



REPORT TO:	Policy Development Panel
DATE:	13 December 2022
SUBJECT:	Draft Litter and Fly-Tipping Engagement and Enforcement Strategy
PURPOSE:	To Advise the Panel about a draft Partnership Litter and Fly-Tipping Engagement and Enforcement Strategy and ask for feedback
KEY DECISION:	No
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Anthony Casson
REPORT OF:	Christian Allen, Assistant Director Regulatory
REPORT AUTHOR:	Donna Hall, Head of Public Protection
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL
EXEMPT REPORT	No

SUMMARY

This report introduces a proposed Draft Litter and Fly-Tipping Strategy which it is intended will be adopted by each sovereign Council in the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

The strategy sets out the ambition of the Partnership to tackle and reduce litter and fly-tipping. It supports the commitment in the Partnership Annual Delivery Plan to implement a shared Enforcement contract for environmental crime, by promoting public engagement and providing transparency about enforcement.

The Panel are asked to consider the draft Strategy and support the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel consider the draft strategy and provide feedback.

That the Panel make any recommendations to Cabinet that they feel appropriate.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To provide Panel Members with the opportunity to comment on the proposed strategy prior to further consultation, and consideration by Cabinet

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will be familiar with the commitment made in the Partnership Annual Delivery Plan to procure a joint environmental crime enforcement contract. This work is almost complete and the new contract will be mobilised early in the new year.
- 1.2 Members may also be aware from their own experiences and from national reporting, that there has been an increase in incidents of environmental crime such as fly-tipping on a local and national level.
- 1.3 This draft strategy has been developed in response to escalating issues with environmental crime, and to support the implementation of the new enforcement contract.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The Partnership Strategy demonstrates the commitment and ambition of each Council to tackling Littering and Fly-tipping. It promotes responsibility among residents, businesses, and visitors, whilst also recognising that education and enforcement are critical tools to support this. Data and intelligence will be used to help direct activities and ensure problem areas are targeted.
- 2.2 The overarching objective of the Partnership, as stated within the Strategy, is to reduce fly-tipping and littering. We will achieve this by:
 - **Engaging** with the public and businesses to ensure it is seen as socially unacceptable
 - **Educating** them about responsible disposal and the impact and penalties of not complying
 - Ensuring **enforcement** is used effectively and appropriately

In order to do this, we will:

- Collect data and intelligence to understand problem areas
 - Work in partnership with others including other agencies and community groups
 - Use effective communications to ensure the public and businesses understand the legal requirements
- 2.3 The Strategy promotes the use of enforcement and explains where this action may be appropriate, how evidence may be collated, and the sanctions available.
 - 2.4 The Strategy also emphasises the need for education and engagement with residents, visitors and businesses. This is important to help prevent crime from occurring and ensure that everyone is aware of their responsibilities and potential consequences of their actions.

- 2.5 A communications strategy has been developed across the Partnership to support implementation of this strategy and the enforcement contract, which includes press releases, local bulletins, social media, posters and leaflets and signage in hot spot areas.
- 2.6 An Action Plan is being developed to detail the specific steps that will be undertaken to effectively deliver the strategy. When approved, this will be available alongside the Strategy on the Council website.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Members of the Panel are requested to consider and provide feedback on the draft Strategy, in conjunction with wider consultation being undertaken with external partners.
- 3.2 The Strategy will then be considered by Cabinet in the new year with a recommendation that it is approved and adopted.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

This is a Partnership wide strategy which aligns the principals and commitment to tackling littering and fly-tipping across the three Councils. It builds on some of the positive work already seen in each Council to tackle environmental crime in recent years.

The Strategy will support a Partnership wide environmental crime enforcement contract which promotes consistency and transparency in enforcement activities, whilst recognising the sovereignty of each Council in setting local policy and fines.

The shared communications strategy is an efficient way of promoting education across the sub-region and will be tailored to suit the needs of each area as required.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The proposed Strategy supports the South Holland District Council Corporate Priority of “Your Place”:

- Work together with partners, businesses and local communities to re-establish the Pride in South Holland programme to improve the quality of public spaces to be cleaner, greener and safer
- Work with our partners such as Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership and Parish Councils to reduce and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, and protect the community and environment

- Support Spalding and Holbeach to be attractive places that people want to visit, live and work while supporting all other towns and villages in the district to meet the needs of their communities

STAFFING

There are no additional staffing burdens arising from the report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no constitutional implications, and legal services have been consulted.

DATA PROTECTION

The Strategy does not introduce any data protection implications.

FINANCIAL

The strategy does not introduce any financial risk. It is anticipated that it will be delivered within existing resources.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There is a risk that a failure to undertake pro-active work to tackle litter and fly-tipping may lead to the Council failing to fulfil its statutory obligations. The strategy supports the continuing use of enforcement to tackle such issues.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Internal consultation has been undertaken with relevant Officers and service managers. Portfolio Holders have also been consulted and provided feedback. The next stage will be to consult directly with key partners such as the police, Environment Agency, Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, Community Groups etc.

REPUTATION

There is a reputational risk to each Council and the Partnership if work is not undertaken pro-actively to tackle environmental crime. The Strategy supports this approach.

CONTRACTS

There are no contractual considerations arising directly from the Strategy.

CRIME AND DISORDER

The strategy supports the use of enforcement, education and engagement to tackle criminality such as fly-tipping and littering.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

Consideration will be given to ensuring that communications issued in support of the strategy take into account the diversity of the population, and where appropriate are adapted to meet the needs of the community.

There are no human rights and safeguarding implications arising from this report however these are covered more specifically within each Council's Enforcement Policy.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

It is recognised that environmental crime can have a negative impact on health and well-being. This strategy aims to support work being undertaken to tackle this.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Strategy directly promotes a clean, safe and healthy environment by tackling littering and fly-tipping.

Sustainability will be considered in any communications or education campaigns.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.	
Living Standards	The Strategy promotes the ambition of improving living standards and closing the gap between areas.
Education	The Strategy supports the education of young people in schools to tackle environmental crime
Health	The strategy supports improvements in health and well-being by tackling environmental issues that can have a negative impact
Wellbeing	The strategy supports improvements in health and well-being by tackling environmental issues that can have a negative impact
Pride in Place	The Strategy strongly supports this mission by aiming to reduce litter and fly-tipping, promoting people's satisfaction with their community and closing the gap between other areas.
Crime	The strategy supports a drive to reduce neighbourhood crime such as fly-tipping and littering

ACRONYMS

None

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A

Draft Litter and Fly-Tipping Strategy

APPENDIX B

Presentation for PDP

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body in SHDC.

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:

Donna Hall, Head of Public Protection

Donna.hall@sholland.gov.uk

Signed off by:

Christian Allen, Assistant Director Regulatory

Christian.allen@boston.gov.uk

John Leach, Deputy Chief Executive - Communities

John.leach@boston.gov.uk

Approved for publication:

Cllr Anthony Casson, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection

