

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 14th July 2020

Briefing Note:

At the recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members discussed the Corporate Performance report and requested that performance management scrutiny is undertaken on the following:

- ESC06% of land and highways assessed falling below acceptable levels – detritus (NI195b) (4M)

Background

At a recent meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, an update was requested regarding the performance of ESCO6 - Percentage of land and highways assessed as falling below acceptable levels – detritus. In addition, the Committee asked for a briefing note to be incorporated regarding fly tipping – what is being done to limit this.

1 Update –

ESCO6 - Percentage of land and highways assessed as falling below acceptable levels – detritus.

- 1.1 The performance of ESCO6 - Percentage of land and highways assessed as falling below acceptable levels – detritus continues to improve, moving from 10.67% in 2018/19 to a forecasted 7.89% in 2019/20. This improvement is largely due to the change in working practices implemented as part the 2018 Environmental Services Contract.
- 1.2 Work continues to improve standards of cleansing by operatives and also by adopting a deep clean process in areas that are hard to access, such as terraced streets, where cars are parked, a programme is in place to work with residents and local community groups to provide better access to clear hard to reach dust and detritus.
- 1.3 As part of this programme, Veolia deliver leaflets to a street a couple of days prior to the clean letting residents know of their intention to work in the area on a given date and asks residents to move their cars to help staff to get access by either mechanical or manual means. Seeing the operatives in the street usually brings about a lot of interest in the activities being undertaken and gives opportunities for engaging with residents to raise awareness and communications around waste related subjects such as recycling and the correct disposal of waste.
- 1.4 Changes to working practices have been made and a ‘sweep beat’ approach taken to street cleansing, most operatives are now equipped with barrows which hold a wide variety of equipment, from various sizes of brushes to shovels to assist with bringing areas up to standard.

2. Update -

ESC09 - Percentage of fly tipping incidents removed within two working days of notification

- 2.1 The performance of ESC09 - Percentage of fly tipping incidents removed within two working days of notification is down on 2018/2019. fly tipping continues to be a problem, with increased incidents adding pressure on the service. Some fly tips contain hazardous waste, which then requires a specialist contractor to remove, this can cause a slight delay to allow for grouping of requests in order to achieve benefits of scale.
- 2.2 In order to allow for a more reflective method of reporting, this indicator will be changed in 2020-2021 to identify the different types of fly tips and their timescales. 'Normal' Flytips, e.g. odd bags or a mattress, will continue to be recorded against the 2 day indicator, where as those that require greater investigation time, such as hazardous items like asbestos or large scale Flytips such as over 2.5m³ (about a transit van load) will be presented under a different indicator.
- 2.3 Veolia are constantly working to remove Flytips from the streets of Northampton but the amount of incidents is increasing, from around 17000 incidents in 2018-19 to 20400 in 2019-20.
- 2.3 Northampton Borough Councils Flytips incidents are amongst the highest in the county and officers, along with the relevant stakeholders, are taking action to address this in the form of a task and finish group consisting of representatives from Veolia, NBC wardens, Environmental Health and the Kingdom Enforcement team though it should be noted that the contracted littering enforcement service has been suspended due to the Covid19 situation as it is not possible to satisfy social distancing measures whilst undertaking face to face enforcement activities. This situation is being kept under review as government guidance is updated.
- 2.4 Northampton Borough Council recognise that both fly tipping is anti-social behaviour and the Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Rangers continue to report any fly-tipping that they come across via the NBC App or the Street Care email address. However, if there is any evidence found within the fly tipping they will investigate and if the evidence is strong enough take the appropriate action, which could either be Community Protection Warnings, Community Protections Notices, Fixed Penalty Notices and possible prosecution.
- 2.5 The lowering of the bulky collection fee from £25 to £15 and increasing the slots available for the service by around 50% has continued into this financial year. Whilst the trial has not had a direct impact on overall flytipping incidents, the decision to have more slots and decrease the cost has meant that incidents could have been higher, so although not tangible, may have had a positive effect overall.

Brief Author: Christopher Carvell, Environmental Services Contract Manager
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