



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Executive Board
<b>DATE:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Draft Litter and Fly-Tipping Engagement and Enforcement Strategy
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To Advise the Board about a draft Partnership Litter and Fly-Tipping Engagement and Enforcement Strategy and seek approval to go out to public consultation
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	No
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	Councillor Martin Foster, Portfolio Holder for Operational Services
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Christian Allen, Assistant Director Regulatory
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Donna Hall, Head of Public Protection
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	ALL
<b>EXEMPT REPORT</b>	No

#### **SUMMARY**

This report introduces a proposed Draft Litter and Fly-Tipping Strategy and Action Plan which are intended to be adopted by each sovereign Council in the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

The strategy sets out the ambition of the Partnership to tackle and reduce litter and fly-tipping. It supports the commitment in the Partnership Annual Delivery Plan to implement a shared Enforcement contract for environmental crime, by promoting public engagement and providing transparency about enforcement.

The Board are asked to consider the draft Strategy and approve it for public consultation.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Board consider the draft strategy and provide feedback.

That the Board approve the Strategy for public consultation.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To provide the Board with the opportunity to comment on the proposed strategy prior to further consultation. It is intended that the Strategy will be brought back to the Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> March for approval following consultation.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members will be familiar with the commitment made in the Partnership Annual Delivery Plan to procure a joint environmental crime enforcement contract. This work is complete and a joint contract has now been awarded.
- 1.2 Members may also be aware from their own experiences and from national reporting, that there has generally been an increase in incidents of environmental crime such as fly-tipping on a local and national level.
- 1.3 This draft strategy, which is included as Appendix A to this report, has been developed in response to escalating issues with environmental crime, and to support the implementation of the shared enforcement contract.

## 2. REPORT

- 2.1 The Partnership Strategy demonstrates the commitment and ambition of each Council to tackling Littering and Fly-tipping. It promotes responsibility among residents, businesses, and visitors, whilst also recognising that education and enforcement are critical tools to support this. Intelligence will be used to help direct activities and ensure problem areas are targeted.
- 2.2 The overarching objective of the Partnership, as stated within the Strategy, is to reduce fly-tipping and littering. We will achieve this by:
  - **Engaging** with the public and businesses to ensure it is seen as socially unacceptable
  - **Educating** them about responsible disposal and the impact and penalties of not complying
  - Ensuring **enforcement** is used effectively and appropriately

In order to do this, we will:

- Collect data and intelligence to understand problem areas
  - Work in partnership with others including other agencies and community groups
  - Use effective communications to ensure the public and businesses understand the legal requirements
- 2.3 The Strategy promotes the use of enforcement and explains where this action may be appropriate, how evidence may be collated, and the sanctions available.

- 2.4 The Strategy also emphasises the need for education and engagement with residents, visitors and businesses. This is important to help prevent crime from occurring and ensure that everyone is aware of their responsibilities and potential consequences of their actions.
- 2.5 A communications strategy has been developed across the Partnership to support implementation of this strategy and the enforcement contract, which includes press releases, local bulletins, social media, posters and leaflets and signage in hot spot areas.
- 2.6 An Action Plan has been developed to detail the specific steps that will be undertaken to effectively deliver the strategy. A draft Plan is attached at Appendix B, although it is anticipated this will be a live working document which will be updated when projects are complete, or new workstreams are planned. When approved these documents will be published on the Council website.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 Members of the Board are requested to consider and provide feedback on the draft Strategy and approve that it is made available for public consultation.
- 3.2 The Strategy will then be considered by the Board following consultation with a recommendation that it is approved and adopted.

### **EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP**

This is a Partnership wide strategy which aligns the principals and commitment to tackling littering and fly-tipping across the three Councils. It builds on some of the positive work already seen in each Council to tackle environmental crime in recent years.

The Strategy supports a Partnership wide environmental crime enforcement contract which promotes consistency and transparency in enforcement activities, whilst recognising the sovereignty of each Council in setting local policy and fines.

The shared communications strategy is an efficient way of promoting education across the sub-region and will be tailored to suit the needs of each area as required.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP**

None

### **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

This proposed Strategy supports the ELDC Strategic Aims:

- Support our Town Centres

- Create an environment that helps businesses to survive and grow

The Councils Strategic Aims recognises that core services are essential for keeping the District clean and residents safe.

## **STAFFING**

There are no additional staffing burdens arising from the report.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no constitutional implications, and legal services have been consulted.

## **DATA PROTECTION**

The Strategy does not introduce any data protection implications.

## **FINANCIAL**

The strategy does not introduce any financial risk. It is anticipated that it will be delivered within existing resources.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

There is a risk that a failure to undertake pro-active work to tackle litter and fly-tipping may lead to the Council failing to fulfil its statutory obligations. The strategy supports the continuing use of enforcement to tackle such issues.

## **STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES**

Internal consultation has been undertaken with relevant Officers and service managers. Portfolio Holders have also been consulted and provided feedback, and the Strategy has been considered by the Overview Committee. The next stage will be to consult directly with the public and key partners such as the police, Environment Agency, Lincolnshire Waste Partnership, Community Groups etc.

## **REPUTATION**

There is a reputational risk to each Council and the Partnership if work is not undertaken pro-actively to tackle environmental crime. The Strategy supports this approach.

## **CONTRACTS**

There are no contractual considerations arising directly from the Strategy.

## **CRIME AND DISORDER**

The strategy supports the use of enforcement, education and engagement to tackle criminality such as fly-tipping and littering.

## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING**

Consideration will be given to ensuring that communications issued in support of the strategy take into account the diversity of the population, and where appropriate are adapted to meet the needs of the community.

There are no human rights and safeguarding implications arising from this report however these are covered more specifically within each Council's Enforcement Policy.

## **HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

It is recognised that environmental crime can have a negative impact on health and well-being. This strategy aims to support work being undertaken to tackle this.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Strategy directly promotes a clean, safe and healthy environment by tackling littering and fly-tipping.

Sustainability will be considered in any communications or education campaigns.

## **LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER**

<b>MISSIONS</b>	
<b>This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.</b>	
<b>Living Standards</b>	The Strategy promotes the ambition of improving living standards and closing the gap between areas.
<b>Education</b>	The Strategy supports the education of young people in schools to tackle environmental crime
<b>Health</b>	The strategy supports improvements in health and well-being by tackling environmental issues that can have a negative impact
<b>Wellbeing</b>	The strategy supports improvements in health and well-being by tackling environmental issues that can have a negative impact
<b>Pride in Place</b>	The Strategy strongly supports this mission by aiming to reduce litter and fly-tipping, promoting people's satisfaction with their community and closing the gap between other areas.
<b>Crime</b>	The strategy supports a drive to reduce neighbourhood crime such as fly-tipping and littering

## ACRONYMS

ELDC - East Lindsey District Council

### APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	Draft Litter and Fly-Tipping Engagement and Enforcement Strategy
APPENDIX B	Draft Action Plan

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

### CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has been considered at ELDC Overview Scrutiny Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

### REPORT APPROVAL

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