

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 November 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Development of a 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 preparation of the Litter Strategy which will cover the period 2022 to 2027.

2. Recommendation

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

- (1) that the progress on the proposed plan for the development of a Litter Strategy (2022 to 2027) be noted.
- (2) that the revised timescales for the development of the Litter Strategy (2022 to 2027) be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The Climate Change and Sustainability Committee approved the development of a Council wide Litter Strategy on 10 February 2021 which would cover the period 2022 to 2027. A range of actions considered appropriate for the development of the strategy were outlined in conjunction with the proposed timeframe.

3.2. The strategy is intended to set out a vision on how the Council will develop a range of plans and initiatives that will drive our commitment to preventing litter, dog fouling and fly tipping. It will also set out to build on a range of existing initiatives as well as complimenting a range of national campaigns promoted by organisations, such as Keep Scotland Beautiful and Zero Waste Scotland, whilst also recognising and adhering to any guidance forthcoming from the new Scottish Government's National Litter Strategy due for publication in 2022.

3.3. The process involved in the preparation and completion of the Litter Strategy includes a wide range of consultation, engagement and communication involving Council departments, partners and communities identifying future opportunities that will support common and agreed objectives.

4. Strategy Development to date.

4.1. Development of Vision and Objectives

The vision and objectives of the Strategy was agreed through engagement and consultation with Council services, partners and communities.

The overall vision for the Litter Strategy for South Lanarkshire Council is:-

- ◆ To be a cleaner place to live, work and visit free of litter, fly-tipping and dog waste
- ◆ To encourage awareness, behaviour change and personal responsibility
- ◆ To work in partnership with the different communities and community groups
- ◆ To meet legislative requirements of the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2018

The objectives are split into three key themes consisting of Education, Engagement and Enforcement.

Education

- ◆ Provide information, awareness and guidance to the community
- ◆ Run local campaigns along with promotion of national content through Keep Scotland Beautiful and Zero Waste Scotland
- ◆ Encourage and promote education that leads to long-term positive attitudes to waste and littering
- ◆ Work in partnership with the local communities, community groups, Council departments and businesses
- ◆ Encourage engagement and the creation of Litter Prevention Action Plans
- ◆ Provide advice on duty of care requirements to residents

Engagement

- ◆ Litter Bin Plan with mapping of current locations and future innovations
- ◆ Efficient and effective street cleansing service using zoning information
- ◆ Support local community groups and individuals with advice and the loan of equipment for litter picking
- ◆ Increased monitoring and mapping of fly tipping occurrences to identify hotspots
- ◆ Increased use of preventative measures including CCTV and other trials

Enforcement

- ◆ Use litter, fly tipping and dog fouling enforcement powers as a tool to change the future behaviour of offenders
- ◆ Provide guidance on current legislation on enforcement
- ◆ Continue to develop strong relationships with both internal and external stakeholders including Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Services (COPFS)
- ◆ Engage with other local authorities to establish consistency and best practice

4.2. Consultation

Due to continued Covid-19 restrictions, the decision was made to commence with our public questionnaire consultation as the initial form of public engagement on the Litter Strategy. This was emailed to all stakeholders, community councils, groups and with individuals that have engaged through Community Clean Up support. The questionnaire was also promoted through a global email to all staff, promotion on social media, a View article and it was also subject to articles in the local press.

The consultation was live from 2 to 31 August 2021 and during this time a total of 1,340 responses were received. The split of responses, over each of the four geographical, is provided below. The service is currently reviewing all comments provided through these responses to ensure that, where appropriate, these are reflected in the strategy.

Clydesdale	22%
East Kilbride or Strathaven	28%
Hamilton, Blantyre, Bothwell, Uddingston, Larkhall or Stonehouse	34%
Rutherglen or Cambuslang	13%
I do not live in South Lanarkshire	3%

The main feedback confirmed a strong approval for the proposed vision and themes/objectives:-

- ◆ 99% of responses strongly agreed or agreed with the stated vision.
- ◆ 98% strongly agree or agree with the Education objectives.
- ◆ 97% strongly agree or agree with the Engagement objectives.
- ◆ 97% strongly agree or agree with the Enforcement objectives.

