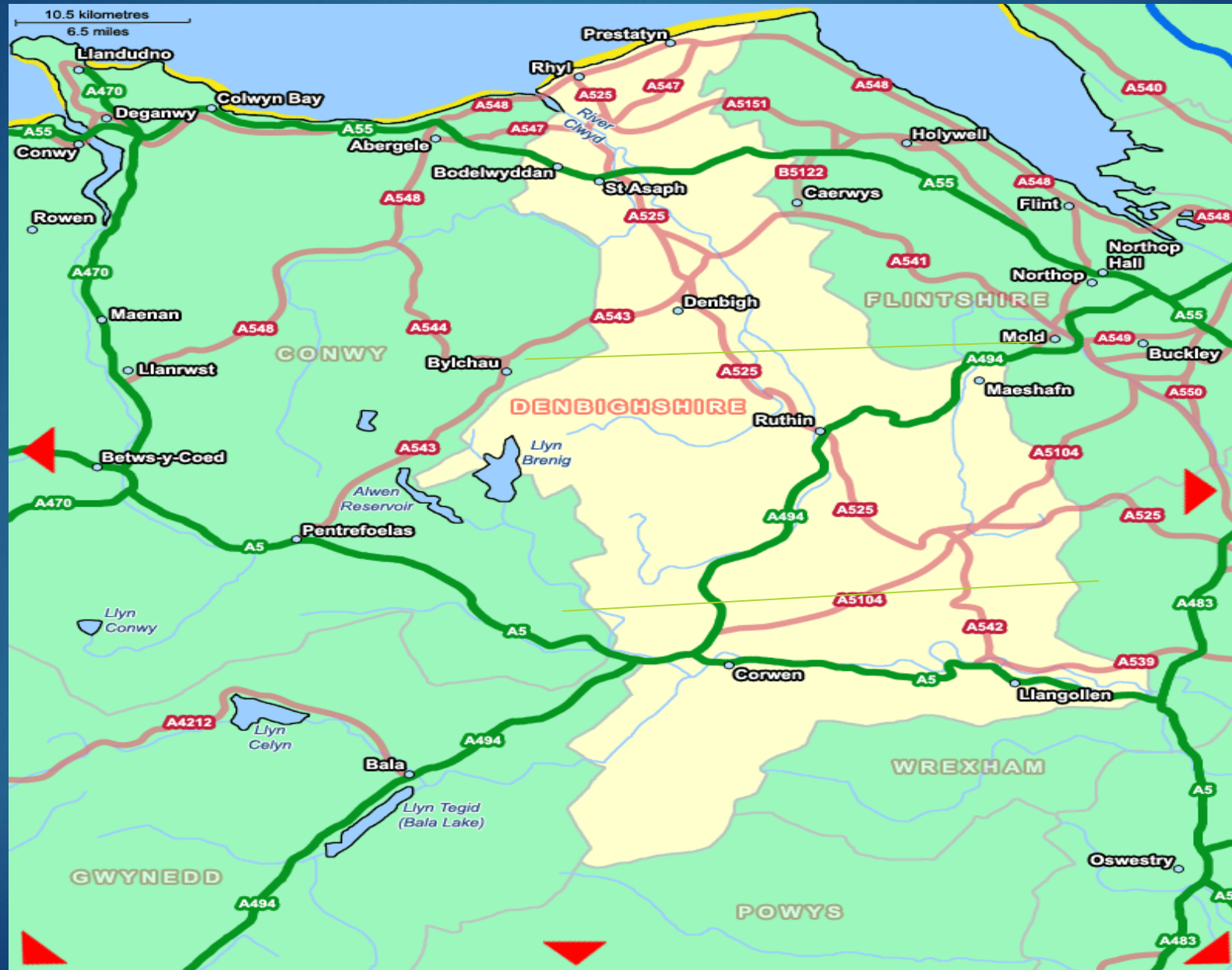


Reducing Environmental Crime

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Senior Public Protection Officer

