

LINCOLNSHIRE
Environmental
Crime
Partnership



Annual Report

2022



Message from the Chair



Protecting Lincolnshire's environment by working together to effectively tackle waste related crimes.

Our Mission

To reduce and prevent fly tipping across Lincolnshire, by bringing all relevant agencies together and working in partnership.

To seek to find new and innovative methods for closer working, both operationally and strategically.

This marks the second full year of the Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership (ECP). We have had four meetings this year and one of those was in person at Lincolnshire Police Headquarters. I am so appreciative that we continue to move forward together and also add new members to the partnership.

This year I have been asked to give presentations about the ECP at a number of different events, I am so proud to be able to share the positive work that we have done as a collective to other professionals, with the hope that some of them will take the idea away for their own partnership.

There have been a number of 'days of action' which have proved successful and we continue to plan more of those as we look to the future. Sharing these outcomes and other enforcement outcomes, via our shared communications plan, is an essential step in deterring people from being part of fly tipping, because it sends a strong message about what the consequences can be.

It has been great to see the environmental crime practitioners group develop further. They continue to meet regularly and are able to share best practice, successful casework and also information to enable the identification of fly tippers within Lincolnshire.

I do like an analogy, and to describe our partnership, I always describe it as the ECP bus. We are all going to the same destination (which is akin to the same ambition to tackle fly tipping) and whilst we haven't got to the destination yet, we are making great progress! By sharing and travelling together, we are more effective in tackling environmental crime within Lincolnshire.

Ayeisha Kirkham

Chair of the Environmental Crime Partnership

Membership



Growing as a partnership

Environmental crime officers working group

The environmental crime officers working group continues to allow local practitioners from across the county to come together to share experiences and influence strategy by reporting into the Environmental Crime Partnership.

Continuously expanding

The partnership continues to expand, with membership now spanning Greater Lincolnshire - enhancing partnership working across the county borders of Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire (Humberside).

In 2022 we welcomed new members including Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, National Trust and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside.

Presentations into the ECP

Over the year, external agencies such as Crimestoppers and the Probation Service have been invited to provide inputs directly to members - sharing learning and providing opportunities to further reduce and prevent waste crime across Lincolnshire.

The environmental crime officers working group provides a forum for practitioners to share best practice across the County, as well as assisting in identifying key points of contact for wider investigations.

It allows officers to share information and assist in fly tipping investigations that cross boundaries. This has assisted in some recent prosecutions at Court, which may not have occurred previously.

Andrew Beaver
Chair of the Environmental Crime Officers Working Group
Environmental Crime Officer for North Kesteven District Council

Partnership working

Successful convictions

Numerous convictions have been achieved by partners across the county. These have resulted in fixed penalty notices, costs sought up to thousands of pounds and sanctions including a six-month suspended prison sentence.



Vulnerable land panel

We are continuing to trial the vulnerable land panel, where partners work together at identified locations, to proactively prevent environmental crime.

We have a couple of hotspots that are being trialed and hope to feedback on this further in the next year

Waste carriers widget

As a partnership, we continue to encourage the use of waste carrier's website 'Widget' on all local authority websites, enabling the public and businesses to easily identify licensed waste carriers.



Multi-agency operation

ECP members in North East Lincolnshire carried out a multi-agency operation in Grimsby which resulted in Council Environmental Enforcement officers seizing two vehicles for unlawfully carrying controlled waste.

Partners included North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) Environmental Enforcement officers, Humberside Police, Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) and His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

During the operation, environmental enforcement officers also opened 14 case files relating to waste carrier offences and for drivers failing to produce waste transfer notes.



Operation Clean Sweep IV

ECP members joined forces for another successful multi-agency day of action in South Kesteven, gathering intelligence and evidence to disrupt those believed to be involved in illegal waste activity.

The stop checks of 24 vehicles resulted in:

- Four fixed penalty notices of up to £300 each issued to unlicensed waste carriers
- Four prohibitions notices issued by the Police and DVSA
- Three follow up enquiries after vehicles illegally carrying hazardous waste, scrap metal, waste white goods, green waste and end of life vehicles were stopped.

Ten waste sites that were suspected to be operating illegally or in breach of permits were also visited. One site was found to be storing thousands of tyres illegally and was instructed to stop all activity with follow up enquiries made.

Partners included South Kesteven District Council, The Environment Agency, Lincolnshire Police, DVSA and HMRC.

Waste crime undermines legitimate business, can cause harm to the environment and misery for local people. We are continuing to work with our enforcement partners in pursuing those committing illegal waste activities across Lincolnshire.

We remain committed to preventing and disrupting fly-tipping, large scale waste dumping and the closure of illegal waste sites.

Stuart Hoyle

Waste crime engagement specialist for the Environment Agency in Lincolnshire and Deputy Chair of the ECP

Sharing best practice

Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership have been called upon to share their learning and best practice both on a local and national level.

Supporting prospective and existing partnerships nationally

The National Fly-tipping Prevention Group have updated the 'Fly-Tipping Partnership Framework: How local authorities can set up and run an effective partnership to tackle fly-tipping' with assistance from the ECP.

The national group is chaired by Defra and made up of a number of organisations working together to tackle fly-tipping. The ECP Chair and Vice-Chair were invited to sit on the sub-group to share their learning and provide guidance, all of which have been incorporated within this national framework. The Chair presented to this group, giving an overview of our existing partnership, current challenges and successes.

Crimestopper's Rural Crime Conference

In March, the Chair of the ECP was invited to present at Crimestopper's Lincolnshire Rural Crime and Cyber Crime agricultural conference.

The event was an opportunity to discover more about the initiatives and strategies being developed and delivered to make Lincolnshire a safer place to live and work.

The East Midlands Councils Environmental Health Continued Professional Development event

The ECP Chair presented at this professional development event, sharing the positive work of the partnership, for professionals to learn and take away ideas for creation of their own partnership.

A banner for the Lincolnshire Rural & Cyber Crime Event. The background is a photograph of a red tractor in a field with hay bales under a blue sky with white clouds. The text is overlaid on the image.

Lincolnshire Rural & Cyber Crime Event

An opportunity to learn more about the initiatives and strategies being developed and delivered to make Lincolnshire a safer place to live and work.

CrimeStoppers.
0800 555111

Communicating as a partnership

Communications strategy

A communications strategy has been developed for the partnership.

The key themes are:

- Consistent communication
- Reducing fly-tipping through education
- Deterring perpetrators
- Encouraging reporting
- Reassuring our communities

Social media campaigns

A number of ECP campaigns have been developed throughout the year - including bonfire night and Christmas - utilising the SCRAP fly-tipping messaging:

Suspect all waste carriers

Check that the provider taking your waste away is licensed

Refuse unexpected offers to have waste taken away

Ask what will happen to your waste

Paperwork should be obtained – get a full receipt

This consistent, branded messaging on members' channels has increased the partnership's overall social media presence.



Projects and future ambitions

- Further roll out of successful multi-agency days of action across Lincolnshire. Plans include carrying out another Operation Clean Sweep in North Kesteven.
- Build on the success of sharing learning and good practice amongst the partnership and continuing to invite external agencies to provide inputs directly to members - increasing opportunities to further reduce and prevent waste crime across Lincolnshire.
- Find new, innovative ways to work together to protect Lincolnshire's environment and effectively tackle waste crimes, including supporting national days of action on a local level, such as 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaigns.
- Following on from the introduction of Operation Asgard (which includes the seizure of offenders' vehicles for forfeiture or destruction), explore opportunities for further joint working across members. Ideas include local patrols for Lincolnshire Police's Rural Crime Action Team and agencies to within hotspots, which may include seizing of vehicles.
- Explore and focus joint working to target scrap metal crimes.
- Continue to communicate as a partnership across Lincolnshire, following the communications objectives listed within the ECP communications strategy.
- Put in place a calendar of activity to scope opportunities such as local campaigns and targeted communication and education.

Keeping our countryside and villages clean and free from illegal dumped waste is a critical part of ensuring our communities and residents feel safe and that is why I am keen to support work in this area.

Marc Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for
Lincolnshire





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Ayeisha Kirkham

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South Kesteven District Council

Chartered Environmental Health
Practitioner

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