Where appropriate the associated comments from the consultation responses will be reflected in the Strategy objectives.

4.3. Rezoning

The rezoning of all relevant land and roads where the Council has responsibility to clear litter was completed in 2020. This was one of the key parts contained within the review of Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) and in addition to providing general information to the public on the actual zoning it also highlights the associated response times for returning any area to an acceptable standard.

Zoning will support the Council in prioritising when and where to deploy resources based on how likely it is that litter and refuse or detritus will build up in an area, whilst also considering the levels of footfall and litter generators. The zoning also provides information to the Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) and the new Litter Monitoring System (LMS)

This information has subsequently been uploaded to the public map gallery titled 'Litter Zones' giving full access to the public, Council Management and Elected Members.

At this time South Lanarkshire Council are only one of two Scottish authorities to have completed this key task.

Link to gain access:-

<https://southlanarkshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6718e68488b1451aa5df8df87f1f76>

4.4. Litter Bin review/mapping

The litter bin mapping and inventory is nearing completion and is already being used internally in decisions regarding new bins and locations. The Litter Bin Plan and location criteria is being developed and will be publicly available in conjunction with the rezoning information when the strategy is in place. Bin procurement is also a key element, assessing types, models and capacities of bins for future use. Litter bins with hoods are being prioritised going forward to combat the escaping of litter through animal interactions and the wind.

Innovation and technological improvements are also important considerations within the Litter Strategy. We are currently trialling six solar compactor bins and assessing their feasibility and benefits. Through this trial a reduction in plastic bin liners will be

significant, which will also support our endeavours to reduce single use plastic items as well as reducing our carbon emissions through less journeys to the location to service the bins.

These planned approaches and trials will be reviewed and evaluated as they progress to increase our data and information surrounding our services and infrastructure.

4.5. Fly Tipping Mapping

Fly tipping occurrences have been mapped on Zero Waste Scotland's Litter Monitoring System since April 2020. The map software allows an effective visual representation of the instances of fly tipping, displays patterns, heat maps and brings emphasis to the hot spots. The data can also be filtered to show specific information.

It is intended that this information will also be part of our online range of relevant information highlighting the extent of the litter issues facing the Council, however at present this is for internal use only, as further work will be required to allow this information to be made available to the public

4.6. Education

The service has been working with Education on a number of initiatives that will encourage litter to be a focus within the curriculum and to increase on the education, engagement and awareness associated with prevention. COP26 engagement and activities programmed for the schools makes this an ideal time to capture other topics associated with Climate Change and Sustainability.

For Primary Schools, a litter prevention poster competition will be rolled out to encourage pupils to think about litter and the negative effect it has on the environment. This competition will run to the end of the year and be linked in with other COP26 activities. The winner will be selected at the start of the new year and the poster will be used in and around schools to highlight the key message.

Secondary Schools in South Lanarkshire have recently started the Youth Forum on Climate Change and Sustainability. The Litter Strategy featured at their second meeting with a presentation by the service that encouraged discussion on the vision and objectives of the Strategy.

4.7. Stakeholders

Grounds Services regularly participate in stakeholder meetings with Zero Waste Scotland, Keep Scotland Beautiful, APSE and the Litter Managers Network. The Council's Environmental Initiatives Offices is also actively engaged with the Scottish Government working group in contributing to the new National Litter Strategy and Fly Tipping Strategy which is due to be published in 2022.

4.8. Social Media

The service has continued to work with PR and digital teams regarding increasing awareness and engagement of messaging surrounding litter. During the summer the service also partnered with Zero Waste Scotland and produced bespoke South Lanarkshire content for their Scotland Is Stunning campaign.

Other campaigns and messaging during the last 6 months included highlighting fly tipping occurrences, road closures for a programme of roadside litter clean ups, Community Clean Up Support and the Strategy consultation.

