



Report To:	Policy Development Panel
Date:	21 st April 2026
Subject:	Graffiti and Street Art Management Policy
Purpose:	To present to members an updated Street Art Management Policy and outline the rationale for separating graffiti from street art within the Council policy
Key Decision:	No
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Gary Taylor, Portfolio Holder for Communities
Report Of:	Emily Spicer, Assistant Director – Housing and Communities
Report Author:	Nichola Holderness, Group Manager Community Leadership
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

This report sets out a review of the existing combined Graffiti and Street Art Management Policy. It proposes separating the document into two distinct areas of governance: -

1. A standalone Street Art Management Policy, owned and administered by the Community Leadership Team.
2. Graffiti enforcement, which remains fully covered within the Corporate Enforcement Policy

This approach removes duplication, provides clarity for internal teams and the public. It also ensures a consistent and transparent framework for both enforcement and creative activity.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Policy Development Panel:

1. Provide feedback on whether the Street Art Management Policy should be separated from the Graffiti Policy
2. Note a separate Graffiti Policy is not required, as graffiti is an act of criminal damage and is already governed by national legislation and the Corporate Enforcement Policy.
3. Provide any other feedback for consideration

Reasons for Recommendations

Graffiti constitutes criminal damage under national legislation and therefore sits firmly within the Corporate Enforcement Policy, administered by the Public Protection Team. A separate graffiti policy is duplication for existing arrangements.

Street Art requires governance and an approval process

Separating the policy provides clarity for residents, artists, officers and members, ensuring robust enforcement against graffiti while supporting high quality legitimate street art.

Other Options Considered

- Do nothing – retaining a combined policy was considered but discounted. Feedback from services and partners shows that combining enforcement and creative activity results in operational uncertainty and results in an inconsistent approach.

1. Background

- 1.1 Policy Development Panel formed a Task Group over the period 20 January 2022 to 2 March 2022 to explore and develop a governance framework to support the opportunity for street art in South Holland
- 1.2 A single combined policy was developed and signed off through the committee process in 2022
- 1.3 Operational teams, including Community Leadership, Public Protection and Community Safety have all provided consistent feedback that a combined policy creates confusion.

- 1.4 Graffiti is already regulated through government legislation and the Corporate Enforcement Policy, adopted in December 2021, which is overseen by the Public Protection Team.
- 1.5 The review has identified the need for a clearer and more supportive framework for street art, separate from enforcement activity.

2. Report

- 2.1 The proposed amended policy for Street Art is set out in appendix 1, this document becomes a standalone document owned by the Community Leadership Team. Its purpose is to:
 - Provide a consistent and transparent approach to managing street art within the district.
 - Support high-quality, authorised street art that contributes positively to the local area.
 - Set out a fair process for considering applications from property owners, community groups, artists, and partner organisations.
 - Protect the local environment, heritage assets, and community sensitivities.
- 2.2 Graffiti enforcement remains wholly governed through the Councils Enforcement Policy with no separate Graffiti Policy required.
- 2.3 By having a dedicated Street Art policy led by the Community Leadership Team, this will allow: -
 - Clarify on what is permitted and constitutes street art
 - Clear application process
 - Clear and transparent approval process
 - Clear roles, responsibilities and ownership
 - Distinction between illegal graffiti and authorised artwork
- 2.4 A combined policy makes it difficult for the public to distinguish between illegal graffiti and authorised creative community art.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1. This proposed policy has been thoroughly reviewed. It is recommended that the policy be separated, and the new Street Art Policy be adopted to continue to support street art in South Holland. Graffiti enforcement will remain solely within the remit of the Corporate Enforcement Policy.
- 3.2. This approach enhances clarity, governance and operational effectiveness which will support community creativity and allowing for robust enforcement.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None

Corporate Priorities

Graffiti and Street Art Management Policy supports the following Sub-Regional South and East Lincolnshire Council Partnership priorities:

- Healthy Lives
- Safe and Resilience Community

Staffing

There are no additional staffing implications resulting in this recommendation. The policy is coordinated by the Community Leadership Team.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None

Constitutional and Legal Implications

As set out in the Policy, South Holland District Council has various statutory powers under which it can enforce against illegal graffiti – including as a landowner and under its enforcement powers. As a landowner the Council can also choose to permit street art.

The proposed policy does not form part of the Policy Framework of the Council and is therefore an executive function to be determined by the Leader, Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.

Data Protection

There are no specific data protection implications to report as a consequence of the development of the report.

Financial

There are no direct financial implications to note regarding this report

Risk Management

There are no additional risk arising from this report.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

This policy was developed by a Task Group of the PDP. A review of the policy has been undertaken with relevant officers and in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder.

Reputation

The management and governance of street art is key to the successful of street art in South Holland. The policy has been developed with this in mind. The policy also includes clarity in relation to Graffiti Management.

Contracts

None

Crime and Disorder

The proposals contained within this report will improve the overall street scene and environment for our local places on behalf of our local communities. It is recognised that the policy will support the reduction of crime and disorder

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

None

Health and Wellbeing

None

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment

Not undertaken

Acronyms

Policy Development Panel – PDP

Appendices

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

Appendix 1 Street Arty Policy 2026

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

Name of Body	Date
Performance and Development Panel	23 rd March 2022

Report Approval

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