



Environmental Crime Commitment

2023-2024

Introduction

Through its Corporate Plan, West Lindsey District Council has made it a clear priority to improve health and wellbeing across the district, and to ensure our local communities are clean, green and safe for all. A number of Council services have an important role to play in delivering these priorities and we are committed to playing our part by working to reduce levels of environmental crime across the district.

In tackling environmental crime, this commitment sets out where we are now, where we want to get to over the next 18 months, how we plan to get there, and how we will monitor our progress in four key areas: dog fouling, littering, early presentation of waste and fly-tipping.



Dog Fouling

What do we currently do?

- Proactive patrols for dog fouling based on local intelligence - This makes best use of our resources to catch offenders who do not pick up after their dog. Patrols ensure we are visible and present within communities where dog fouling is taking place.
- Provision of signage in areas where dog fouling has been a concern - This reinforces to the public that dog fouling is against the law, should be picked up, and that there is a potential penalty for not doing so.
- Monitoring and enforcing a district wide Public Space Protection Order, requiring dog owners to pick up after them and carry a receptacle to do this - This gives the Council a legal framework to help ensure we can deal with any offenders who do not pick up after their dog.

Where do we want to get to?

- Increased public awareness of the environmental, health and social impacts of dog fouling.
- Additional resources on the ground to tackle dog fouling through an intelligence based, civil enforcement approach.

How do we plan to get there?

- Raise awareness of the impacts of dog fouling, with educational material targeted particularly at properties in the vicinity of hotspot areas.
- Consider ways to increase the level of resources on the ground dedicated to tackling dog fouling.
- Improve intelligence gathering to ensure more offenders are issued with fixed penalties.

How will we know we are making progress?

In the long-term, successfully reducing dog fouling should contribute to wider outcomes related to improved health and wellbeing, an increased sense of pride in place and a reduction in levels of deprivation. In the short-term, we should expect to see the following by way of progress:

- An increase in the number of dog-fouling incidents reported to the Council.
- An increase in the number of fixed penalty notices issued if additional resources are in place. (this should reduce longer-term).
- High levels of engagement with the public information campaign.



Littering

What do we currently do?

- Proactive patrols of key locations where littering is an issue - This means being visible and present within communities where littering is taking place and maximising available resources to catch any offenders who drop litter.
- Regularly litter pick key areas across the district - This ensures the district is clean and tidy and that the environmental impact of litter is reduced.

Where do we want to get to?

- Increased public awareness of the environmental, health and social impacts of littering.
- Additional resources on the ground to tackle littering through an intelligence led, civil enforcement approach.

How do we plan to get there?

- Raise awareness of the impact that littering can have, targeted at hotspot areas.
- Consider ways of to increase the level of resources on the ground dedicated to tackling littering.
- Improve intelligence gathering to ensure more offenders are issued with fixed penalties.

How will we know we are making progress?

In the long-term, successfully reducing littering should contribute to wider outcomes related to improved health and wellbeing, an increased sense of pride in place and a reduction in levels of deprivation. In the short-term, we should expect to see the following by way of progress:

- An increase in the number of fixed penalty notices issued (this should reduce longer-term).
- High levels of engagement with the public information campaign.



Early Presentation of Waste and Commercial Waste

What do we currently do?

- Regularly patrol areas where waste is presented in sacks for weekly collection - This contributes to a cleaner and well managed public environment for residents in areas where waste is presented in sacks.
- Use our enforcement powers to deal with offences relating to early presentation of commercial waste - This results in increased compliance with waste regulations and reduces associated street cleaning costs.
- Offer a commercial waste service to businesses - This provides a commercial solution to businesses that also generates income for the Council.

Where do we want to get to?

- Enhanced public awareness in specific areas on waste collection requirements.
- Increased compliance with commercial waste requirements and to identify those premises that do not have sufficient arrangements in place.

How do we plan to get there?

- Increase awareness through targeted communication.
- Proactively checking that commercial businesses have the appropriate waste collection arrangements in place.

How will we know we are making progress?

- A reduction in the early presentation of waste.
- A reduction in non-compliance with commercial waste requirements.
- Additional customers for West Lindsey Commercial Waste Services.

Fly-Tipping

What do we currently do?

- Investigate fly-tipping incidents and use formal powers against offenders - This ensures enforcement action can be taken against offenders in the form of a fixed penalty notice or prosecution. It also sends a message to offenders that it will not be tolerated within the district.
- Deploy signage in fly-tipping hotspot areas - This raises awareness to fly-tippers and the public that we actively deal with the issue and know where the hotspot areas are.
- Utilise “fly-tipping under investigation” tape - This assures the public that the Council is investigating a fly-tip when it is in situ prior to being cleared.
- Joint fly-tipping patrols with Lincolnshire Police - This helps to identify potential fly-tippers and those persons carrying waste without the necessary legal requirements in place.
- Actively promoting the “SCRAP Fly-Tipping” campaign and raising awareness of fly-tipping and its impact across the district - The raising of public awareness in regards to fly-tipping and reminding the public of their duty of care when disposing of waste.

Where do we want to get to?

- Better use of technology to tackle fly-tipping and increase the number of offenders that we catch.
- Enhanced public awareness of waste collection requirements in specific areas.
- Increased public awareness in regards to duty of care to reduce the instances that lead to fly-tipping.
- A reduction in fly-tipping levels across the district.

How do we plan to get there?

- Delivering a 12-month trial of mobile CCTV cameras specifically targeting fly-tipping in hotspot areas.
- A public awareness campaign regarding people’s “duty of care” when disposing of waste.

How will we know we are making progress?

In the long-term, successfully reducing fly-tipping should contribute to wider outcomes related to improved health and wellbeing, an increased sense of pride in place and a reduction in levels of deprivation. In the short-term, we should expect to see the following by way of progress:

- An increase in the number of incidents of fly-tipping that are reported to the Council (this will reduce in the long-term).
- An increase in prosecutions or fixed penalty notices related to fly-tipping.
- High levels of engagement with the public awareness campaign

Longer-term, as public awareness is raised and compliance increases, we would expect to see:

- A reduction in incidences of fly-tipping



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