Denbighshire



Describing Denbighshire

- ▶ Resident Population 94,760
- ▶ Density 326 square miles
- ▶ Urban areas Rhyl and Prestatyn resident population 43,000
- ▶ Tourist numbers peaked at over 1 million August 2015
- ▶ Coastal strip 6000 static caravans, 93 holiday camps and 400 tourer plots
- ▶ Rhyl voted the worst place in Wales 2017
- ▶ *‘take a romantic walk on the human and dog **** filled beach or take a relaxing stroll along the derelict, rat infested, drug inhabited, ***** occupied promenade...a place where junkies go to die’*
- ▶ Rural Denbighshire ‘a fertile agricultural land and an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’

Pre 2012 Enforcement

- ▶ 2012 clear failure by DCC to prevent environmental crime, (59 Dog fouling Littering 351)
- ▶ Corporate Priority of Clean and Tidy Streets
- ▶ Vociferous Environmental Crime Complaints
- ▶ Finances and Resource none availability
- ▶ West Rhyl housing redevelopment and regeneration
- ▶ Options...Outsourcing

Denbighshire/Kingdom Agreement

- ▶ Delegated authority for Pilot scheme of 12 months
- ▶ Kingdom Local Authority Support (X For)
- ▶ 28 days mutual conclusion period
- ▶ 6 officers
- ▶ Reduce Dog Fouling (Littering, Health Act, Graffiti and Fly Posting)
- ▶ Issue of Fixed Penalty Notices
- ▶ Prosecution of none payment
- ▶ HR responsibilities
- ▶ Authorisations
- ▶ Client Control
- ▶ Deployment and Tactics
- ▶ Zero Tolerance approach
- ▶ FPN justification/Evidence Test

Public Response

Damned if I do, damned if I don't



Initial Response

- ▶ Outrage from the public
- ▶ Outrage from the media and social media
- ▶ Community/Town/County Councillors/Town clerks
- ▶ Police
- ▶ Corporate Complaints
- ▶ Business opposition
- ▶ Verbal attacks on officers
- ▶ Notable recipients

Dog Fouling v Littering

- ▶ Incorrect perception of crimes
- ▶ Littering identified as a greater environmental impact
- ▶ Prosecutions court appearances
- ▶ Dog fouling visual immediate public outrage
- ▶ Smoking Related litter Coastal strip
- ▶ SRL on Welsh Streets 86% according to Keep Wales Tidy
- ▶ Environmental Services opinion
- ▶ Reduced annual budget

Initiatives and Tactics

- ▶ Hot Spots
- ▶ Weekly Visits County Wide
- ▶ Intelligence led patrols and activity
- ▶ Signs
- ▶ Free Bags 15,000, Letter drops
- ▶ Community and Councillor Engagement
- ▶ Dedicated operations / open invitations
- ▶ Cautions
- ▶ Amnesty periods
- ▶ Body Cameras and Cameras
- ▶ Education and advice
- ▶ Officer training provision

Credible Results

- ▶ Visually Cleaner County/Bins filling quicker
- ▶ Behavioural changes/Compliant public (Litter FPN 19,067, 10 challenges 50% success)
- ▶ Greater acceptance of enforcement
- ▶ Keep Wales Tidy
- ▶ National acknowledgements
- ▶ Pro active tactics
- ▶ Dog Fouling enforcement achievement (465 since 2012 all paid)
- ▶ Prosecutions (28/2/17 99 convictions)
- ▶ Increased Payment rates profit/reinvestment
- ▶ Political support
- ▶ Strong relationship with Kingdom

