

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 September 2019
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Additional Investment - Environmental Initiatives Proposals
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seek approval to implement environmental initiatives to support anti-littering, anti-flytipping and anti-dog fouling initiatives
- ◆ request approval for the establishment of 1FTE Policy Officer (Environmental Initiatives) to develop and co-ordinate a range of litter related projects for the Council.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the proposals set out in section 5 of the report, including the establishment of 1 FTE Policy Officer (Environmental Initiatives), on (Grade 3) (Level 2 to 4), (£32,027 to £37,647), be approved

3. Background

3.1. Elected Members may recall that on 15 January 2019 an awareness session was held to advise Elected Members of the work undertaken by Community and Enterprise Resources in relation to environmental crime and the requirements of the new Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.

3.2. The Council approved at a Special meeting on 27 February 2019 that additional investment of £100,000 be provided to support environmental initiatives. From this decision, this report sets out:-

- ◆ existing services delivered by the Resource in tackling environmental issues such as littering, fly tipping and dog fouling
- ◆ proposals to enhance these services in line with the decision of the Council

4. Current Position

4.1. Facilities, Waste and Grounds Services has statutory responsibilities to clear and remove litter and refuse from public roads, footpaths and public maintained open spaces with the regulation and enforcement of litter, refuse, dog fouling and graffiti being the responsibility of Environmental Services. The two Services work closely together to discharge these duties on behalf of the Resource and Council.

- 4.2. Environmental Services will investigate all instance of fly tipping including on private land and pursue formally if evidence is found. However, it is the responsibility of the landowner to remove the waste from private land. Officers provide support and guidance to land owners where persistent littering/fly tipping occurs.
- 4.3. It should be noted that the definition of fly tipping relates to the wilful disposal of waste to avoid costs associated with waste disposal and therefore does not include waste storage arrangements within the curtilage of domestic properties, including bin shelters, commonly associated with flatted properties.
- 4.4. The Service has processes in place to manage environmental issues through a combination of education and awareness raising, prevention and enforcement, as summarised below:-

Education and Awareness Raising

- ◆ education and media awareness raising campaigns including use of social media
- ◆ articles in the local media linked to national campaigns coordinated by Keep Scotland Beautiful and Zero Waste Scotland
- ◆ Waste Awareness officers providing advice and guidance to residents on managing household waste and attending schools to promote recycling

Prevention

- ◆ the display of 'no dog fouling' signage at locations where problems are known to exist
- ◆ supporting local groups with community clean ups
- ◆ servicing approximately 4,000 litter bins
- ◆ programmed mechanical sweeping and litter collection routes
- ◆ free kerbside collection of green waste
- ◆ one free uplift per financial year (1 April to 31 March) of bulky household items
- ◆ on line forms and telephone lines to report litter, dog fouling and fly tipping
- ◆ access to six Household Waste and Recycling Centres

Enforcement

- ◆ investigation of all reported fly tipping with action taken if evidence found. On completion of investigation, fly tipping will be removed by Grounds Services from Council land
- ◆ enforcement activity via reactive litter and dog fouling patrols of problem areas and the issue of Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) fines when offenders are caught
- ◆ use of surveillance equipment to identify vehicle registration numbers to tackle fly tipping hot spots

- 4.5. The Council spends £5.5m a year dealing with litter, fly tipping, mechanical sweeping, graffiti removal, litter bin provision and servicing and uplift of hazardous material. The additional investment of £0.1m will increase the budget by 1.8%.
- 4.6. The Local Government Benchmarking Indicator for street cleanliness continues to score South Lanarkshire streets higher than the Scottish average, with 95.5% of streets surveyed in 2017/2018 found to be an acceptable standard compared to a Scottish average of 92.2%. Despite this, there are still reported issues as outlined below:-

