

REPORT TO: HOUSING, DUNDEE CONTRACTS AND ENVIRONMENT
SERVICES COMMITTEE - 23 JUNE 2008

REPORT ON: CO-ORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF LITTER
MANAGEMENT

REPORT BY: HEAD OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

REPORT NO: 328-2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of a set of proposals to enhance local environmental quality within the city through improved inter-departmental working.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the committee agree the following proposals:
- 2.1.1 The establishment of a Rapid Response Team to monitor selected shrub beds and clean as required.
- 2.1.2 A review of all street sweeping routes to include shrub beds other than those monitored by the Rapid Response Team.
- 2.1.3 A review of the present planting policy to ensure that shrub beds are easily accessible and not liable to trap litter.
- 2.1.4 A review of the current procedures for removing litter from Council owned land to ensure that the requirements of the 1990 Environmental Protection Act Litter Code of Practice are being met.
- 2.1.5 The development of a Litter Action Plan for the city.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The recommendations above will be met from the relevant department's current revenue budgets and will be funded from efficiency savings in other areas if required.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 In June 2006, the Best Value Sub-Committee approved a Best Value Review of Neighbourhood Management. One of the recommendations of the review was the establishment of a working group led by Waste Management to examine existing responsibilities and procedures for dealing with litter within the city. The group were to look specifically at the introduction of a "one stop shop" for all litter and cleansing associated complaints, and to form a SMART litter action plan.

- 4.2 The working group comprising of representatives from all council departments with responsibility for litter control or land management met on a number of occasions. The departments involved were Waste Management, Housing, Economic Development, Education, Dundee Contract Services and Planning and Transportation. A representative from Keep Scotland Beautiful also attended one of the meetings to give advice on the implications of the recently revised Litter Code of Practice.
- 4.3 A wide range of issues were discussed including:
- Present arrangements for removing litter from council owned land, cleaning frequencies etc.
 - The practicalities of introducing a "one stop shop" approach and associated operational difficulties.
 - Land ownership issues.
 - The role of education and awareness raising initiatives.
 - Problems caused by particular types of shrub beds and how these can be overcome
 - Budgetary constraints.
- 4.4 Following the meetings a consensus was reached in principle on the best way forward, and it was agreed that the following proposals should be adopted.
- 4.4.1 That Dundee Contract Services continue to remove litter and rubbish from shrub beds during routine shrub bed maintenance cycles.
- 4.4.2 That the Waste Management Department supplement shrub bed cleaning as and when required through the establishment of an additional Rapid Response Team. The Team would monitor shrub beds on an ongoing basis as well as responding to litter related complaints within set timescales.
- 4.4.3 That Waste Management undertake a review of all street sweeping routes to incorporate shrub beds that are on existing routes. Steps will be taken to ensure that quality is not compromised by any reduction in cleaning frequency required to compensate for additional shrub bed cleaning.
- 4.4.4 That all litter related complaints should go in the first instance to the Customer Contact Centre. Where responsibility for the complaint is clear, contact centre staff will then forward the complaint to the relevant department. Where responsibility is unclear, the complaint will be forwarded to the Waste Management Department for investigation and appropriate action. Where complaints are generated from outside bodies on non council land, e.g. Bear Scotland, these are forwarded to Waste Management for action.
- 4.4.5 A GIS mapping exercise to input all Dundee City Council property records is currently being undertaken by Economic Development Department. Classification mapping has also been undertaken by Leisure and Communities and the Housing Departments. Once this exercise has been completed, the GIS database will be used as the basis for the Customer Contact Centre to direct litter associated complaints to the relevant department.

- 4.4.6 Current arrangements for removing litter from council land should be examined to ensure that they comply with the revised Litter Code of Practice. Thereafter, operational staff from the relevant departments will receive training in the Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) methodology. This will ensure that a consistent approach is being applied to litter management by all departments, and that statutory performance targets and standards are being met.
- 4.4.7 The shrub bed planting policy should be reviewed and steps taken to reduce the amount of litter trapped within beds and ensure that they are accessible for cleaning. Where litter is regularly trapped within a bed, an environmental impact survey should be undertaken to determine if removal or replacement would be the most appropriate course of action.
- 4.4.8 Finally, it was agreed that a SMART Litter Action Plan should be developed which will set out how the council intends to improve its performance on dealing not only with litter, but other factors that effect local environmental quality such as dog fouling, fly-posting, graffiti, fly-tipping etc. This Plan will be brought before committee for approval before the end of 2008.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

The major issues identified are:

5.1 Sustainability

- 5.1.1 The proposals outlined within this report have implications on the following sustainability policy principles.
- Ensure compliance with relevant environmental legislation and related policy guidance and, where appropriate, seek to exceed minimum standards and targets so that Dundee continues to be at the forefront of environmental excellence.
 - Protect, enhance and manage the city's open space and woodlands in a sustainable manner to enhance environmental quality, promote leisure and access opportunities and encourage healthy living.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Head of Finance and the Directors of Housing, Economic Development, Education, Dundee Contract Services and Planning and Transportation have all been consulted on this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

Jim Laing
Head of Waste Management

Date: 27th May 2008