

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 September 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Litter Strategy - Update
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- ◆ Provide an update on the work undertaken to date on the Litter Strategy 2022 to 2027 and the associated action plan.

2. Recommendation

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendations:

- (1) that the progress and updates on the Litter Strategy Action Plan be noted.
- (2) that the pilot project updates be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Litter Strategy covers the period 2022 to 2027 and was approved by the Climate Change and Sustainability committee on 31 August 2022. The strategy outlines a clear vision for how the Council will develop various plans and initiatives to prevent and address litter, dog fouling, and fly tipping. It builds on existing initiatives and complements national campaigns promoted by organisations like Keep Scotland Beautiful and Zero Waste Scotland.

3.2. Over the past year, there has been positive engagement with diverse community groups and individuals. Through the Community Clean Up webform, we have supported groups and residents in conducting litter picks and cleanups. We have also actively engaged with the Climate Change and Sustainability Youth Forum by attending meetings, providing information, and assisting with initiatives run in schools. This is an encouraging start for collaborating with Education and individual schools.

3.3. The litter bin mapping and inventory undertaken for the Litter Strategy has been invaluable for understanding the current locations and capacities of infrastructure. This has informed decisions about new bin requests. The Litter Bin Map is now publicly available for residents and community members to access. We continue our Litter Bin Replacement Programme to ensure locations and capacities suit the area's needs. Going forward, litter bins with hoods are being prioritised to prevent litter escape from animals and wind.

3.4. In 2022, we successfully obtained Chewing Gum Task Force grant funding, which allowed effective cleaning of gum staining in Hamilton and Strathaven. We also

submitted a successful application for Year 2 funding of £24,641. This will enable tackling gum issues in other South Lanarkshire Council communities.

Circular Economy Bill

- 3.5. The Scottish Government has introduced the Circular Economy Bill to move towards creating a circular economy in Scotland. Through modernising waste and recycling services, it aims to address the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. Introducing a circular economy strategy and targets will monitor progress in reaching a circular economy.
- 3.6. The Bill includes specific provisions regarding litter and fly tipping. It introduces a new penalty system for littering from vehicles, powers to seize vehicles involved in specified waste crimes, and strengthened household duty of care responsibilities around household waste to help prevent fly tipping. The Bill is currently at Stage 1 and it is expected to receive Crown Consent at Stage 3.

The National Litter and Fly Tipping Strategy

- 3.7. The Scottish Government published the National Litter and Fly Tipping Strategy on 28 June 2023. It outlines a refreshed approach to tackling litter and fly tipping to protect and enhance Scotland's environment, ensure safer and cleaner communities, and contribute to a thriving circular economy.
- 3.8. The Strategy sets out how national and local governments, businesses, third sector, communities and individuals can collaborate to support behaviour change, improve infrastructure, and strengthen enforcement. This aims to protect the environment, better value societal resources, and prevent materials escaping the economy.
- 3.9. The vision is for a future where Scotland's environment and communities are not blighted by litter and fly tipping, and materials remain within a circular economy. Working together towards this goal presents opportunities to prevent litter and fly tipping and promote a thriving circular economy.
- 3.10. This vision encapsulates three core concepts:
 - ◆ Urgent large-scale action is required across Scotland
 - ◆ Effective action necessitates integrated and coordinated efforts to address various drivers
 - ◆ Tackling litter and fly tipping can contribute to addressing Scotland's throwaway culture and retaining products and materials in the economy

4. Litter Strategy Steering Group

- 4.1. The purpose of the Litter Strategy Steering Group is to provide leadership, governance and oversight that will drive collaborative action across the Council to achieve the vision and objectives outlined in the Litter Strategy.
- 4.2. The Steering Group is made up of colleagues from Grounds Services, Waste Services, Roads and Transportation Services, Housing and Technical, Environmental Services, Education, Economic Development, Estates, Sustainable Development and PR. The initial meeting took place on 5 December 2022 with a follow up workshop occurring on 17 January 2023. The meetings now take place every two months.
- 4.3. The group has been invaluable for discussing current practices and encouraging innovative corporate collaboration across all Council resources. It has highlighted

areas for future development, initiated pilot projects, and created the Litter Strategy Action Plan.