5. Next Steps

5.1. The next steps in preparation of strategy are contained in the updated timetable below

Next steps	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe
<p>Definition of the vision and objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Identification of litter related challenges and opportunities as well as the needs and wants through consultations and engagement with Services and employees, partner organisations, private sector and educational establishments. ◆ Identification and engagement with national stakeholders for consultation, future developments, resources and campaigns. ◆ Identification and initial engagement with local stakeholders and groups including attending meetings, consultations, discussions on priorities and feedback. ◆ Engagement with other local authorities to establish what approaches have been trialled and best practice. ◆ Consider the best approach to increased monitoring and mapping of fly tipping occurrences. ◆ Consider the development of a Media Engagement Plan with the Corporate Communication team. ◆ Consider the development of a Community Engagement Plan with the Community Engagement team. ◆ Consideration of Litter Bin Plan with mapping of current locations and future innovations. ◆ Production of an intermediate report compiling and synthesizing the vision and objectives of the strategy. 	June 2021 – October 2021	June 2021 – October 2021
Consultations (internal and key external stakeholders, including community groups) to share and discuss the Strategy's vision and objectives.	September 2021	November 2021 – January 2022
Consultations (internal and key external stakeholders) to share and discuss the Strategy's outcomes, outputs and activities. Public consultation (surveys) to share and discuss the overall Strategy and benchmark current performance and issues.	November 2021	August 2021
Arrange a Members Engagement Session allowing a discussion on the consultation feedback on the litter strategy vision and objectives	September 2021	February 2022

Next steps	Original Timeframe	Revised Timeframe
Consultations with local stakeholders and groups regarding education, engagement and proposed creation of a range of Litter Prevention Action Plans.	December 2021 – January 2022	February – March 2022
Definition of the expected outcomes and outputs as well as activities for the first year through consultations with Resources and employees, the sub-groups and proposition of a monitoring system. It is proposed that activities of the Strategy will be defined on an annual basis and a midterm review of the strategy will be conducted.	December 2021	March 2022
Submission of final draft to Climate Change and Sustainability Committee	March 2022	June 2022
Submission of the final draft of the Strategy to Executive Committee (pending Climate Change and Sustainability Committee approval).	March 2022	June/July 2022
Launch of the Strategy with media engagement and consideration of a public event	April 2022	June/July 2022

5.2. The strategy will also look for confirmation on national policy, procedures and campaigns from Scottish Government, Keep Scotland Beautiful and Zero Waste Scotland. The service will also review the new National Litter Strategy due to be launched next year and keep abreast of any National campaigns to find opportunities to best support them and how they can support our initiatives.

5.3. The service will arrange an Elected Members engagement session in February 2022 and this will allow a discussion on the consultation feedback on the litter strategy vision and objectives. Elected Members will also have an opportunity to contribute to the overall aims and objectives from their perspective as well as that of their constituents.

6. Strategic Environmental Assessment

6.1. In April 2021, the pre-screening exercise was intended to be undertaken in order to assess whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. This however was delayed until September 2021 when the work commenced. This exercise is expected to last from 3 to 4 weeks. Moreover, a Screening might be carried out depending on the results of the Pre-screening.

6.2. If the Screening concludes that a SEA is required, the timeline for the development of the strategy indicated above will be modified to take into account the deadlines and stages imposed by the SEA process.

7. Employee Implications

7.1. Development of the strategy will be one of the key tasks of the Policy Officer. In addition, all Resources will need to contribute to the development of the Strategy to ensure that a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach is adopted. Implication of Resources and services will vary depending on the relevance of their activities with regards to litter.

- 7.2. In addition to developing the Strategy, the Policy Officer will champion and report on wider issues relating to litter, dog fouling and fly tipping prevention.

8. Financial Implications

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

9. Climate Change, sustainability, and the environmental implications

- 9.1. Littering and fly tipping has a detrimental impact on health and wellbeing, the economy, and the natural environment. Litter and fly tipping can lead to soil, water, and air pollution and it is estimated that 80% of marine litter washing up on our beaches started out on land. It can affect our ecosystem services and bring harm to biodiversity. Prevention of litter and fly tipping has a key role to play in sustainable development and promoting the circular economy. The Litter Strategy will support the outcomes of the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy.
- 9.2. A further positive outcome of prevention of littering and fly tipping is that proper disposal will have a positive effect on the Council's recycling figures. At present the disposal of litter and fly tipping is not separated prior to disposal and in the main is sent for incineration.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1. There are no other implications associated with this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 11.1. 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.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

13 October 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities.
- ◆ Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth.
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration.

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

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

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

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