

Litter Strategy Action Plan

Considerations;

In order to maintain the current level of service, the clean team has to be supported by the green operations team. When a member of clean staff is absent, that role is filled by the grounds team, drawing them away from essential front line grounds maintenance – which impacts the very service that compliments the Clean & Green team operations and visible standards with members of the public.

Losing any number of staff from the teams critically impacts standards. However, when covering two periods of annual leave and a member of staff is sick (for example), there is a significant shortfall on maintaining standards in the public realm which impacts public perception of the service provided.

The clean team also carry out the further aspects of public cleansing unrelated to the direct implications of this report such as graffiti removal and flyposting, and general maintenance and housekeeping on structures and street furniture.

In order to maintain the current expected level of service, the clean team should be staffed to its optimum staffing levels which is what this report based its findings, information and proposals on.

The staffing levels as the 1st November 2022 show a reduction of 3 FTE's compared to the financial year 2021/22, which is made up of 2 vacancies and one of these posts having now been deleted from the service.

In order to finalise the number of bins being reviewed as part of the action plan, a guide and steer is required to establish;

- If we are to maintain/rationalise to keep the total bins in the borough at the current level of units (excluding dog/waste bins next to one another)
- Criteria to decide when a new bin installation is required (upon a request or other)
- A decision on whether to keep or replace the current town centre stainless steel bins – which are;
 - Too small for their purpose and locations
 - In a poor state of repair
 - A health and safety hazard for passers-by, users and staff emptying them.

1. Education - promote the anti-litter message to residents, businesses and visitors.

Item	Description	Proposal	Implications	Cost	Target Date
1.1	Using social media to communicate regular anti-litter messages.	Form a plan with the comms team to relay litter related messages. Source information and updates from the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.		£-	February 2023

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1.2	Promote and support key campaigns run by other organisations (such as Keep Britain Tidy and the Great British Spring Clean).	As above.		£-	February 2023
1.3	Work with schools and community groups to support national clean-up days and national anti-littering campaigns.	As above. Link up with the South Leicestershire Litter Wombles and their Education team.	Consider an 'in-kind' contribution to the Litter Wombles in Education activity.	£500?	March 2023
1.4	Develop targeted anti-litter campaigns for problem litter hot spots.	As above.		£-	

2. Infrastructure - ensure that we have provided the right bin in the right location with regular litter picking and bin emptying schedules.

Item	Description	Proposal	Implications	Cost	Target Date
2.1	Use the 'Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse' published by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to set standards for cleanliness of our streets and report progress on meeting the standards to committee on a regular basis.	<p>Although the original litter and bin routes are historically based on the code of practice, this relates to our interpretation of frequency of visits for litter to a location.</p> <p>We will review all lists and frequencies to ensure they are initially compliant with CoPLR.</p> <p>We will need to be able to restore an area to a given standard within a set period. Currently, other than town centres (which have a daily dedicated member of staff to each of the three zones), each street zone area is litter picked on an eight-weekly cycle.</p>	<p>No direct implication to review.</p> <p>May have an impact on resource due to the current simplicity of an eight-week cycle.</p> <p>If we are to respond by a follow up and return to a location to restore it back to the correct standard, additional resource will need to be considered.</p>	<p>£-</p> <p>£8,000 (25%FTE)</p>	Feb 2023

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2.2	Publish our progress against the Code of Practice standards on our web site.	Review electronic systems on effective monitoring. This would be best supported under an FM/Streetscene software package.	Practical Streetscene monitoring systems are available. Monitoring the service to a specific standard requires a dedicated resource.	Initial outlay est. £5,000	
2.3	Complete an audit of litter bins to include location and condition and develop a rolling replacement programme based on condition.	Replace an initial 25 bins across the Borough deemed the poorest of condition Aim to replace 15 floor mounted litter bins per year for the next five years and then ongoing at approximately 10 per year.	Replacement bins aren't included in the revenue budget on the scale we need to replace them.	£500/bin £12,500 yr 1 £7,500/yr for 5 years Est. £5000 yr subsequently	Ongoing
2.4	Following the audit, remove dog bins in locations where they are located immediately next to litter bins in order to save on operative time.	Identify any locations of duplicated bins.		Staff time and available resource	March 2023
2.5	Ensure all litter bins are labelled to advertise the fact that dog waste can be placed into them.	Following the review of all litter bins add signs (stickers) to remaining bins.	Artwork and printing.	£500 est.	March 2023
2.6	Monitor bins to ensure they are safe to use, emptied at the correct frequency, properly maintained and free of fly posting and graffiti.	Monitor bins against the schedules. Review complaints.		£-	Ongoing
2.7	Publish information on litter and litter bin collection schedules on the councils' web site.	Review and list all working schedules for reference on the website.		£-	March 2023
2.8	Improve the process for the public to report instances of littering and fly tipping.	Customer services have access to schedules.		£-	March 2023
2.9	Work with our grounds maintenance and cleansing teams to ensure incidents of the shredding of litter during grass cutting is reduced.	Training/toolbox talks with grounds maintenance staff.			March 2023 & Ongoing