Litter Strategy Action Plan

- 4.4. The Action Plan was approved by the Steering Group early 2023 and covers the main themes of Education, Engagement and Enforcement with 19 actions - 6 for Education, 8 for Engagement and 5 for Enforcement. Actions are assigned to Resources to progress over the period of the strategy with a copy of the Litter Strategy Action Plan included in Appendix 1 with updates against each action.
- 4.5. Some highlights over the year so far include:
- ◆ The Council facilitated a climate emergency community grant fund (UK Government funded). In May 2023, Hamilton & Blantyre Litter Pickers secured £930 to purchase much needed trolleys and litter pickers for new volunteers. In June 2023, East Kilbride Community Litter Pickers secured £563 from the fund.
 - ◆ Two secondary schools have been identified for a waste pilot to educate pupils and staff to reduce general waste and increase recycling. Outcomes will be monitored and reviewed for potential expansion to all secondary schools. Base recycling data is available for comparison.
 - ◆ All fly tipping data has been collated and uploaded to the Litter Monitoring System, now with the ability to analyse at a more granular level. This will inform future campaigns targeting hot spot areas.
 - ◆ The Waste Education Team developed a talk on food waste reduction and recycling to support Facilities' school initiative. Delivered at Underwood Primary School in Crossford and scheduled for Murray Primary in August.
 - ◆ Three pilot initiatives underway focussing on Town Centres; Housing; Industrial Estates

5. Baseline Data

- 5.1. To support delivery of the Strategy and help measure success, the Steering Group has set out a suite of baseline data that will be monitored over the life of the strategy. This is presented in Appendix 2, with indicators listed below.
- ◆ Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS)
 - ◆ Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)
 - ◆ Procurator Fiscal (PF) Reports
 - ◆ Fly tipping
 - ◆ Housing (waste in the wrong place) Requests
 - ◆ Community Groups (Full list being developed)
 - ◆ Community Clean Up – bag uplifts
 - ◆ Community Clean Up – support
- 5.2. The LEAMS data shows annual figures from 2015/16 for South Lanarkshire Council, the national average, and Benchmarking Club 3. South Lanarkshire Council's performance over this time has been better than both comparators and has followed a similar trend over the period. The 2022/23 figures are encouraging as it is the first increase for all 3 results, hopefully indicating a positive trend.
- 5.3. The Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) data that has been provided by Environmental Health shows a decline in FPNs issued in the last 4 years. Covid-19 restrictions resulted in a reduction in enforcement activity over the first part of that period.
- 5.4. The number of cases/reports passed to the Procurator Fiscal (PF) peaked at 21 in 2019/20. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, they dropped to 1 per year but have since

increased back up to 8 in 2022/23. This upward trend should continue with a focus on enforcement activity.

- 5.5. From 2013 to 2019, reported fly tipping instances were around 2,500 annually. Although high, it was believed that additional unreported cases existed. In early 2020 a new process was implemented to ensure all instances were recorded onto Confirm to track numbers and hotspot locations.
- 5.6. This was implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic and whilst expecting an increase in reporting due to the new process, the data suggests there may also have been an actual increase of fly tipping during this time. Since peaking in 2020, this has started decreasing but remains around 3,000 instances annually.
- 5.7. The baseline dataset that the Steering Group is working with also includes Housing requests for abandoned waste and 'waste in the wrong place' within housing areas. This highlights the lack of personal responsibility even locally where residents live. East Kilbride West and Bothwell and Uddingston have very low numbers, however this reflects the limited housing stock in these wards. During 2022/23 there were 4,188 requests for the removal of waste.
- 5.8. The Community Clean Up webform has been an invaluable resource for both South Lanarkshire Council and local community groups. The form was launched in May 2021 as services started to open up after lockdown and saw an initial peak of 105 enquiries for support. Since then, main peaks have been around February, March and April each year when the Spring Clean takes place. The other option on the webform is to inform South Lanarkshire Council of bags for uplift which allows the Council to uplift bags promptly after a litter pick. The Council continues to receive informal requests for support as well as through the webform, and the Steering Group is developing a process to ensure all of this information is tracked and monitored to give a complete picture of community clean up support across South Lanarkshire.

6. Pilot initiatives

- 6.1. As part of the implementation of the Strategy, the Steering Group agreed to establish three pilot initiatives that would require collaborative working to target areas of concern. The pilots are Town Centres (Cambuslang); Housing; Industrial Estates.

Town Centres – Cambuslang

- 6.2. The Council is working in partnership with Cambuslang Community Council to address some of the issues on the Main Street caused by commercial and household waste bin infrastructure. Surveys were undertaken in March and April 2023 to better understand waste and fly tipping issues on Cambuslang Main Street pertaining to both domestic and commercial wheelie bins, side waste, and fly tipping.
- 6.3. The results show both domestic and commercial bins consistently remain on the street due to lack of rear access for off-street storage. While the predominantly wide pavements mean bins do not block access, they restrict pavement space and are unsightly. Bins are often abandoned or not returned to more appropriate locations against buildings or barriers. Overflowing or unsecured bins are common nearing collection day.
- 6.4. Cambuslang Community Council have also surveyed local businesses regarding their waste and recycling arrangements. Despite not all businesses responding to the survey, those that have, have expressed an interest in addressing street bin storage and are open to collaborating with the Community Council and South Lanarkshire Council.

