

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY



SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – KEEP NORTHAMPTON TIDY

CORE QUESTIONS – EXPERT ADVISORS

Response to the core questions from; Operations Chief Inspector, Northants Police

The Scrutiny Panel is currently undertaking a review:

- To undertake a review regarding implementing a 'Keep Northampton Tidy' campaign with an accent on preserving wildlife and encouraging children (and adults) to take an interest in their surroundings, to include Community Clean Ups and 'Northampton in Bloom.'
- A review of the problem of littering and fly-tipping, particularly in un-adopted roads and the gateways into the town.
- To explore opportunities to enhance the gateways into the town.

The expected outcomes of this Scrutiny Review are:

- To substantially raise people's awareness and appreciation of keeping Northampton tidy and their role in this
- To continue to get community groups involved in keeping Northampton tidy
- To ensure that existing limited resources are utilised fully to raising people's awareness and appreciation of keeping Northampton tidy and their role in this
- To identify areas that have a detrimental effect on the image of the town
- To work with other Agencies to minimise fly-tipping and littering and discourage this taking place, as well as enhancing the gateways into the town

CORE QUESTIONS:

A series of key questions have been put together to inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny Panel:

1. In your opinion, how could people's awareness and their roles in keeping Northampton tidy be raised?

Northampton Police have worked closely with the CSP to produce analytical studies of areas of greatest need of partnership concentration of preventative activity. This highlighted 5 priority areas and these have received a huge amount of attention with weeks of action now emerging as the preferred effective format. We need to be working closely with community groups to keep the areas tidy once this has occurred and the ownership needs to be with the community concerned in that with on-going assistance from partners. We have launched Street Watch schemes for this purpose in order to take pride in their areas and engage with the community on the street to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour which I would see as incorporating littering to a degree. I see Street Watch assisting here with engagement with local Borough Council wardens and Housing. Their role should be to be present and passively challenging in the areas concerned including for littering locally, monitoring hotspots and signposting services. We are working to start up schemes in the key areas in partnership with 'Northampton Voluntary Impact' volunteer service but progress is slower that I would have liked despite me pump priming this work.

2. Northampton Borough Council engages Community Groups in keeping Northampton tidy, Community clean ups (and the use of tools such as Kangaroo Run) and Northampton in Bloom could the engagement process be enhanced and how?

As above

3. In terms of tidiness and cleanliness, do you feel there are any areas within Northampton that have a detrimental effect on the borough? Please provide further details

The 5 priority areas are some of the most challenging areas for multiple services in Northampton. They also represent generally densest population masses and most challenging demographic in terms of offenders and victims.

- Please provide details of how you feel work with other Agencies could take place to minimise fly-tipping and littering and discourage this taking place, as well as enhancing the gateways into the town

As above. Also CCTV in forecourts has dissuaded much fuel theft activity. Perhaps a strategy which incorporated surveillance would impact? Policing this would be challenging against the priorities and resources we have.

- How effective do you feel issues for street cleansing, cleanliness and enforcement are dealt with on main roads and highways; such as reaction time, outcomes and customer satisfaction?

For example at the Borough Council:

Customer satisfaction is measured by an annual survey carried out by Enterprise which is done on a basis similar to the Place Survey methodology

Outcomes – the contract is performance measured against specific contract indicators

Reaction times – these are governed by the specification as laid out in the attached table

The following are contractual standards for response to various types of service request

STREETS & GROUNDS - SERVICE REQUESTS / COMPLAINTS		
REASON FOR SERVICE REQUEST		NORTHAMPTON SLAs
Litter picking or street sweeping request	---	5 working days
Weeds on highways	---	5 working days
Shrub/hedge concerns	---	5 working days
Grass cutting request	---	5 working days

Missed area grass cutting	---	5 working days
Encroachment of trees	---	30 days
Tree branches fallen	Urgent or non-urgent	24 hours
Tree complaints	---	30 working days
Dog litter bins	---	24 hours
Dead animals	---	24 hours
Environmental cleansing complaints	---	3 working days
Graffiti removal - Offensive	---	24 hours
Graffiti removal - Non-offensive	---	16 working days
Self-service graffiti removal - Offensive	---	24 hours
Self-service graffiti removal - Non-offensive	---	16 working days
Fly-tipping request	---	24 hours
Self-service fly tipping request	---	24 hours
Open spaces complaint	---	10 working days

The NBC policy for **response time** in respect to service requests for enforcement is normally within three working days.

6. Please provide details of your experiences of the main routes into the town centre, both by vehicle and on foot, in terms of cleanliness and tidiness.

7. Do you have further information or comments regarding Keep Northampton Tidy or other campaigns which you would like to inform the Scrutiny Panel?