

## 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	25 September 2017	25 September 2017 Update report 4 February 2019

#### Previously outstanding actions

<p><b>Recommendation 5:</b> 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		<b>Complete</b> – Planning Division confirm that fly posting has been monitored and, where complaints have

				<p>been received, the Planning Enforcement team has been prepared to take appropriate action. However, there have been few examples of unauthorised fly posting and 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>During summer 2017 over 200 fly posters have been removed. Organisations responsible for fly posting have been served with Community Protection Warnings.</p> <p>An updated graffiti and placard policy was approved</p>
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				at Cabinet on 16 January. The policy clarifies arrangements for removal of placards and graffiti and puts arrangements in place to recharge and sanction those responsible.
<b>Recommendation 11:</b> 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 Task Group	Staff time		Complete  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:  Who would lock and unlock any gates.

				<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>A report to approve a Public Spaces Protection Order to gate an alleyway, (Marble Arch) was presented to Cabinet on 13 September 2017. The effectiveness of this PSPO will be monitored</p>
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				<p>and the applicability of the approach to other locations will be considered.</p> <p>January 2019 update – the Marble Arch PSPO has proved to be effective. Further requests have been received to consider the gating of Jeyes Jetty and one of the local businesses has offered to act as a keyholder. The practicalities of this action is currently under consideration.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 20:</b> Where practical, the Local Authority and the Highways Agency arranges anti-littering campaigns at service stations</p>				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact Highways Agency to discuss	Environmental Health and Licensing Manager	Staff time		<p><b>Complete</b></p> <p>Highways England operate a number of Regional anti litter</p>

				<p>campaigns that have included the Northampton area.</p> <p>Only one service station (junction 15A Southbound) is within Northampton Borough.</p> <p>Contact with Highways England will be maintained as part of the mobilisation process of the new Environmental Services in 2018.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 21:</b> Post April 2015 contact is made with the Highways Agency 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</p>				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed

Contact to be made with Highways England	EH and Licensing Manager	Staff time		<b>Complete.</b>  A meeting has taken place with NBC, Keir and NCC to discuss how highways and gateway issues will be dealt with both under the new contract and to foster improved working relationships. A further meeting is currently being arranged including Highways England and their contractors.
<b>Recommendation 22:</b> . 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 Agencies to discuss				A meeting has taken place with NBC, Keir and NCC to discuss how highways and gateway issues will be dealt with both under the new contract and to foster

				improved working relationships. A further meeting is currently being arranged including Highways England and their contractors.
<b>Recommendation 23:</b> The Highways Agency is asked to de-clutter signage, in particular around junction 15.				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementation/responsibility by</b>	<b>Resources required/available</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Achievement/Completed</b>
Request made to the Highways Agency				A meeting has taken place with NBC, Keir and NCC to discuss how highways and gateway issues will be dealt with both under the new contract and to foster improved working relationships. A further meeting is currently being arranged including Highways England and their contractors.
<b>Recommendations already complete</b>				



<b>Recommendation 2:</b> 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	<b>Complete</b> Details of App available on NBC website.
<b>Recommendation 4:</b> 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	<b>Complete</b>

**Recommendation 6:** Funding of £2,000 is made available for:

- 1 Officers to be charged with disseminating portable ashtrays in the town centre.
- 2 “Do not feed the pigeons” signs to be erected in various locations in the town centre.

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

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>	<p>Communities and Environment Division staff in consultation with Enterprise</p>	<p>Staff time and budget for the purchase of equipment</p>	<p>Summer 2016</p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p> <p>Portable ashtrays have been made available, partly funded by Town Centre BID</p> <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).</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.

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
<p>Contact made with supermarkets.</p> <p>Discussion with planning team about the practicality of use of conditions to deal with this matte</p>	<p>EH and Licensing Manager</p> <p>Planning Division</p>	<p>Staff time</p>	<p>June 2016</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> <p><b>Cabinet on 16 January approved the implantation of a scheme to collect trolleys and recharge their owners..</b></p>

<b>Recommendation 9</b> 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	<b>Complete</b>  Briefing paper produced and made available..
<b>Recommendation 10</b> 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 continues	All members of the group	Staff time	Summer 2016	<b>Complete</b>  Group in place and discussions carried out to coordinate actions
<b>Recommendation 12:</b> : 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	<b>Complete.</b> Web content updated and will be reviewed as part of the planned overhaul of the NBC website.
<b>Recommendation 13</b> 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	<b>Complete</b>  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.

<b>Recommendation 14</b> Additional funding of £5,000 per year is allocated for five schemes with Junior Wardens and education activities.				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementation/responsibility by</b>	<b>Resources required/available</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Achievement/Completed</b>
Junior Warden schemes are operated in schools	ES (Direct Services) Manager	£500 plus Staff time	Summer 2016	<p><b>Complete</b> – a growth bid was not submitted for this as 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>
<b>Recommendation 16 :</b> Community Clean Ups are co-ordinated so that they supplement the cleansing regime of the Environmental Services contract.				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementation/responsibility by</b>	<b>Resources required/available</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Achievement/Completed</b>

Improved coordination between contractor and Members and Community Groups to coordinate clean ups	Customer services staff and staff at Enterprise	Staff time	Summer 2016	<b>Complete</b> Enterprise support community clean ups by providing equipment and clearing the waste collected. Steps have been taken to ensure that enquiries are referred to the correct members of staff.
<b>Recommendation 17</b> 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 2016	<b>Complete</b> Website content updated and will be reviewed as part of proposed overhaul of NBC website.
<b>Recommendation 19:</b> 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	Resources required/	Target date	Achievement /

		available		Completed
Clarification obtained regarding current practice	Enterprise Staff / Northamptonshire Highways / Highways Agency	Staff time	Summer 2016	<b>Complete.</b> 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
<b>Recommendation 24</b> 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.				
<b>Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>				
<b>Recommendation 28:</b> 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	Added to the O&S Monitoring Work Programme - Overview and	n/a	Monitoring to take place 2 February	



2016/2017	Scrutiny Committee		2017	
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  January 2019 update – Purple Flag accreditation achieved in summer 2019. Work in progress to submit renewal application.
<b>Recommendation 1:</b> 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 with borough				
Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed		
Staff time		<b>Complete</b> – Issue has been logged with ICT and will be taken forward as part of review of Website and reporting methods.		

**Recommendation 3:** A Usage Log for the Report It App. is produced on an annual basis. .

Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
ICT services staff	Staff time		<b>Complete</b> -. quarterly reports being produced and made available

**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 Stickers made available to wardens and used where appropriate.	Environmental Services (Direct Services) Manager	Staff time budget	March 2016	<b>Complete</b> Additional planting has been provided.

**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><b>Complete</b></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>
<b>Recommendation 18:</b> 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		<p><b>Complete</b></p> <p>Details have been obtained about the process for applications for works by Community Enhancement</p>

				<p>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.</p> <p>2019 update – this scheme is no longer available.</p>
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