



CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Cabinet response to Scrutiny Panel 3 – Keep Northampton Tidy
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	9 December 2015
Key Decision:	NO
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	Customers & Communities
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Alan Bottwood
Ward(s)	All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to respond to the recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny Report Keep Northampton Tidy

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the recommendations included in the Overview and Scrutiny report on Keep Northampton Tidy are implemented in accordance with the actions outlined in 3.2 below including the identification of suitable sources of finance where appropriate.
- 2.2 That the Scrutiny Panel are formally congratulated on a high quality and comprehensive report and thanked for the time and effort given to producing it.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1** Following approval of its work programme for 2014/15 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 3 to undertake the review- Keep Northampton Tidy. This review was carried out between May 2014 and March 2015.
- 3.1.2** A number of meetings were held to gather evidence from a broad range of stakeholders.
- 3.1.3** 25 recommendations are included in the report. They focus on Keep Northampton Tidy, Campaigns, Gateways into the town and Purple Flag Accreditation.

3.2 Recommendations and Service Responses

Keep Northampton Tidy

- 3.2.1** Investigate the wider use of the successful NBC Report It App., such as the inclusion of a facility to report tree issues, and use as a channel to request and coordinate community action such as litter picks. Consider extension to include NCC issues within the borough.

Action: *Discussions commenced with ICT services team at LGSS to review app functionality. The app will be updated as part of planned changes to the wider CRM system in 2016/17 and this will provide a suitable opportunity to amend functionality.*

- 3.2.2** 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: *- details will be circulated to all Councillors*

- 3.2.3** A Usage Log for the Report It App. is produced on an annual basis.

Action: *- This information has been requested from ICT.*

- 3.2.4** 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: *Stickers have been made available to Neighbourhood Wardens and they remove outdated fly-posts.*

- 3.2.5** Officers from Planning Services rigorously pursue perpetrators of illegal flyposting / advertising 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: Powers to take action against promoters and venues responsible for fly posting are included in the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order which is currently out for consultation. Further discussions are being held with Planning to ensure that these powers are effectively enforced.

3.2.6 Funding of £2000 is made available for;

- i. Officers to be charged with disseminating portable ashtrays in the town centre.
- ii. "Do not feed the pigeons" signs to be erected at various locations in the town centre.

The provision of chewing gum boards is investigated on a cost benefit basis.

Action:

- i. *Some supplies of portable ashtrays have been provided from existing budgets.*
- ii. *Supplies of signs are available, suitable locations will be identified having consideration for the need to avoid clutter of signage.*
- iii. *Discussions will be held with Enterprise regarding the practicalities of this proposal.*

3.2.7 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; *Many planters have been replaced as part of town centre regeneration projects. Plans will be developed to deal with the remaining planters.*

3.2.8 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.

Action: *A letter has been sent to all supermarkets and stores in Northampton that use trolleys. Follow up visits will be carried out to those whose trolleys are found off site.*

3.2.9 Through the Planning Conditions, supermarkets and similar shops are required to have mechanisms installed to prevent trolleys being removed from site.

Action: *it is not possible to control the use of supermarket trolleys through planning conditions. Informal approaches will be made to supermarket operators recommending this as good practice..*

3.2.10 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: *A briefing note will be made available on the Intranet*

3.2.11 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: *A meeting has been held of all relevant budget holders at NBC and contact has been made with NCC and other partner agencies*

3.2.12 Cabinet considers the gating of jetties at night in the town centre that are currently subject to anti-social behaviour.

Action: *Previously significant work was done to investigate the practicality of this action. It was not considered to be possible due to Highway issues and the fact that some fire exits from commercial premises that are occupied at night open onto the jetties.*

Keep Northampton Tidy Campaign

3.2.13 Information about resources available is published on the Council's website.

Action; *Information has been posted*

3.2.14 In recognising their success, Cabinet explores the effectiveness of Kangaroo Runs.

Action: *Further investigations are currently being undertaken to present proposals with relevant costing and information about the implications of such activities. This will be brought back to a meeting of Cabinet early in 2016.*

3.2.15 Additional funding of £5,000 per year is allocated for five schemes with Junior Wardens and education activities.

Action: *A growth bid will be put forward for the necessary funding.*

3.2.16 The viability of running a National Citizen Scheme (NCS) to attract mid-late teenagers involvement is investigated.

Action: *This is currently being investigated and further information will be provided to Cabinet along with the information outlined in point 3.2.14 above.*

3.2.17 Community Clean Ups are co-ordinated so that they supplement the cleansing regime of the Environmental Services contract.

Action: *Wardens are encouraged to work with Community Groups and to share information about potential clean ups with Enterprise.*

3.2.18 Campaigns, such as Community Clean Ups, are publicised both on the Council's webpage and by the organisers of the Community clean ups.

Action: *Arrangements for this have been put in place.*

3.2.19 Community (Parish) Enhancement Teams are encouraged to undertake more work within the town.

Action: *Information about Community Enhancement Teams is available on the Keir WSP website at <http://www.kierwsp.co.uk/who-we-are/our-people/a-day-in-the-life>*

Gateways into the town

3.2.20 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: *Contact is made with the Highways Agency and other organisations responsible for managing major roads to attempt to coordinate litter picking with other road closures. This is not always practical*

3.2. 21Where practical, the Local Authority and the Highways Agency arranges anti-littering campaigns at service stations.

Action: *Investigations into this are ongoing.*

3.2.22 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: *Contact has been made with the Highways Agency and information passed to MPs*

3.2.23 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 *This is the responsibility of the Highways Agency and their contractors. Contact has been made with the regional office about the matter.*

3.2.24 The Highways Agency is asked to de-clutter signage, in particular around Junction 15(M1).

Action: *Contact has been made with the Highways Agency over this matter.*

Purple Flag Accreditation

3.2.25 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; *A time limited action plan will be presented to Cabinet early in 2016.*

3.3 Issues

3.3.1 As detailed in 3.2

3.4 Choices (Options)

3.4.1 Cabinet may chose to adopt some, all or none of the recommendations of Scrutiny Panel 3 as detailed above. The actions required to bring forward each of the recommendations are outlined in 3.2 above. Some of these action have cost implications and as indicated they can either be funded from existing budgets or may be the subject of growth bids.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.2 None at this stage

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1. The financial implications of this report are noted against each of the Actions in 3.2 above. It may be necessary to review some of the actions in light of the current financial constraints. The financial implications will be considered as part of the Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 None specifically highlighted.

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 None specifically highlighted.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 The following stakeholders have been consulted.

Internal

Planning and Regeneration
Contract Partnership Unit
Legal Services
Finance
ICT

External

Enterprise Managed Services
Northamptonshire County Council Highways / Kier WSP
Highways Agency

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 The proposals contribute to the delivery of the following objectives: Investing in cleaner, safer neighbourhoods, Creating empowered communities and Responding to your needs.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Report of Scrutiny Panel 3 Keep Northampton Tidy

Ruth Austen Environmental Health and Licensing Manager Ext 7794