Disadvantages

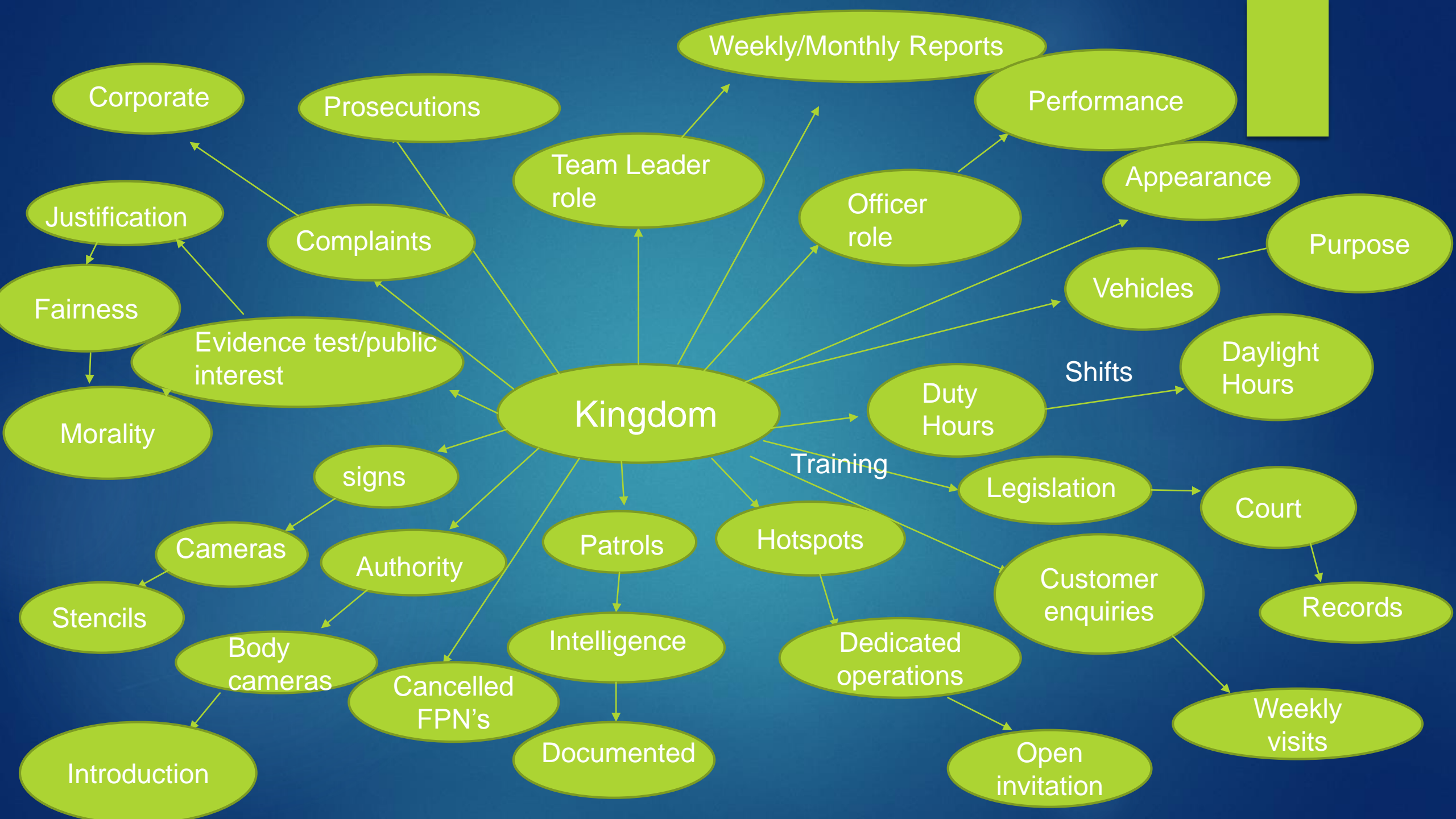
- ▶ Transient workforce
- ▶ Requirement for constant supervision
- ▶ Complaints (1.5%)
- ▶ Public ignorance
- ▶ Lack of evidential support from the public
- ▶ Small percentage of none compliance foulers
- ▶ Littering 'not an offence'





Now and the future

- ▶ Education
- ▶ Increased Payment Rates 73%
- ▶ Compact Cameras and signs
- ▶ Reduced false details, Tracesmart
- ▶ Environmental Services intelligence/collaboration
- ▶ GPS tracking
- ▶ Social Media/reporting apps
- ▶ Skilled officers and reduction in officer complaints
- ▶ Anti Social Behaviour Act 2014
- ▶ Audit results
- ▶ Single advocacy system
- ▶ Continued relationship with Kingdom



Questions