

## NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

#### **ACTION PLAN: SCRUTINY PANEL Keep Northampton Tidy**

Recommendations from Scrutiny Panel (Keep Northampton Tidy) completed in March 2015

#### **Proposed dates for monitoring implementation of accepted recommendations**

Report received by Cabinet	Response received by Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Monitoring activity	Monitoring complete
July 2015	20 January 2016	13 June 2016	

**Recommendation 1:** Investigate the wider use of the successful NBC Report It App., such as the inclusion of a facility to report tree and used as a channel to request and co-ordinate community action such as litter picks. Consider extended to include NCC issues within borough

Action	Implementation/responsibility by:	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact ICT services to discuss possible development –	ES team	Staff time		Due to proposed upcoming move to a new customer contact (CRM) system there is a freeze on developments linked to existing Lagan

				system
<b>Recommendation 2:</b> All Councillors are sent details of the Report It App., how it works and details of the Report It App. are included in the Induction Pack for all Councillors.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Info on App to be provided to all Councillors	ICT team working with ES team	Staff time	June 2016	
<b>Recommendation 3:</b> A Usage Log for the Report It App. is produced on an annual basis.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Request for production of log submitted to CRM	CRM team in ICT	Staff time	June 2016 for report to 31.3.16	

team				
<b>Recommendation 4:</b> . Officers, such as Neighbourhood Wardens, are charged to use adhesive stickers over illegal fly-posts advertising events indicating cancellation of the event in appropriate cases and removing outdated fly-posts.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Stickers made available to Wardens	EH and Licensing Manager / ES (Direct Services Manager)	Small cost (met within existing printing budget)	March 2016	Completed – stickers available and in use
<b>Recommendation 5:</b> Officers from Planning Services rigorously pursues perpetrators to illegal advertising/flyposting with a view to prosecution. The Scrutiny Panel recognises legislative weaknesses regarding flyposting and asks that Cabinet lobbies MPs for a change in legislation to make it easier to prosecute in respect of this issue.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Make contact with planning team to discuss situation  Consider alternative interventions	Communities and Environment Division Staff	Staff time for investigations. Resource implications for implementation of PSPO to be outlined in	End of 2016	Fly posting included within proposed Public Spaces Protection Order. Proposal supported in public consultation process and to be brought forward in order

		Cabinet report		when it comes forward. (scheduled .... 2016)
<p><b>Recommendation 6:</b> Funding of £2,000 is made available for:</p> <p>1 Officers to be charged with disseminating portable ashtrays in the town centre.</p> <p>2 “Do not feed the pigeons” signs to be erected in various locations in the town centre.</p> <p>And the provision of chewing gum boards is investigated on a cost benefit basis.</p>				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
<p>Purchase portable ashtrays</p> <p>Investigation of Do not feed the pigeons signs and chewing gum boards</p> <p>Range of initiatives to deal with litter in town centre</p>	<p>Communities and Environment Division Management in consultation with Enterprise/ Amey</p>	<p>Budget for purchase of equipment and staff time</p>		<p>Portable ashtrays have been made available – partly funded by Town Centre BID.</p> <p>Signage conflicts with objective of decluttering town centre</p> <p>The use of chewing gum boards has previously been investigated. They are not considered to be an effective solution (unsightly, attract wasps and ineffective). They also impose a revenue cost for</p>

				<p>which there is no budget.</p> <p>Specialist enforcement officers carrying out patrols in town centre and issuing fixed penalty notices.</p> <p>Green machine being made available for specific use in town centre</p>
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**Recommendation 7:** To enhance an area, empty brick or similar highway planters in situ in the town centre are, either filled with various foliage, removed or topped with a hard surface.

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Ensure that all planters in town centre area provided with suitable floral display	ES (Direct Services) Manager with Northampton in Bloom team	Staff time and Budget – to be provided from Northampton in Bloom budget	Summer 2016	Ongoing action being taken to incorporate all planters in planting for Northampton in Bloom.

**Recommendation 8:** Officers are instructed to contact supermarkets highlighting the problem of abandoned shopping trolleys in the town and encouraged to participate in a trolley collection schemes.

Through the Planning Conditions, supermarkets and similar are required to have mechanisms installed to prevent trolleys being

removed from site.

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
<p>Contact made with supermarkets</p> <p>Discussion with planning team about practicality of use of conditions</p>	<p>EH and Licensing Manager / ES Direct Services Manager</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>June 2016</p>	<p>Letters have been sent to Supermarkets reminding them of legal responsibilities and raising awareness of trolley collection schemes</p> <p>Planning Officers indicate that this requirement is outside the scope of conditions that can be required under planning conditions.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 9:</b> All Councillors are provided with details of the Shop Front Cleaning Orders (Community Protection Notices) and Street Litter Control Notices Legislation, the guidance to this Legislation when it becomes available and other relevant Legislation.</p>				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
<p>Briefing paper produced for Councillors</p>	<p>EH and Licensing Manager / ES (Direct Services Manager)</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>June 2016</p>	<p>Briefing paper produced</p>

