

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 15 AUGUST 2017

COMMUNITY LITTER PREVENTION ACTION PLAN

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING, REGULATORY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report brings forward a proposal for the Council to produce a Community Litter Prevention Action Plan, in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland.

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to:

- (i) The production of an over-arching Community Litter Prevention Action Plan for Angus.
- (ii) Progress reports on the Plan being made to the Pride in Place member/officer group.
- (iii) A finalised draft of the Community Litter Prevention Action Plan being brought back to committee in due course.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner.
- Communities that are prosperous and fair
- Communities that are learning and supportive
- Communities that are safe and strong
- Communities that are caring and healthy

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Towards A Litter-Free Scotland is the Scottish Government's National Litter Strategy which was published in June 2014 with the aim of preventing littering and flytipping.

3.2 The Strategy identified a need to develop action plans to encourage joint-working in litter and flytipping prevention, taking the view that everyone has a role to play in helping to change behaviour and reduce the amount of waste that ends up as litter or flytipping.

3.3 Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) has developed a model that allows individual organisations and community groups to voluntarily commit to produce a Litter Prevention Action Plan (LPAP), and for all the action plans in a local authority area to feed into one over-arching document, the Community Litter Prevention Action Plan (CLPAP); this approach allows collaboration across multiple sectors to achieve significant impact and provide a platform for a shift towards litter and flytipping prevention.

3.4 LPAPs identify what actions an individual organisation commits to taking to encourage prevention of litter or flytipping, and the CLPAP brings together the actions from each LPAP within the area. ZWS has produced templates for both LPAPs and the CLPAP to assist in completing these plans.

- 3.5 The production of LPAPs has been piloted by Dundee City Council who will launch their CLPAP later this year.
- 3.6 Implementing a CLPAP is expected to deliver direct and indirect financial benefits through pooling resources, enhanced visitor experience, and reduced cleaning costs (it takes £53 million of public money to tackle litter and flytipping in Scotland on an annual basis). It will allow the knowledge and expertise of the different organisations involved in the community plan to be shared, and provide opportunities to influence wider stakeholders.
- 3.7 All organisations who consider themselves to be part of their community should be involved. This will include the public sector, all sizes of business, the third sector, educational institutions and community groups.
- 3.8 Preventing litter and flytipping requires long term behaviour change. Business, media, communities, charities, etc. all have a role to play in ensuring that littering becomes socially unacceptable across the community – change cannot be achieved by the Council alone.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Council is responsible for cleaning public open spaces, and also for enforcement relating to litter and flytipping crimes as per the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and dog fouling as per the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003.
- 4.2 In addition to these duties, the Council also carries out more educational based work to try and prevent litter and encourage the proper disposal of waste. Such activities include but are not limited to:
- Litter and recycling talks provided to schools and community groups
 - Local campaigns to promote Clean Up Angus messages
 - Participation in the national Roadside Litter Campaign run by Keep Scotland Beautiful
 - Assisting community groups with litter picks
 - Building capacity in community groups to empower them to enhance their local area
 - Promoting good citizenship and environmental conservation
 - Promoting recycling at home, in Council buildings, and other business work-places.
- 4.3 The Council's Pride in Place (PIP) members/officers group (MOG) brings together elected members and officers from across the Council to look at how we can encourage and support those who live, work in, and visit Angus, to take pride in this beautiful area. The PIP MOG coordinates actions to ensure a cohesive approach to all activities undertaken.
- 4.4 Taking into account the activities currently taking place across the Council, it is considered there are many positive actions that could populate the CLPAP without further effort or resources (it is however expected that some additional activities will be added, where practicable to do so).
- 4.5 Street cleanliness is monitored nationally through the Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS), which involves surveying and scoring public open spaces as selected by Keep Scotland Beautiful, who administer the process. LEAMS scores are reported yearly as a Statutory Performance Indicator.
- 4.6 During 2015/16 95.5% of streets surveyed in Angus had an acceptable level of cleanliness – this score compares favourably to the national average of 93.4%, and also the mixed urban/rural family grouping of 94.5%. It must however be borne in mind that these streets were not litter free (though classed as acceptable), and that due to the random nature of surveys, areas more adversely affected by litter may not have been highlighted.
- 4.7 There are on average approximately 350 reports of flytipping made each year in Angus (of which in around 50 cases no flytipping is found), which are each investigated to check for evidence of the offender, and in order to record statistics. While it is believed that the level of flytipping in Angus is low compared to other local authority areas in Scotland (no comparative data is currently available), this anti-social act does still blot our landscape.

5. PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that a CLPAP is produced for Angus, led by Waste Services (Place Directorate).
- 5.2 Production of the CLPAP would be supported by ZWS, with 20% of ZWS's Litter and Flytipping Sector Manager's time devoted to assisting with the Plan for the duration of the project.
- 5.3 The ZWS officer would assist the Council to produce its own LPAPs, one for each of the People and Place Directorates and the Chief Executive's Unit (there will also be the option of additional support for schools from the consultant commissioned by ZWS). It will be necessary to liaise with Council staff from all sections in order to gather information on current activities relevant to the Plan, and to discuss any other appropriate actions that could be added.
- 5.4 In addition to officer support, ZWS would fund a consultant to facilitate LPAPs for community groups and educational establishments.
- 5.5 The Council LPAP and CLPAP project timelines would be as below.
- Engagement with Council departments to take place in August 2017
 - LPAPs to be drafted by the end of September 2017 (including community LPAPs)
 - LPAPs to be finalised by the end of October 2017
 - First draft of CLPAP by the end of December 2017
 - CLPAP to be finalised by the end of March 2018.
- 5.6 Once completed the CLPAP will be available for viewing on the Council website, and in addition will be promoted by ZWS.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications to producing a CLPAP. There will be an investment of officer time however the level of support provided by ZWS should ensure there is no onerous burden placed on Council staff.
- 6.2 It is hoped that through time the implementation of a CLPAP will result in a reduction in costs to the council through reduced cleaning and will enhance tourism in Angus, however such benefits cannot be calculated currently.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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