- 6.5. The Community Council and the Council have agreed to target a particular area of the Main Street as an opportunity for collaborative working with the local business community and will progress this over the coming months.

Housing

- 6.6. Housing Services are working in partnership with Grounds Services, Environmental Services, Waste Services, and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team to address fly tipping and improper waste disposal around housing properties. Re-deployable CCTV cameras have also been temporarily installed in consistent fly tipping hotspots, deterring the behaviour and enabling enforcement where possible.
- 6.7. Letters have been issued to households in problem areas, reminding them of responsibilities and how to report occurrences. Housing, Waste Education, and Environmental Health have also been active, talking to residents and distributing leaflets. Housing's "Common Sense" Campaign highlights waste in closes, fire risks, and proper wheelie bin return after collection.
- 6.8. Housing Services is also exploring waste and recycling solutions for flats or areas with inadequate accessibility. Communal bins and custom communal bin enclosures are being considered.

Industrial Estates

- 6.9. Allanshaw Industrial Estate in Hamilton was highlighted by Hamilton and Blantyre Litter Pickers through their local MP due to concerns about dumped litter and waste around the estate and unsecured business bins. A letter was drafted by Grounds Services and distributed to estate tenants in cooperation with the Estates team. The area is being monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach and to determine whether any further actions are required.

7. Communications Plan

- 7.1. Effective communications are an important part of the Litter Strategy, to encourage public understanding and support and to bring key messages to specific audiences. An overarching and long-term identity is being developed for the Strategy as part of this approach. Meanwhile, Communications and Strategy is working with Community and Enterprise to promote all significant developments and actions currently being undertaken as part of the Strategy, with an initial focus in 2023/24 on anti-litter and fly tipping messaging.

8. Employee Implications

- 8.1. Implementing the strategy will be a key task for the Policy Officer. All Resources will contribute to the actions within the Strategy to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive and collaborative approach. Resource and service implications will vary based on the relevance of their activities to litter and the action plan.
- 8.2. Beyond implementing the Strategy, the Policy Officer will champion and report on broader litter, dog fouling, and fly tipping prevention issues.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1. There are no financial implications at this stage.

10. Climate Change, sustainability, and the environmental implications

- 10.1. Littering and fly tipping detrimentally impact health, wellbeing, the economy, and the natural environment. Litter and waste can lead to soil, water, and air pollution. It's estimated 80% of marine litter originates on land. Ecosystem services and biodiversity

are also harmed. Preventing litter and fly tipping plays a key role in sustainable development and the circular economy. The Litter Strategy will support the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy outcomes.

10.2. Proper disposal preventing littering and fly tipping will also positively impact the Council's recycling figures. Currently, litter and fly tipped materials are not separated before disposal, mainly being incinerated.

11. Other Implications

11.1. There are no other implications associated with this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

12.1. 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.

12.2. There were no consultation arrangements required for this report.

David Booth

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

31 August 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

Values

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Ambitious, self-aware and improving
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

Priorities

- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places
- ◆ We will work to recover, progress and improve

Outcomes

- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Thriving business, fair jobs and vibrant town centres
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities

Previous References

- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee report on Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2018 on 24 August 2017
- ◆ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee report on Litter Development Policy Officer on 26 March 2018
- ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee – 10 February 2021
- ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee report on Litter Strategy on 31 August 2022

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

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

Emma Berry (Environmental Initiatives Officer)

Ext: 7775 (Tel: 07385032023)

E-mail: emma.berry@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Litter Strategy Action Plan

Action Plan

In Progress
Complete
Not Started
Overdue
On Hold

THEME	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS	TIMESCALE	UPDATE
Education	Establish a baseline for tracking performance against the strategy.	Grounds Services	Complete	First quarter of 2023	Baseline data has been discussed and provided. Will be updated quarterly/annually as appropriate.
Education	Develop a series of short and long term projects for schools.	Education Grounds Services Waste Services Facilities	In Progress	March 2024	St Andrews and St Bride's - reverse vending machine trial Trinity High School and Larkhall High School - two secondary schools have been identified to participate in a waste pilot. The purpose of the pilot is to improve infrastructure and educate pupils and staff with a view to reducing the amount of general waste and increasing recycling within each school. Facilities have surveyed the schools to identify bin infrastructure for a ZWS Smalls Grants application. The outcomes from the pilots will be monitored and reviewed with a view to rolling out to all secondary schools. Base data on recycling is available and will be used to monitor and review outcomes of the pilots. Signage is also being developed in cooperation with the schools.

