

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	2 February 2017	2 February 2017

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 to discuss possible additional functionality	ICT services staff	Staff time		Complete – Issue has been logged with ICT and will be taken forward as part of review of Website and reporting methods.

Recommendation 2: 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
Information on the App to be provided to all Councillors	ICT services staff	Staff time	Summer 2016	Complete - Details of App available on NBC website.
Recommendation 3: 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 usage log submitted to CRM	ICT services staff	Staff time	Summer 2016	Complete – quarterly reports being produced and made available
Recommendation 4: . 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over illegal fly-posts advertising events indicating cancellation of the event in appropriate cases and removing outdated fly-posts.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 and used where appropriate. Some fly posters also removed	Neighbourhood Warden Team	Staff time and small cost for printing, met within existing budgets	March 2016	completed
<p>Recommendation 5: 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.</p>				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact made with Planning Division to discuss situation	Planning Division	Staff time	ongoing	Complete – Planning Division confirm that fly posting has been monitored and, where complaints have been received, the Planning Enforcement team has been prepared to take appropriate action. However, there have been few examples of unauthorised fly posting and

				<p>so no formal action has been taken.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Wardens monitor flyposting and report cases to Planning Enforcement and Licensing Teams. Licensing have contacted a number of venues to warn of potential licence review if fly posting continues</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: 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 of portable ashtrays</p> <p>Investigation of Do not feed the</p>	<p>Communities and Environment Division staff in consultation with Enterprise</p>	<p>Staff time and budget for purchase of equipment</p>	<p>Summer 2016</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Portable ashtrays have been made available, partly funded by Town Centre BID</p>

Pigeons signs and chewing gum boards				<p>Large amounts of additional signage conflicts with the objective of decluttering the town centre. Signs are used where specific problems identified.</p> <p>The use of chewing gum boards has been investigated. They are not considered to be an effective solution (unsightly, attract wasps and ineffective). They also impose a revenue cost for which there is no budget. Therefore not considered to be viable.</p>
<p>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.</p>				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Ensure that all planters in the town centre area	Environmental Services (Direct Services) Manager	Staff time and budget	Summer 2016	Complete

provided with suitable floral displays				Additional planting has been provided.
<p>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.</p> <p>Through the Planning Conditions, supermarkets and similar are required to have mechanisms installed to prevent trolleys being removed from site.</p>				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
<p>Contact made with supermarkets.</p> <p>Discussion with planning team about the practicality of use of conditions to deal with this matter</p>	<p>EH and Licensing Manager</p> <p>Planning Division</p>	<p>Staff time</p> <p>Staff time</p>	<p>June2016</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Supermarkets have been contacted and reminded of the problems associated with abandoned trollies and their responsibility to collect them.</p> <p>Planning Officers indicate that this requirement is outside the scope of conditions that can be included in planning conditions.</p>

Recommendation 9: 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.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Briefing paper produced for all Councillors on Community Protection Notices	EH and Licensing Manager	Staff time	June 2016	Complete. Briefing paper produced and made available.
Recommendation 10: . 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.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Town Centre Task Group has been re-established and will ensure that coordination occurs	All members of the group	Staff time	Late summer 2016	Complete Group in place and discussions carried out to coordinate actions

Recommendation 11: Consider the gating of jetties at night in the town centre that are currently subject to anti-social behaviour.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Investigation of possible night time gating of jetties	Members of town centre group	Time for investigation	Summer 2016	<p>Complete</p> <p>Extensive investigations have been carried out into the possible night time gating of the jetty in Northampton that is associated with high levels of anti-social behaviour. It was concluded that this was not practical due to the following reasons:</p> <p>Who would lock and unlock any gates.</p> <p>How would the gate be designed to enable exit for persons fleeing a fire via the various fire exits which open out into the Jetty.</p>

				<p>The jetty is very narrow and any gate would need to be especially made. A shutter style which could perhaps descend and then be locked was also investigated.</p> <p>It was concluded that the cost of this would be disproportionate given the levels of anti-social behaviour that were taking place.</p> <p>The situation will be kept under review and if significant anti-social behaviour is taking place in a particular locations, options for gating jetties / alleys will be explored.</p>
Recommendation 12: 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	Summer 2016	Complete Web content updated and will be reviewed as part of the planned overhaul of the NBC website.
Recommendation 13: 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. Direct cost of providing kangaroo runs , staff overtime / fuel and disposal costs	Summer 2016	Complete Kangaroo runs target specific areas and will continue as part of Community Safety Weeks of Action. Date on fly tipping hotspots has been evaluated and additional proactive targeted fly tipping collections started in May 2016 providing wider coverage across Northampton.
Recommendation 14: Additional funding of £5,000 per year is allocated for five schemes with Junior Wardens and education activities.				

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Junior Warden schemes are operated in schools	ES (Direct Services) Manager	£5000 plus staff time		<p>Complete</p> <p>A number of Junior Warden schemes are running using funding from Councillor empowerment funds and other sources.</p> <p>All Wardens work with schools in their areas to provide environmental and safety education using resources from the Junior Warden programme.</p> <p>Potential sources of funding to run a more comprehensive programme will continue to be explored.</p>
Recommendation 15: The viability of running a National Citizen Scheme (NCS) to attract mid-late teenagers involvement is investigated				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed

Investigation of the viability of running a scheme or linking with existing schemes				<p>Complete</p> <p>Enquiries have been made and it has not been possible to link with this specific scheme.</p> <p>However in the coming year it is planned to engage with the Youth Forum to develop environmental initiatives for young people.</p>
Recommendation 16: 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 coordination between contractor and Members and Community Groups to coordinate clean ups	Customer services staff and staff at Enterprise	Staff time	ongoing	<p>Complete</p> <p>Enterprise support community clean ups by providing equipment and clearing the waste collected. Steps have been taken to ensure that enquiries are</p>

				referred to the correct members of staff.
Recommendation 17 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	Neighbourhood Wardens and relevant Web authors.	Staff time	Summer time	Complete Website content updated and will be reviewed as part of proposed overhaul of NBC website.
Recommendation 18 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 available and what steps need to be followed	EH and Licensing Manager to obtain information from NCC / contractors	Staff time		Complete Details have been obtained about the process for applications for works by Community Enhancement Gangs for 2017/18. The closing date for applications is Friday 24 February. The

				information on the application process has been shared with all Members and with Parish Councils and Community Groups.
Recommendation 19: 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
Clarification obtained regarding current practice	Enterprise Staff / Northamptonshire Highways / Highways Agency	Staff time	Summer 2016	Complete. 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 occurs.
Recommendation 20 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 Highways Agency to discuss				Complete Highways England operate a number of Regional anti litter campaigns that have

				included the Northampton area. Only one service station (junction 15A Southbound) is within Northampton Borough.
Recommendation 21 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 to be made with Highways Agency		Staff time	Summer 2016	Complete – letters have been sent to Highways Agency and MP about the matter.
Recommendation 22: 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 Highways Agency and Northamptonshire Highways to discuss				Ongoing – contact made with relevant parties to arrange a meeting to discuss the matter and recommendation 23 below.
Recommendation 23 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
Request made to Highways Agency				See above
Recommendation 24 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.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Development of an action plan for applying for Purple Flag accreditation.	NBC staff working in partnership with Town Centre BID	Staff time	2017	Work is currently at the planning stage of developing an understanding of the criteria for gaining purple flag accreditation and how this would apply in Northampton.

Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee				
Recommendation 28: 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 2016/2017	Added to the O&S Monitoring Work Programme - Overview and Scrutiny Committee	n/a	Monitoring to take place 2 February 2017	