

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: HEAD OF WASTE AND CONTRACT SERVICES

REPORT NO. WCS5

DATE: 10TH JANUARY 2005

TITLE:	STREET SCENE ACTION PLAN
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	N/A
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	N/A
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	STREET SCENE Councillor R Auger
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	None
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	None
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the council's prioritisation process Street Scene was identified as a Priority A.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That approval is given for the following Street Scene Action Plan.

3. ACTION PLAN

The following items have been identified as making up the core elements of Street Scene:

- Street Cleaning
- Litter Enforcement
- Graffiti
- Fly Posting
- Fly Tipping

a) Street Cleaning

Considerable investment has already been made both in resources and equipment. A joint venture with South Holland District Council has enabled the council to purchase a hot pressure washer, which can be used for washing streets and the removal of chewing gum.

In 2004/05 a programme commenced whereby the main areas in the town centre of Grantham have had chewing gum and grease removed. This operation has taken place in the evenings to keep the amount of disruption caused to a minimum.

Action Plan: To continue with an on going programme of street washing/chewing gum removal in the main town centres of Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and the Deepings.

An additional small pavement sweeper has also been purchased which has proved beneficial in town centres. Approval has been given for the purchase of an additional small sweeper plus vehicle. It is intended to use this equipment to provide a service to the rural areas whereby a team can be sent to carry out a detailed clean both manually and mechanically.

Action Plan: To improve the cleaning of rural areas with the creation of a "rural hit team"

b) Litter Enforcement

Litter fines are already being issued for litter being dropped in the High Street and St Peters Hill area of Grantham. To date eight fines have been issued and all have been paid. The council is able to keep these fines to finance similar projects. It is being proposed to extend the area where fines can be issued to cover the whole of the district.

Many authorities are now taking a very pro-active approach to the enforcement of litter fines and have appointed litter wardens.

It is proposed that we employ our own wardens who will look to take both an educational and enforcement role, in addition to litter fines they will also be able to issue fines for dog fouling.

It is proposed that the three wardens will be equipped with motorbikes fitted with cameras. This will enable them to be both mobile and to have the ability to record incidents where evidence may needed to be produced in court.

A similar scheme has operated in Lincoln City and has provided most successful.

Action Plan: To extend the area for which litter fines can be issued to cover the whole of the South Kesteven area. Also, to establish a team of litter enforcement officers who will provide a high visibility presence and deterrent to those who drop litter.

c) Graffiti

The hot pressure washer is not only capable of removing grease and chewing gum, but can also be used, with the right chemicals, to remove graffiti.

Staff within Waste and Contract Services are now trained in the use of the relevant chemicals.

Action Plan: To remove graffiti from public buildings which are owned by South Kesteven District Council.

Under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 Section 48 allows local authorities to serve notices upon anyone responsible for a surface requiring them to remove, clear or otherwise remedy the defacement of that surface within a period specified in the Notice where: -

- I. Relevant surface is an area defaced by graffiti
- II. The defacement is detrimental to the amenity of the area or is offensive.

The period for remedy should not be less than 28 days from when the notice is served, however failure to not comply with the notice allows the local authority or their agents to clear the defacement. If the local authority has to do this it may then recover any costs deemed reasonable.

Action Plan: To serve notices on owners of property which has been subject to graffiti and request that they remove it. If they fail to do so then we will arrange for the removal and seek to recover the cost.

d) Fly Posting

Under the terms of the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 Section 42 an authority may issue a fixed penalty for fly posting.

Many authorities have different policies towards fly posting. Many have taken a zero tolerance approach, whilst others allow certain types.

Action Plan: Consult other local authorities regarding best practice in dealing with fly posting and establish council's policy for dealing with this subject.

e) Fly Tipping

Increase landfill charges and restrictions on the types of waste that can be landfilled, has resulted in an increase in the amount of waste that is being fly tipped.

The council has been successful in obtaining successful prosecutions against fly tippers.

A covert camera kit has recently been purchased; this can be used in known areas where fly tipping regularly occurs. The evidence can then be used to pursue further prosecutions.

Action Plan: To use covert cameras to record fly tipping and use the evidence to seek further prosecutions.

During the year the council has bought a lorry with an Atlas crane attachment, this has now put us in a strong position to remove any sort of fly tipping that is presented to us.

Our removal time for fly tipping is now at the lowest it has ever been, and other than asbestos, which requires a specialist firm, we are equipped to deal with most situations.

Action Plan: To maintain a fast response to the removal of fly tipping.

4. COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND STRATEGIC RESOURCES

Action Plan costings should be included in budget submissions.

5. COMMENTS OF CORPORATE MANAGER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES (MONITORING OFFICER)

The report sets out appropriate actions in respect of a Category A priority. Democratic & Legal Services will provide appropriate resources to deal with the legal implications of the enforcement actions proposed. Considerable expertise has now been obtained in respect of fly tipping and related prosecutions

6. SUMMARY

The Street Scene label can mean many things and each local authority has different areas covered under its banner of Street Scene. It will be important that when assessing the success of our Street Scene campaign that all interested parties are informed what we include under it and what our aims and aspirations are.

7. CONTACT OFFICER

Garry Knighton – Head of Waste and Contract Services