					Waste Education Team have developed an educational talk/presentation on food waste reduction and recycling to support Facilities initiative in schools. Presentation delivered to Underwood PS in Crossford and Murray PS is scheduled for August.
Education	Review the Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement to ensure tenants' responsibilities in relation to disposal of waste and use of common parts is clearly detailed.	Housing	Complete	First quarter of 2023	Review of current SST Agreement undertaken to ensure responsibilities clearly defined. Robust in relation to tenant's responsibilities 2.13 and 3.3 of agreement.
Education	Review information available to private landlords on proper waste disposal by themselves and tenants and promote via PL Forum.	Housing	In Progress	March 2024	Work will be scheduled to review current internet pages and links to relevant pages for advice and information. Presentation to be taken to Private Landlord forum in September 2023.
Education	Explore technology opportunities to map littering and review bin infrastructure.	Grounds Services	In Progress	March 2025	Litter bin mapping has been reviewed and is now available on the SLC website. The service is currently investigating a litter mapping tool using Artificial Intelligence.
Education	All resources to provide best practice opportunities and ideas from other local authorities.	All Services	In Progress	March 2024	Waste Operations are piloting 'perspex' communal bins in area of Cambuslang with a view to improving residents' waste management practices. These bins have been used by other LA with some success. Will monitor project and provide an update later in the year.