- ◆ The number of dog fouling complaints received in 2017/2018 was 825, decreasing to 763 in 2018/2019. In response to the complaints, officers from Environmental Services have undertaken dog fouling patrols. The number of patrols in 2017/2018 was 1,465, increasing to 1,595 in 2018/2019.
- ◆ The number of litter complaints received in 2017/2018 was 77 increasing to 85 in 2018/2019. In response to the complaints, officers from Environmental Services have undertaken litter patrols. The number of patrols in 2017/2018 was 15, increasing to 96 in 2018/2019.
- ◆ The number of fly tipping complaints received in 2017/2018 was 2,293 increasing to 2,525 in 2018/2019. Officers from Environmental Services investigate each complaint and attempt to identify where the waste came from

4.7. Although the Council continues to target significant resources on an annual basis to littering, dog fouling and fly tipping there still remains ongoing challenges. The additional £100,000 investment will allow the Council to enhance the activities in this area.

5. Proposals

5.1. It is considered that the existing approach through: (1) Education and Awareness, (2) Prevention and (3) Enforcement is appropriate and therefore the proposal for the additional £100,000 seeks to enhance these services.

5.2. Education and Awareness Raising

- ◆ work with secondary schools, Community Councils and other community groups, including dog walking businesses, on fly tipping, dog fouling and litter prevention education
- ◆ working with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other town centre management groups to focus on pedestrian routes around retail areas. This would involve discussions on how street litter control areas could assist in making BID/town centre areas more attractive and help support the local economy
- ◆ extend educational/enforcement role in the private rented sector in relation to waste presentation and disposal issues

5.4. Prevention

- ◆ introduce a series of local campaigns promoting the prevention agenda
- ◆ introduce other types of litter bins and how to promote their use e.g. lidded bins, child friendly to encourage use
- ◆ introduce electric street vacuum cleaning machines, with routes focusing on town centre areas

5.5. Enforcement

- ◆ multi agency approach to target known hotspots
- ◆ deployment of additional surveillance cameras at known habitual fly tipping sites

5.6. In order to effectively implement and sustain these proposals, it is proposed to use the additional £100,000 budget to fund:-

- ◆ an additional post with an education, promotion and policy development role, the main tasks are set out in Appendix 1
- ◆ investment in additional promotional material
- ◆ investment in additional camera equipment, including additional equipment for the anti-social behaviour team in Housing and Technical Resources
- ◆ a 12 week programme per year on targeted campaigns eg seasonal flytipping, rural hotspots with other agencies eg SEPA and Police Scotland
- ◆ an investigation into the use of bin sensors

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. To assist in the delivery of this, it is proposed that an additional post be established with an education, promotion and policy development role.
- 6.2. The following post should be added to the establishment on a permanent basis:-

Post	Current Number of Posts (FTE)	Proposed Number of Posts (FTE)	Grade	SCP Range	Hourly Rate	Annual Salary	Gross Cost (inc on costs)
Policy Officer (Litter Development)	0	1.0	Grade 3 Level 2 - 4	61 - 74	£17.55 - £20.63	£32,027 £37,647	£41,731 - £49,054

This post has been evaluated using the Council's job evaluation scheme.

- 6.3. It should be noted that the new Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) which was approved by the Scottish Parliament in June 2018 places a greater emphasis on the Council to increase the levels of prevention rather than reactive clear ups. Within this context, there is a requirement to establish new approaches / strategies to inform the implementation of a range of preventative actions as well as the need for a greater emphasis in terms of Education and Community involvement. This post is required to ensure that there is a strategy in place to implement a range of preventative measures to allow the Council to meet its legislative obligations.
- 6.4. The creation of this post would demonstrate that the Council is committed to tackle the issue of litter management in South Lanarkshire and to comply with COPLAR through a range of strategies, policies and actions. This will not only look to increase levels of prevention and subsequently reduce the requirement for clean ups but will also improve the quality of the physical environment, the quality of life for our residents and make South Lanarkshire a more appealing location to live and work. This will involve interaction with a range of stakeholders, both internal and external.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The cost of establishing the new post detailed at paragraph 6.2 will be met from the 2019/2020 additional investment funding of £100,000. Given that the officer will not be in post for a full year in 2019/20, a number of one-off expenditure in relation to litter bins, promotional material and surveillance cameras will be funded this year from the investment.
- 7.2. In addition to the £100,000, the Resource has set aside £70,000 in reserves for COPLAR compliance. It is proposed that these funds are also included in these proposals which contribute to COPLAR compliance.