<b>Recommendation 10:</b> . All relevant Agencies are encouraged to come together at budget planning time, with the aim of making a contribution to the cleanliness and community safety of the town.				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementation/responsibility by</b>	<b>Resources required/available</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Achievement/Completed</b>
Town Centre Task Group has been reconvened and will carry out this action in future	Members of group	Staff time	ongoing	Officer group re-established and meetings programmed. Cleanliness of town is standing item on agenda.
<b>Recommendation 11:</b> Consider the gating of jetties at night in the town centre that are currently subject to anti-social behaviour.				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementation/responsibility by</b>	<b>Resources required/available</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Achievement/Completed</b>
Investigation of possible night time gating of jetties	Members of town centre group	Staff time for investigation		Extensive investigations have been carried out and have concluded that this is not currently practical due to safety issues (e.g. fire exits opening onto jetties etc). matter to be kept under

				review.
<b>Recommendation 12:</b> Information about resources available is published on the Council's website.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Web content updated	Relevant web authors	Staff time	June 2016	Web content update completed
<b>Recommendation 13:</b> In recognising their success, Cabinet explores the effectiveness of Kangaroo Runs				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Assessment of effectiveness of kangaroo runs and other initiatives to be explored	ES (Direct Services) Manager in liaison with Community Safety Team	Staff time for investigation.	Summer 2016	Kangaroo runs target specific areas and will continue as part of weeks of action. Data on fly tipping hotspots has been evaluated and additional proactive targeted fly tipping collections started in May 2016 providing wide coverage across Northampton.



<b>Recommendation 14:</b> Additional funding of £5,000 per year is allocated for five schemes with Junior Wardens and education activities.				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementation/responsibility by</b>	<b>Resources required/available</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Achievement/Completed</b>
Junior warden schemes are operated in schools	ES Direct Services Manager	£5000 plus staff time – it has not been possible to identify specific budget for this to date.		A number of Junior Warden schemes run with funding from Councillor empowerment funds and other funding sources.  Most wardens work with schools in their areas to provide environmental and safety education using resources from Junior Warden scheme.
<b>Recommendation 15:</b> The viability of running a National Citizen Scheme (NCS) to attract mid-late teenagers involvement is investigated				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementation/responsibility by</b>	<b>Resources required/available</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Achievement/Completed</b>
Investigation of viability of running scheme	Resource to implement this recommendation needs to be identified			Not yet completed

<b>Recommendation 16:</b> Community Clean Ups are co-ordinated so that they supplement the cleansing regime of the Environmental Services contract.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Improved liaison between contractor and Members and Community Groups to coordinate clean ups	Customer services staff and colleagues at Enterprise	Staff time	ongoing	Enterprise already support community clean ups, providing equipment and clearing waste collected. Clean for the Queen was an example of the coordination of community clean ups with existing work and this model is being used going forward..
<b>Recommendation 17</b> Campaigns, such as Community Clean Ups, are publicised both on the Council's webpage and by the organisers of the Community clean ups				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Increased coordination of clean ups	ES staff and Neighbourhood Wardens			Model used in Clean for the Queen to be used in future initiatives. Improved sharing of details on websites
<b>Recommendation 18</b> Community (Parish) Enhancement Teams are encouraged to undertake more work within the town.				

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Confirm whether this resource is still available	Resource to implement this action needs to be identified			
<b>Recommendation 19:</b> Where possible, co-ordinated working between the Local Authorities and the Highways Agency regarding major highway closures to enable litter picking to take place during closure periods.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Discussions to be held to try to streamline processes	Enterprise staff / Highways Agency / Northamptonshire County Council	Staff time	Ongoing	Litter picking on high speed roads is coordinated, consent is required to undertake this work and appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that this takes place.
<b>Recommendation 20</b> Where practical, the Local Authority and the Highways Agency arranges anti-littering campaigns at service stations				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact to discuss		Staff time and funding		The only service station located within Northampton

possibility		for any campaigns		Borough is the Southbound services at junction 15A. Highways England already carry out anti littering promotions using their public information displays
<b>Recommendation 21</b> Post April 2015, the Highways Agency is contacted to ask that it reviews its grass cutting schedule to include amenity cuts in addition to safety/visibility cuts and litter picking schedules along the A45 throughout the borough and that MPs are contacted in this respect				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact with Highways Agency		Staff time		Grass cutting schedules are set on a regional and national basis so not possible to amend
<b>Recommendation 22:</b> 22 Planning Services, Northampton Borough Council, together with the Highways Agency, explores improvements to gateways including signage, such as “Welcome to Northampton” signs to be erected on the entrance to Northampton on the A45 at Billing and at Junction 15 (M1).				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact with Highways Agency / Northamptonshire	Resource needs to be identified to progress			

County Council				
<b>Recommendation 23</b> The Highways Agency is asked to de-clutter signage, in particular around Junction 15(M1).				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
contact to be made and followed up	Resource needs to be identified to progress this,			
<b>Recommendation 24</b> A time limited Action Plan in respect of the 30 criteria of the Purple Flag Accreditation is produced; with the aim of exploring the feasibility of entering an application for Purple Flag Accreditation for Northampton town centre.				
Purple flag accreditation relates to wider night time economy – The Town Centre BID are currently investigating this. Support will be provided through Town Centre working groups.				
<b>Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>				
<b>Recommendation 28:</b> The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as part of its monitoring regime, reviews the impact of this report in six months' time.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Included onto the O&S Monitoring Work Programme	Added to the O&S Monitoring Work Programme - Overview and Scrutiny Committee	n/a	Monitoring to take place 13 June 2016	

2016/2017				
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