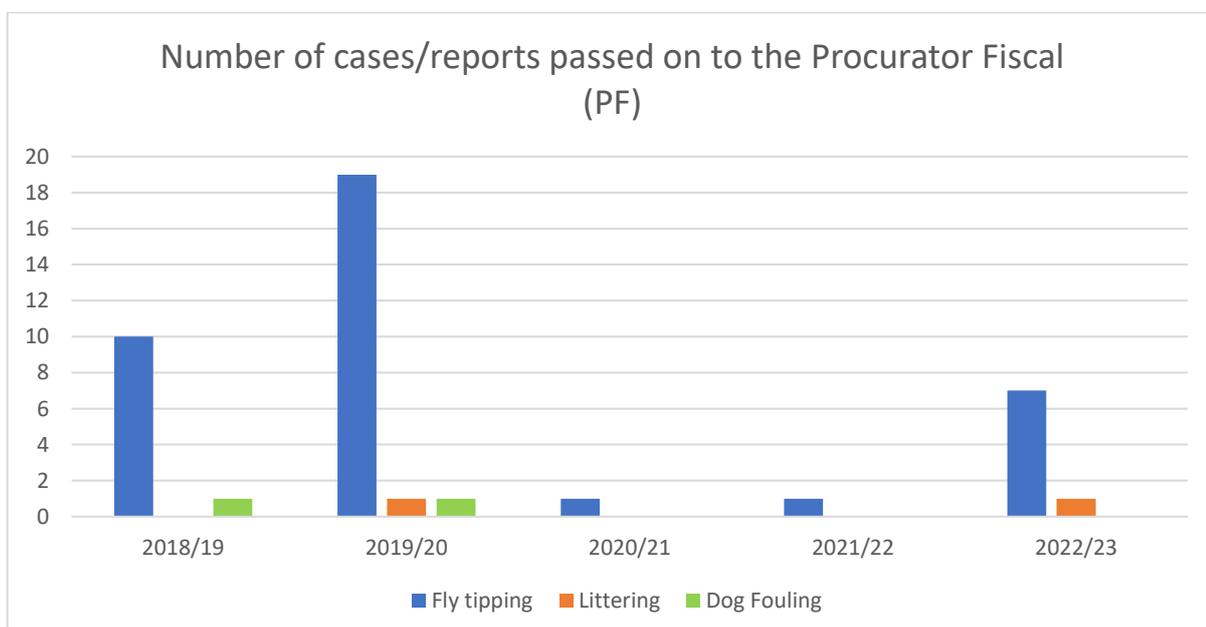
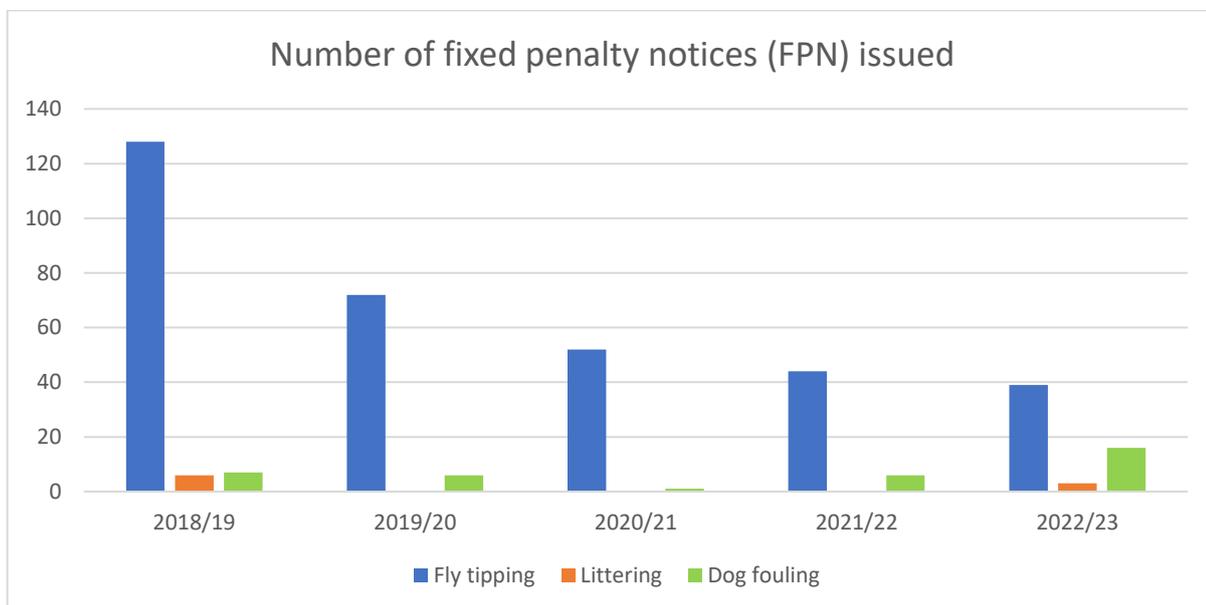
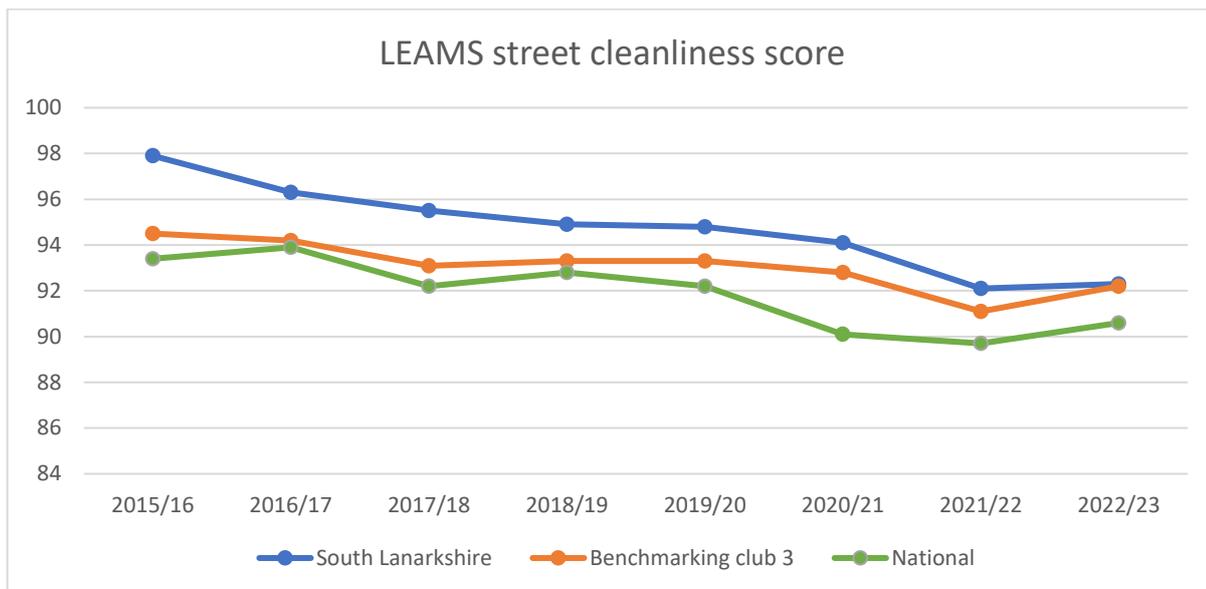
Engagement	Further engagement with key partners and community groups to encourage the creation of litter prevention action plans.	All Services	In Progress	March 2024	<p>LPAP Template has been created along with initial talks with community groups regarding their action plans.</p> <p>Economic Development have spoken to key town centre partners who are happy to help share any messaging around litter, fly tipping and waste management good practice.</p> <p>Waste Ed Team have delivered awareness raising presentations to community groups such as Cadzow Church Group and Burnhill Community Project to date. The team also coordinated a joint 'door knocking' initiative (aided by Environmental Services and Housing representatives) aimed at promoting responsible waste management for householders. The initiative was initially rolled out in areas within East Kilbride (Westwood, St Leonard's, Calderwood, Murray and Greenhills). Similar initiatives (without Environmental Services and Housing) have since been carried out in Springhall as well as, Cambuslang Main St, Rutherglen Main St and Uddingston Main St.</p>
Engagement	Review lease agreements across all commercial properties to ensure appropriate waste disposal is included.	Economic Development Estates	Complete	2023	Lease arrangements reviewed and both cleaning and refuse disposal are included within. When tenants move in they are advised that they need to contact one of the various commercial waste contractors to set up a waste and recycling contract.
Engagement	Work with community groups and businesses to increase engagement, volunteer clean ups and build a proactive communications campaign.	Grounds Services PR Community Engagement	In Progress	March 2025	<p>Grounds Services work with community groups, businesses, and volunteers to support them with their clean ups and other initiatives. This includes Beautiful Scotland, It's Your Neighbourhood and Britain In Bloom competitions.</p> <p>The Council has appointed a Sustainable Communities Engagement Officer (2 year temporary post) to work directly with community groups in relation to the climate change and sustainability agenda. This includes helping to empower local communities to create sustainable places and protect and enhance the natural environment.</p> <p>The Council also facilitated a climate emergency community grant fund (funded by the UK Government). In May 2023, Hamilton & Blantyre Litter Pickers secured £930 to purchase</p>

