

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Litter Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the revised Litter Strategy. This is in accordance with the Council's Corporate Priority of Environment – 'Protect the environment for the future'.

2. Recommendation

The Policy Working Group reviewed the strategy on 6 February 2025 and RECOMMENDS that Cabinet RESOLVE that the Litter Strategy be approved and adopted.

3. Detail

More than two million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK every day. The cost to taxpayers for street cleaning is over £1 billion a year (Source: Keep Britain Tidy).

Local Authorities have a duty and a responsibility to manage municipal waste arising within their areas. Municipal waste in this context is an umbrella term used to describe waste collected by, or on behalf of, the Council. This includes waste and recycling arising from households (household waste) but also includes other waste streams such as fly tipped waste, waste from litter bins and street sweepings. The disposal of litter is the responsibility of Nottinghamshire County Council.

Litter is a longstanding environmental challenge both nationally and for the Council. Litter damages important habitats, changes the visual landscape and takes significant resource to clear up. For these reasons, the Council is committed to reducing litter and produced a Litter strategy, which was first adopted in 2017.

The Strategy outlined an approach to reducing litter through three strategic elements. These being:

- Bin infrastructure: Having bins located in appropriate strategic locations in the Borough.
- Education: Suitable educational and promotional campaigns.
- Enforcement: Officers authorised to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for littering.

The initial Strategy ran until 2023, and over time it has become evident that the principles guiding the strategy have matured. Consequently, there is a need to review, refresh and re-write certain elements of the document.

Additionally, since the declaration of the climate emergency in 2019, various waste work streams have been included in the Climate Change and Green Futures Programme, emphasising the importance of encouraging sustainable behaviour and responsible waste management. These developments underscore the necessity for a revised strategy that aligns with current priorities and effectively addresses the ongoing challenges of litter reduction.

The revisions to the Litter Strategy have been extensive, making the creation of a change table difficult due to the numerous modifications. Key updates include:

- Rewriting of document sections to improve clarity.
- References to third-party enforcement.
- The creation of programme themes and the addition of a 'Partnerships' strategic element.
- New sections that address Governance and partnership working, alongside key updates to the service profile and key performance indicators.
- A comprehensive review of the action plan, which has been re-written to ensure a more cohesive, comprehensive, and effective approach to litter management.

An update on the Litter Strategy Actions 2017-2023 is provided in **Appendix 1**. The proposed Litter Strategy 2025-2030 is attached in **Appendix 2** and an updated copy of an Equality Impact Assessment is attached in **Appendix 3**.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as it effects two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

The Policy Overview Working Group (POWG) reviewed the Litter Strategy on 6 February 2025 and requested several key adaptations and inclusions. This included:

- The creation of additional targets in the action plan.
- The inclusion of specific annual national/local littering campaigns.
- The inclusion of universities regarding partnership working.

- Clarification of the timeline for the pilot third party environmental enforcement contractor.
- Address littering concerns around recycling sites and inappropriate disposal of dog fouling.
- Address the disposal of vapes and other batteries in litter bins.

Following the meeting, these recommendations and requests have been incorporated into the Litter Strategy.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider with activity being contained within existing capital and revenue budgets. Any significant budget implications in the future, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The legal and policy powers stem from various pieces of legislation, as set out in paragraphs 6 of the Litter Strategy. The Council's approach to enforcing these laws is to focus on 'prevention rather than reactive clean up efforts'. Such an approach helps to avoid the risk of legal challenge where a party might claim the Council had acted in an ill-considered or disproportionate manner.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable

10. Climate Change Implications

Climate Change does have an impact on the Litter Strategy as severe weather can lead to greater litter accumulation in certain areas of the Borough, including waterways. Improper waste management can lead to an increase in carbon emissions. Therefore, the Litter Strategy must align with the Council's Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy, which promotes sustainable waste practices and increased awareness to mitigate the environmental impact of litter.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

As there are substantial changes to the previous Litter Strategy an EIA is provided in **Appendix 3**.

13. Background Papers

Nil.