7.3. It is proposed that the funding is allocated as follows:-

	2019/2020	2020/2021 Onwards
Employee Costs	£12,000	£45,000
Surveillance Equipment	£20,000	£ 5,000
Litter Infrastructure	£119,000	£25,500
Street Cleaning equipment	£2,000	£8,000
Promotion/Publications	£10,000	£1,500
Fly Tipping campaigns	£7,000	£15,000
	£170,000	£100,000

7.4. Appendix 2 provides some additional information on the surveillance equipment, litter infrastructure and street cleaning equipment proposed in Table 2.

8. Other Implications

8.1. The proposals will contribute to the Sustainable Development Strategy through strategic outcome 'South Lanarkshire's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected'

8.2. The proposal falls within the scope of routine activities therefore there are no additional risks.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy nor recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.

9.2. Consultation has been undertaken with Housing and Technical Resources' Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Paul Manning
Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

18 July 2019

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve health, care and wellbeing
- ◆ Make communities safer, stronger and sustainable

Previous References

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council of 27 February 2019
- ◆ Community Services Committee 3 September 2013
- ◆ Community Resources Committee 11 November 2011

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Alistair McKinnon, Head of Facilities, Waste and Grounds

Ext: 4700 (Tel: 01698 454700)

E-mail: Alistair.mckinnon@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

The main tasks of the post would:-

- ◆ Develop an overarching Litter Strategy on behalf of the Council who as a duty body have a clear responsibility to meet the terms of the new Code.
- ◆ Support and develop a range of in house Litter Prevention Plans involving various resources and services.
- ◆ Support and develop a range of Litter Prevention Plans that involve the voluntary sector and private businesses.
- ◆ Develop a Litter Bin strategy that defines the level of service provision as well as the right bin for the right location.
- ◆ Develop a Dog Fouling strategy that seeks to reduce the levels of dog fouling on our streets and open spaces.
- ◆ Create a database of zoning information that allows the public to clearly understand the response times set out in the code in terms of returning a location to an acceptable standard.
- ◆ Develop a range of Litter Days of Action that looks to promote Council lead campaigns or that are part of national campaigns promoted by organisations such as Keep Scotland Beautiful. A range of national campaigns are ongoing and include:-
 - ◆ Road Litter campaign – national campaign linked to combating road side litter.
 - ◆ Spring Clean – engaging with and promoting a range of community based events
 - ◆ Upstream Battle – tackling litter from source to sea
- ◆ Increases the level of monitoring of street cleanliness through stakeholder engagement.

Description	Description
Surveillance Equipment	<p>2019/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fund the one off purchase of 5 additional cameras for Housing and Technical Resources to supplement their existing camera infrastructure (3 x Anti-Social Behaviour Team and 2 fixed location) ◆ Fund the one off purchase of 10 additional cameras for Environmental Services Enforcement Team within Community and Enterprise Resources to supplement their existing camera infrastructure
Litter Infrastructure	<p>2019/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fund the purchase of approximately 200 pole mounted litter bins, the new bins will be fitted to new poles rather than be attached to lamp posts or fences. ◆ Fund the purchase of approximately 100 free standing litter bins. ◆ Fund the purchase of approximately 270 free standing “feature” bins for Primary schools and Nurseries <p>2020 onwards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fund the purchase of approximately 70 pole mounted litter bins, the new bins will be fitted to new poles rather than be attached to lamp posts or fences. ◆ Fund the purchase of approximately 30 free standing litter bins.
Street Cleaning Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fund the lease and maintenance of 2 electric street vacuum cleaning machines that will be routed to focus on town centre areas