					<p>much needed trolleys and additional litter pickers for new volunteers, and in June 2023, East Kilbride Community Litter Pickers secured £563 from the fund.</p> <p>A communications campaign is in the process of being developed.</p>
Engagement	Identify the most common types of fly tipping and create a communication campaign.	Grounds Services PR	In Progress	March 2024	<p>Fly tipping data has now been collated and uploaded onto the Litter Monitoring System, all instances have been categorised into broad groupings which can filtered by area. This information will be beneficial for the future campaigns.</p> <p>Broad grouping of rural and urban identified through work with PR on social media. A communications campaign is in the process of being developed.</p>
Engagement	Create a formal communication plan to promote the work of the Litter Strategy steering group that will include a number of different campaigns that will cover the themes of the strategy.	Litter Strategy Steering Group Grounds Services PR	In Progress	September 2023	<p>The first draft of the communication plan is prepared and branding for long term programme is still to be agreed.</p> <p>A communications plan for the sustainable development and climate change strategy is also currently being developed and some of the key themes will be interlinked.</p>
Engagement	Develop options to tackle commercial and household waste issues in town centres and high streets.	Waste Services Estates Economic Development Grounds Services	In Progress	March 2025	<p>Pilot projects in Cambuslang and Rutherglen.</p> <p>Audit of the numbers of bins and hotspot areas along both main streets undertaken.</p> <p>Cambuslang Community Council conducting a survey with business.</p> <p>Waste Services lettered properties on Main Street, Rutherglen regarding their wheelie bins and side waste.</p> <p>Working with CCTV for evidence of repeated misuse occurrences.</p> <p>Waste Services are investigating installing communal Bin Housings for domestic waste in certain parts of Cambuslang Main St, Rutherglen Main St and Uddignston Main St. If deemed feasible, work will progress with Grounds and Housing Services to deliver the project.</p>

