

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 15 November 2016
Report Subject	Work of the Deeside Environmental Task Group
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Environment
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene & Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The residential area between the North Wales Coast railway line and the B5129 through Deeside has been blighted by high levels of littering and fly tipping for many years. The housing stock in the area consists predominantly of terraced properties, with narrow alleyways linking the local road network. The ownership of these alleyways has been disputed over the years however, many of the alleyways were widened by the local district Council before 1996 and this has complicated the ownership situation still further.

Given the length of time that the public has enjoyed access through the alleyways, it is clear that the Council has responsibility (as the designated Litter Authority) for the cleanliness and other public health issues in the area.

Following complaints regarding the high level of fly-tipping and littering in the area which were received at the Environment Overview and Scrutiny in October 2015 an operational Task Group was established to deal with the issues. This report provides Cabinet with details of the actions undertaken by the group and the necessary next steps in the process to maintain and enhance the work already undertaken in the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Cabinet notes the work carried out by the Deeside Environmental Task Group.
2	That Cabinet approves the proposed enforcement action against those residents presenting their waste containers outside of their allocated collection day.
3	That Cabinet approves the proposed enforcement action against anyone evidenced to have caused littering in the area by placing their domestic

	waste material on the street outside of their allocated collection day.
4	That Cabinet provides the Chief Officer, Streetscene and Transportation, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, with delegated authority to extend the arrangements to other areas of the Council which are experiencing similar problems.
5	That Cabinet request a further report, detailing the progress and impact of the approved enforcement actions, 6 months after implementation.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE WORK OF THE DEESIDE ENVIRONMENTAL TASK GROUP
1.01	<p>Following concerns and local complaints about excessive fly tipping and littering, the Deeside Environmental Task Group were formed in November 2015. Those invited to the initial meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Assembly Members, • The Local Members of Parliament • The Cabinet Members for Environment and Waste • All Local Members with wards in or on the boundary of the area. • The Streetscene Area Manager (Chair) and Area Coordinator • The Councils Environmental Enforcement manager • The Councils Waste Manager. • The Housing Officer with responsibility for the private landlord forum. <p>The group met at monthly intervals from November 2015 to receive an update on the projects progress and to ensure widespread support was maintained for the proposals as they were developed at each of the meetings.</p>
1.02	<p>At the initial meeting the desired outcomes from project were agreed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clearly identify ownership of all the alleyways and streets in the area • Ensure that regular maintenance schedules are in place for the area for drain cleaning, sweeping etc. • Review waste collection arrangements for residents to increase recycling participation and reduce littering • Reduced fly tipping levels – Through greater awareness and use of enforcement • Improve the general cleanliness and appearance of the area
1.03	<p>The project commenced with an extensive clean-up of the area by staff from the Streetscene service and this was followed by regular daily patrols of the area, during which every item of litter or any fly tipped material was collected with the streets then left litter free and clean on each occasion. The intention was that the cleaner streets would promote local pride and thereby reduce copy-cat littering and fly tipping offences. Railtrack were also written to by</p>

	both the MP and the Streetscene service following the meeting, this resulted in the organisation eventually undertaking a major clean-up operation in the areas of Shotton station.
1.04	A detailed record of the quantity and number of fly tipping events were recorded by the Streetscene team over the period that the arrangement was in place. The team dealt with hundreds of individual events over the period with a total of 92 tonnes of littering and fly tipping material being removed from the local streets and alleyways during the period.
1.05	Each and every littering or fly-tipping event was investigated by the Streetscene team and if any evidence was found, in any of the fly tipping material which linked the waste to a property (e.g. address on envelope), a warning letter was sent to the resident. The letter clearly explained the duty of the resident to manage their waste and to present their waste collections on the correct day of the week and at the agreed collection point. Approximately one hundred such letters were delivered during the period of the project.
1.06	Waste collections in the area have historically contributed to the problem of littering. Because of the difficulty in gaining access for large waste vehicles to the curtilage, collections are made from agreed collection points, which were usually at the end of the terrace on the widened footways or open space areas. It was not uncommon to see black bin bags and other waste material piled high in these areas on collection day and on many other days of the week. Whilst the collection crews cleared the area on the designated collection day, the waste left at other times in the week was often split open by animals and then scattered over the local streets.
1.07	A waste participation survey undertaken as part of this project highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 30% of residents presented recycling on a regular basis. • 60% of residents did not present a black waste bin at all (preferring instead to leave their waste in black bags at the collection points)
1.08	During the period of the programme every property in the area was visited by staff from the waste service. The visits were carried out for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that all residents understood the Councils waste collection service. • To ensure that all residents had sufficient waste collection containers • To clearly number each waste container provided to the address of the property. • To ensure the resident understood the day and location at which collections would be made. This would include the location of their designated collection point if appropriate. • To make clear to residents the consequences of presenting their waste outside of the agreed period for collections
1.09	Following on from these visits, staff from the Streetscene service returned numbered bins to their correct property address and removed un-numbered bins completely - if they were found to be presented outside of the collection day. A letter was then sent to the resident, requesting they present their

	waste containers on the correct day. Almost 200 bins were returned and letters were sent to residents or removed completely during the period.
1.10	During the project every waste collection point in the area was provided with new and clear signage. The signs show the collection day and the times for collection and warn of enforcement action against those who present their waste outside of these times.
1.11	There is no doubt that the quality of the environment has improved in the area during the period of the project however, this has been at a cost which is unsustainable going forward and the Council should therefore now consider enforcement action against residents who continue to ignore the advice provided and continue to dispose of their waste in an inconsiderate manner.
1.12	<p>It is proposed that enforcement action will take the following forms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fly-tipping, or black bags placed at collections points or any other area outside of the waste collection day. - FPN served for littering, if evidence linking the property to the litter can be found in the waste. These powers are already vested in the Council under the following section of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 87: Offence of leaving litter • Section 88: Fixed Penalty notice for leaving litter 2. Presenting waste containers on the incorrect day or failure to bring in the container after collection has taken place. These powers are already vested in the Council under the following section of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 46: Receptacles for household waste.
1.13	The service will continue to monitor the area and if the programme proves to be successful the process should be rolled out to other areas of the Council experiencing similar problems.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The cost of the programme has been covered by utilising staff within the service and has not created a financial pressure against budgets. The cost of removing the waste in the area would have fallen on the service in differing ways e.g. from litter picking and other cleansing duties.
2.02	Longer term, the programme will be cost neutral to the Council.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
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3.01	With Cabinet Member
3.02	With the Project Team detailed in the report.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	A Project Risk Schedule has been produced and is managed by the project chair.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Stephen O Jones Telephone: 01352 704700 E-mail: stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	None.