



# **ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

## ***Panel Report***

**Public**

**Date of Meeting:** 25th October 2012

**Title:** CLEANING UP CARLISLE

**Report of:** The Director of Local Environment

**Report reference:** LE 33/12

**Summary:** A report to advise Members on the progress of the Enforcement and Education Team in the Cleaning up of Carlisle since the meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2012.

### **Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:**

To consider the update on the Cleaner Carlisle Project including

- a) Education and campaigns
- b) Enforcement activity
- c) Improved Clean Up

### **Recommendations:**

To support the Cleaner Carlisle; Love Where You Live Campaign and note the improvements to street cleansing in terms of mechanisation and programming.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

## **Background**

1. Local amenity and environmental quality remain a key priority for residents, members and the new Executive. Last year during the budget setting process, additional funding of £155,000 for 2 years was made available to make improvements in the cleanliness of Carlisle. This has led to a three strand approach of improved cleansing and development of a new enforcement and education team.
2. The new Enforcement and Education Team was officially in place from the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The team includes an Enforcement and Education Team Leader, 2 Enforcement and Education Officers and 2 Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Officers. The team are already well on with delivering educational messages and following this up with robust enforcement.

### **2. Enforcement**

In September alone the team issued a total of 14 Fixed Penalty Notices for a wide range of offences including dog fouling, dogs of leads, littering and waste receptacles. So far in 2012/13 there have been 24 fixed penalty notices issued for environmental crime offences compared to a total of 18 for the whole of 2011/12. In addition there have been two successful fly tipping prosecutions which have been widely publicised and further cases have been referred to the Council's Legal Services for consideration.

- 2.1 The team are working closely with the Waste Services team regarding the ongoing problem of waste being placed out for collection too early and inappropriately. A system of education, warning letters and enforcement is now in place and is currently being trialled in the St Aidans area of the City.
- 2.2 The new enforcement policy for dealing with juveniles has already proved successful with three letters issued in September. Work is continuing with Carlisle's secondary schools.
- 2.3 A successful training day was held to increase the number of City Council members authorised to issue Fixed Penalty Tickets and this was also attended by a small number of rural PCSO's and Riverside staff. Riverside staff, in particular, are keen to work with the Enforcement and Education Team in key problem areas.

### 3. **Signage**

20 high priority surveillance signs have been purchased and are being placed in key areas across the city and surrounding areas. One of the main problems with signage is that it becomes part of the street furniture. These signs will be in place for no more than two months at a time before they are moved to another part of the City. Currently Old Harraby and Currock have 10 signs each. They will then be moved St Aidans and Botcherby. Those areas displaying the larger signs will have increased surveillance campaigns.

- 3.1 An extra 200 smaller new aluminium signs have been ordered for permanent location. It was also identified that a number of lampposts still have faded signs attached and these are to be re utilised with the purchase of new stickers.

### 4. **Love Where You Live**

The 'Love Where You Live' campaign will be officially launched mid November to tie in with Stagecoach and recycling truck advertising. Four sets of artwork have been developed which feature people who are making a difference to Carlisle and the surrounding areas. A number of other educational and promotional materials have been produced and are available to all members on request. Details of which are attached to this document. The promotional materials have been chosen so that they are attractive to different members of the community from logo bugs and pencils for primary schools, pens and notepads for secondary schools and trolley tokens for community groups.

- 4.1 5000 dog fouling information leaflets and 500 posters are ready to be distributed across Carlisle and the surrounding areas between now and Christmas. Relevant events that are programmed to take place will have the 'Love Where You Live' message attached.

- 4.2 Council web pages are being rebranded and the campaign now has one telephone number and a unique e-mail address. This should assist those who wish to report an incident and will enable the Council to track the effectiveness of the campaign in relation to the reporting of events.

### 5. **Education**

The team have carried out their first primary school visit and these will continue to tie in with the high priority surveillance areas. A lesson plan is currently being formulated for secondary classes and this should start to role out in the New Year.

- 5.1 A dog micro chipping event has also been arranged as Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Officers have received training and all the equipment to microchip dogs for free for all those on means tested benefits. It is anticipated that this scheme will be promoted through school visits and partnership working with the housing associations.
- 5.2 A large part of the Educational campaign involves engaging with communities at events and knocking on doors in target areas. Any steps that are being taken within an area will be clearly communicated either by face to face contact or where this is not possible, letter to the occupier.

## 6. **Seagulls**

The most effective control against Gulls is for occupiers and owners of land to proof their buildings to discourage birds from nesting and producing eggs. Should nesting occur the eggs can be oiled or removed, although the most effective method is to replace the eggs with dummy eggs which keeps the birds nesting and stops them laying other eggs. These actions need to be taken by occupiers and owners. The Council helps with advice and in encouraging owners and occupiers to coordinate and cooperate in implementing measures for Gull control. A leaflet has been produced by the Council (appendix.1.) The Council is sending this leaflet to premises where gulls are known to nest and this will be followed up closer to the nesting period by a visit to discuss action taken to discourage gulls nesting and mating. The Council will consider legal action against premises that allow their premises to be used for significant Gull nesting and mating. The Council also tackles the issue of feeding Gulls through the use of anti littering and fly tipping legislation.

## 7. **Improved Cleansing**

### 7.1 **Improved use of mechanised sweeping**

Four sweeping machines were funded last year and of these the team has taken delivery of three. The remaining vehicle is due for delivery before Christmas. The Cleaner Carlisle Project capital funding for vehicles was brought forward to this year and combined with vehicle replacement budgets to optimise the value of the investment. This has resulted in a further three vehicles being ordered, two of which will be fitted with Dog excrement cleaning attachments. The three additional vehicles are due for delivery in December 2012. The new fleet of vehicles will transform the quality of street cleansing, particularly of detritus, dog fouling, staining and weed control. There will also be improvements in the cleanliness of footpaths and pavements.

## **7.2 Programmes of work**

There has already been a marked improvement in street cleansing since March 2012, with the implementation of a blitz on the City Centre and this has been pushed out to the surrounding areas. This work will continue until all areas have been cleaned to an acceptable standard. In the rural areas, Brampton and Longtown will be included as part of this clean up exercise. Rural roads will be included in improved programmes of street sweeping.

Programmes of work have been developed for four of the mechanical sweepers and these will come fully on line when the fourth machine is delivered.

Programmes of work are under development for the three further street cleansing machines. A programme of work for the Barrow teams and mobile teams are in development.

A response team has been established as part of the Cleaner Carlisle project and can provide a more reactive service to requests from the public for cleansing between scheduled sweeps. Priority will be given to higher risk incidents such as dead animals, needles, blood staining, offensive graffiti and dog fouling in sensitive areas such as play grounds. Asbestos reports are dealt with by Environmental Health in the first instance and removal is generally by specialist contractors.

## **8. Conclusions**

With the coming on line of improved mechanisation, programmes of street cleansing, the new Enforcement and Education Team now up to a full complement of staff, and many of the planned processes coming into fruition, it is anticipated that the second quarter will see a significant improvement in the cleanliness of Carlisle.

**Impact assessments**

**Does the change have an impact on the following?**

Equality Impact Screening	Impact Yes/No?	Is the impact positive or negative?
Does the policy/service impact on the following?		
Age	<b>No</b>	
Disability	<b>No</b>	
Race	<b>No</b>	
Gender/ Transgender	<b>No</b>	
Sexual Orientation	<b>No</b>	
Religion or belief	<b>No</b>	
Human Rights	<b>No</b>	
Health inequalities	<b>No</b>	
Rurality	<b>No</b>	

**If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:**

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**If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.**