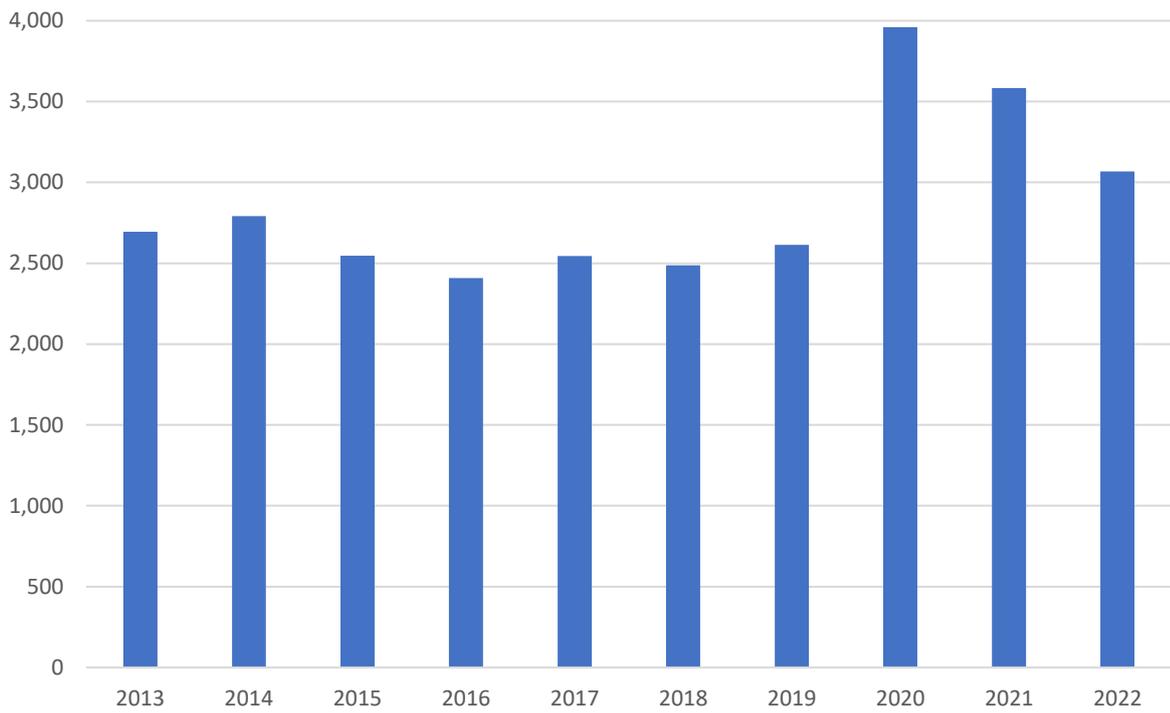
Engagement	Increase monitoring and mapping of fly tipping occurrences to identify hotspots using the Litter Monitoring System.	Grounds Services	Complete	March 2024	2022/23 data has been updated on to the LMS Fly Tipping map and will be used to identify hot spot areas for further work. Will be updated quarterly going forward.
Engagement	Further engagement with businesses around their responsibilities to keep the area around their premises clear of litter and to take steps to prevent future littering.	Grounds Services Environmental Services Economic Development BIDs	In Progress	March 2024	This is ongoing and is a standard aspect of interaction with landowners for Environmental Services. Hamilton BID can support this within Hamilton town centre.
Enforcement	Scoping a way forward for improved CCTV provisions for fly tipping, litter and environmental ASB.	Environmental Services Housing CCTV Grounds Services	In Progress	March 2024	Housing and Technical Resources are in the process of redesigning CCTV provision across South Lanarkshire. Members of the Steering Group have been feeding into this process to ensure specific requirements to support the enforcement of fly tipping, littering and other environmental issues are incorporated..
Enforcement	Investigate options and sources for funding streams for additional CCTV provisions.	Environmental Services Housing CCTV Grounds Services Economic Development	In Progress	March 2025	No funding sources have been identified as yet for additional CCTV provisions.
Enforcement	Investigate recharging costs for waste in the wrong place within Housing factored properties (for tenants, private leases, and owner occupiers).	Housing Legal Service	In Progress	March 2024	Currently exploring the legal implications of this approach.

Enforcement	Develop a new proactive approach to maximise enforcement opportunities.	Environmental Services	Complete	March 2024	Waste enforcement is reactive by its very nature. Deterrent signage has been used for a number of years. The previous resources for proactive approaches for littering and dog fouling were removed as a saving a number of years ago.
Enforcement	Identify the most common geographical locations of fly tipping for enforcement action.	Environmental Services Grounds Services	In Progress	March 2024	<p>The Confirm data has been uploaded to LMS Fly Tipping map which provides good geographical information of hotspot locations. This information will be updated quarterly going forward and we will use it for campaigns.</p> <p>This is the way Environmental Services has always operated in relation to the deployment of surveillance cameras. Appropriate sites are reviewed on an ongoing basis.</p>