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2.10	Carry out continuous training of our litter collection operatives on to ensure high quality services are achieved.	Training/toolbox talks with staff Briefing and training on the Code of Practice Litter & Refuse standards.			Jan 2023 & Ongoing
2.11	Purchase and install split litter/recycling bins in each of our town centres as a pilot scheme. Monitor their use and roll out to other areas if successful.	Benchmark options with other LA's. Capital cost for separated waste separating/recycling bins – and level of separation expected. Plastics, glass, paper, cans. OWBC does not have the resource to collect/separate recycled (and potentially contaminated) waste? Resulting recycled waste collections shouldn't be mixed with domestic household recycling rounds?	Costs can possibly be partially offset by the relocating of some of the replacement bins required in 2.3. Additional resource allocated for staff and vehicle to collect waste. Is this too much of a commitment in a local capacity – should we consider joining partnership with neighbouring service?	£900/bin cost est. Cost of service – staff & vehicle capital cost - Depends on level of commitment	
2.12	Investigate the possibility of including a requirement to provide public litter bins (and a contribution to on-going collection and maintenance costs) as part of the planning conditions for premises that are likely to generate a high volume of waste, particularly applications for fast food premises.	Initiate thoughts with the planning team prior to wider discussion.	All outlets need to be engaged.		
2.13	Encourage businesses to support anti-litter initiatives including sponsoring litter bins.	Comms unit to compile a programme of engagement followed by rolling out any resulting initiatives and participation.			
2.14	Investigate the option of installing 'smart bins' that have wireless technology to alert the back office when they require emptying.	Seek costs.	This is an increased capital cost and monitoring which may not be justified on the scale of effectiveness it would achieve over and above the current systems. Additional software and subsequent licences annually to manage.	£££	

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2.15	Use the criteria set out in Appendix 1 when assessing requests for new litter bin locations.	A decision is required by members of the way forward.	Unless this is decided, the foundation for the action plan has no grounds to activate.		21 st November
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3. Community Engagement - work with volunteers, community groups and businesses to make the Borough a cleaner environment.

Item	Description	Proposal	Implications	Cost	Target Date
3.1	Continuing to build on relationships with community groups such as Pride of the Borough, South Leicestershire Litter Wombles and Brocks Hill volunteers.	Continue to develop partnerships.			Ongoing
3.2	Producing a written guidance document for use by volunteer litter collectors.	Work with local volunteer groups to develop adopt and implement.			June 2023
3.3	Providing briefing sessions to explain the guidance and give training to litter volunteers, including South Leicestershire Litter Wombles.	As 3.2.			July 2023
3.4	Promoting and participate in key campaigns such as Keep Britain Tidy and the Great British Spring Clean, encouraging the community and our own staff to take part.	Working with Comms as part of the bigger picture – as 1.1.			Ongoing
3.5	Working with business to reduce packaging.	Comms team using website and local media Also see 3.7.			Ongoing
3.6	Supporting the work of Plastic Free Oadby.	Comms. Also see 3.7.			Ongoing
3.7	Engaging with businesses to tackle certain types of litter, including fast-food packaging and litter near their premises.	Comms, env health and town centre teams. Potential to set up a quarterly working group to establish ideas and follow up with implementing some trials.			March 2023
3.8	Continue to apply for Green Flag accreditation for Brocks Hill and Peace Memorial Park, which includes addressing littering as part of the criteria.				Ongoing

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3.9	Encourage businesses to assist in dealing with local litter problems.	As 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7.			Ongoing
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4. Enforcement - carry out enforcement against offenders.

Item	Description	Proposal	Implications	Cost	Target Date
4.1	Using the powers provided to the council under The Environmental Protection Act 1990 to carry out enforcement against offenders. These range from fixed penalty notices, direct action to remove littering/fly tipping at the offenders' expense to court action.	Consideration to accredited enforcement officers within teams.	Huge cost implications in terms of staffing and training, particularly with the ability to focus and target hot spots. Dedicated teams or as part of staff roles? Health and safety consideration combined with working alone issues.	£££	
4.2	Ensuring all enforcement action is taken in accordance with the Council's Enforcement Policy.	As (and dependant on) above 4.1.			
4.3	Use social media and our web site to explain the types of litter offences and how we carry out enforcement action.	Working with Comms as 1.1.			Ongoing
4.4	Publicising enforcement action once it has been taken, in order to act as a deterrent.	Working with Comms as 1.1.			Ongoing