

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	15 August 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 to discuss possible additional functionality	ICT services staff	Staff time	Summer 2016	Information has been requested, verbal feedback to be provided at meeting

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	Details of App available on NBC website. Further information to be provided in verbal report at meeting

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	Information has been requested, verbal feedback to be provided at meeting

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over illegal fly-posts advertising events indicating cancellation of the event in appropriate cases and removing outdated fly-posts.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	Resources	Target date	Achievement/Completed
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	by	required/available		
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
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.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact made with Planning Division to discuss situation	Planning Division	Staff time	ongoing	<p>July 2016 Planning Team indicate that they have received no complaints in the past 12 months.</p> <p>Small number of complaints received by Neighbourhood Wardens and action taken to sticker / remove fly posting.</p> <p>Situation to be kept under</p>

				review
<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 Pigeons signs and chewing gum boards</p>	Communities and Environment Division staff in consultation with Enterprise	Staff time and budget for purchase of equipment	Summer 2016	<p>Portable ashtrays have been made available, partly funded by Town Centre BID</p> <p>Additional signage conflicts with the objective of decluttering the town centre. Signs will be 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</p>

				which there is no budget. Therefore not considered to be viable. Objective complete
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 the town centre area provided with suitable floral displays	Environmental Services (Direct Services) Manager	Staff time and budget	Summer 2016	Additional planting has been provided. Complete
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
Contact made with supermarkets.	EH and Licensing Manager	Staff time	June2016	Completed

Discussion with planning team about the practicality of use of conditions to deal with this matter	Planning Division	Staff time		<p>Planning Officers indicate that this requirement is outside the scope of conditions that can be included in planning conditions.</p> <p>Action completed</p>
<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.</p>				
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	<p>Briefing paper produced and made available.</p> <p>Action completed.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10: . All relevant Agencies are encouraged to come together at budget planning time, with the aim of making a</p>				

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	Group in place Action complete.

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	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>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</p>
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				under review and if significant anti-social behaviour is taking place in a particular locations, options for gating jetties / alleys will be explored.
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	Web content updated and kept under review Action completed
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	Kangaroo runs target specific areas and will continue as part of 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. Action completed
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		A number of Junior Warden schemes are running using funding from Councillor empowerment funds and other sources. In addition most wardens work with schools in their areas to provide environmental and safety education using resources from the Junior Warden programme.

				Potential sources of funding to run a more comprehensive programme will continue to be explored.
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				Investigations into viability of running a scheme are ongoing. Verbal report to be provided at meeting
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	Customer services staff and staff at Enterprise	Staff time	ongoing	Enterprise support community clean ups by providing equipment and clearing the waste collected. Steps have been taken to

to coordinate clean ups				ensure that enquiries are referred to the correct members of staff. Action completed
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	Website content updated. Action complete
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		Information received about Parish Enhancement Gangs The service is opened for requests in February Request forms to be sent to

				<p>Northamptonshire Highways with a closing dates for forms at the end of March.</p> <p>In 2015/16 match funding was required for each application. This was £250 for a day's work to be carried out in a parish. The format for 2015/16 was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February- funding secured • February mailing to Parish Councils • Reminder sent March 24 • Requests close March 27. Requests not be accepted after this date. • April - works agreed and programmed. • May/June – works start. Areas will contact parish a week in advance to confirm day and works to be carried out between May - September • Surveys about CEG to go to every parish <p>Unfortunately it is not yet</p>
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				<p>known if the service will yet be available in 2017.</p> <p>Further contact will be made with NCC Highways in January / February 2017 to determine if the scheme will operate. If it does Parish Councils and Community Groups will be encouraged to apply for funding.</p>
<p>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.</p>				
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	<p>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.</p> <p>Action completed.</p>
<p>Recommendation 20 Where practical, the Local Authority and the Highways Agency arranges anti-littering campaigns at service</p>				

stations				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact Highways Agency to discuss				Only one service station (junction 15A Southbound) is within Northampton Borough. Highways England operate a number of Regional anti litter campaigns that have included the Northampton area. Action completed
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	Verbal feedback to be provided at meeting

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				Contact has been made with relevant people. Verbal report to be provided at meeting
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				Letter sent to Highways Agency
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	NBC staff working in partnership	Staff time	2017	Work is currently at the initial planning stage of

applying for Purple Flag accreditation.	with Town Centre BID			developing an understanding of the criteria for gaining purple flag accreditation and how this would apply in Northampton.
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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 15 August	