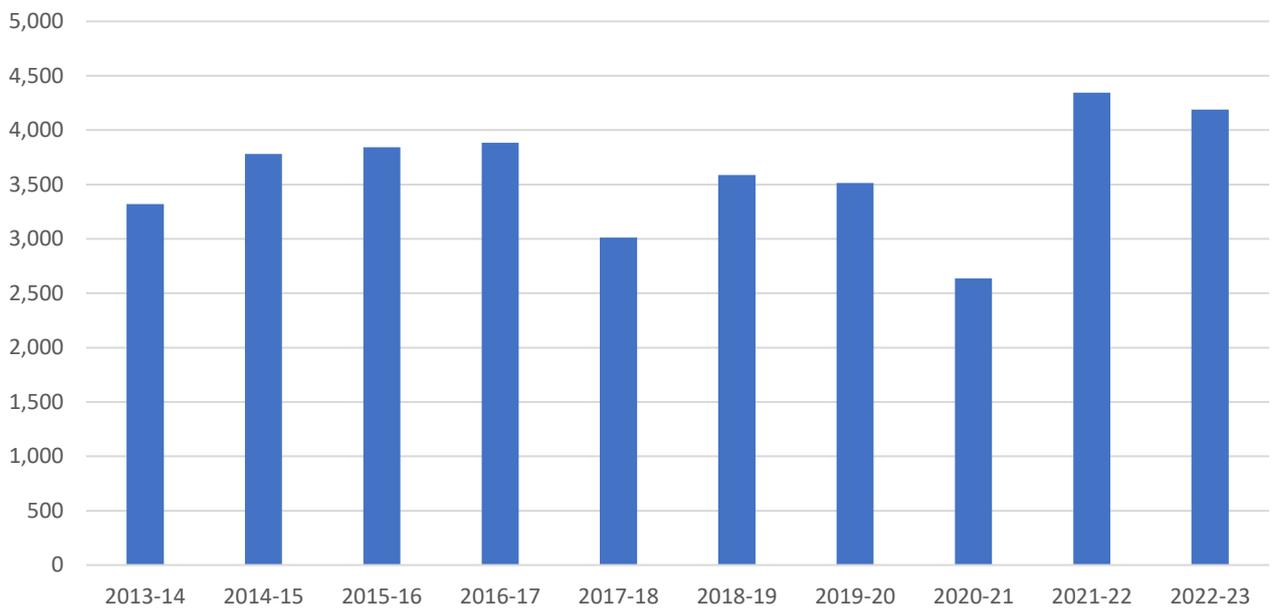
Appendix 2 Baseline data



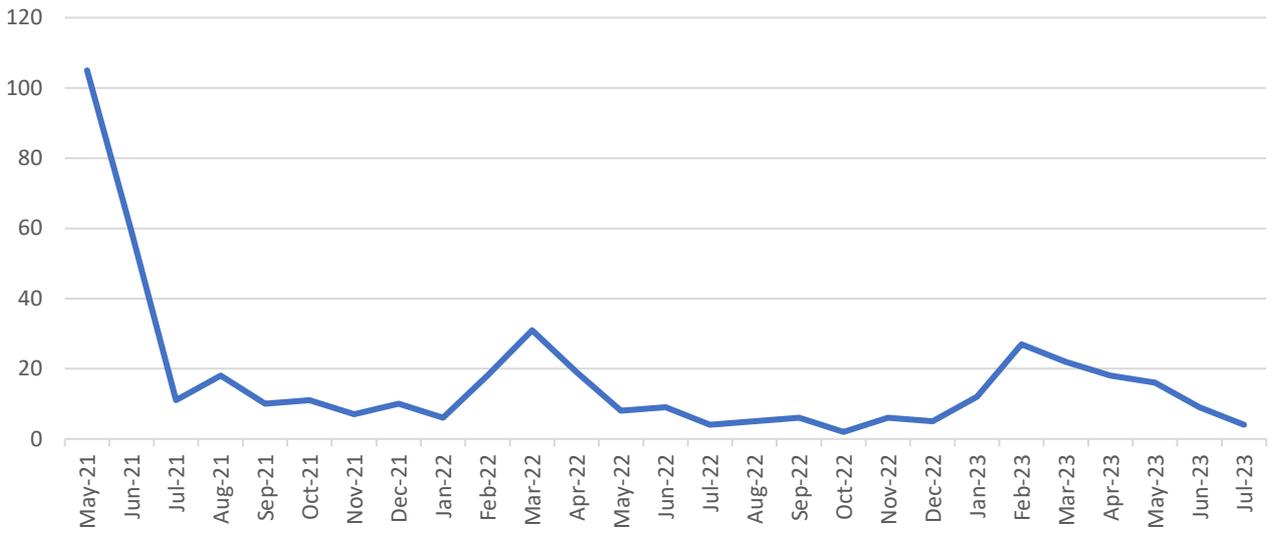
Number of fly tipping instances



Dumped waste and 'waste in the wrong place' - Housing requests



Number of enquiries for Community Clean Up Support



Number of bags for uplift from Community Clean Up web form

