

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:-</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Waste and Emergency Planning</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:-</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> November 2012</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:-</b>	<b>Litter enforcement options</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:-</b>	<b>Neighbourhood &amp; Adult Services</b>

### **5. Summary**

This report advises on current complaints about littering at two specific locations in the North of the borough and advises on the enforcement possibilities at both locations

### **6. Recommendations**

**It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Waste and Emergency Planning ;**

**6.1 Notes the content of the report and confirms that enforcement approaches planned for the areas are appropriate and proportionate.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

Although there have been relatively few complaints recently to the Council about littering offences on The Broadway at Swinton (last complaint in February) and Masefield Road at West Melton (last complaint in April), there is a litter and refuse issue which needs to be resolved. There are concerns that the level of problem is left un-reported and as such the area has not received as much attention as other areas.

There have been 7 street cleansing requests for Broadway and 8 for Masefield Road to Streetpride since 1 April 2012.

The Neighbourhood Wardens have spent a total of 4½ hours of patrolling around Masefield road for a number of issues, including litter since August 2012 in order to deter littering and anti-social behaviour.

However, in order to tackle these issues of litter build up and encourage residents to contact the Council a number of steps are to be taken. They include:

- a. Additional Neighbourhood Warden patrols in November on both streets at times when littering / dog fouling is likely to occur and to deter anti-social behaviour.
- b. Enforcement warnings will be given to the Businesses to ensure they are fully aware of their responsibilities towards their waste. Where necessary other checks on waste contracts will be carried out. The result of this could be Street Litter Control Notices or Fixed Penalty Notices for repeated non-compliance.
- c. Visits to residential properties by wardens and enforcement staff to identify the level of concern and to ensure they have contact details for the Council and to encourage reporting of littering and dog fouling issues.

## **8. Finance**

These enforcement actions are normal duties for the team and are covered by the existing budget.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The low level of recent complaints suggests that there may not be any enforcement action that is possible in the area other than initial warnings. The key issue being, in the main, not about local people actually littering but more the reduced frequency of litter bin emptying. Increasingly with the reduction in the time litter bins are scheduled for emptying there is an increased demand for an increase in enforcement patrols and enforcement action. This demand is requiring the deployment of the Warden team from already priority areas that have greater issues of general anti-social behaviour.

With the capacity of the Wardens being reduced, the meeting of such adhoc enforcement requests to meet the consequences of:

- the Council's reduced standard of street cleansing
- the need for local businesses to recognise their own responsibilities to introduce their own clean ups, and
- prioritisation of the Neighbourhood Warden's deployment to priority neighbourhoods

is unsustainable. Proactive work with local businesses via both the Streetpride Community Officer to reach an agreed local street cleanliness partnership is required.

These measures and the enforcement actions in particular can only succeed if there is an appropriate and responsive cleansing regime to enable the Zero Tolerance approach. For example, if litter bins are overflowing on a particular street, those issued with Fixed Tickets or Street Litter Control Notices may be able to present this issue as mitigation in court, which may not harm a prosecution case as it is a strict liability offence, but could lead to criticism and loss of reputation

## 10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Tackling Anti Social Behaviour is a key priority for the coming year as set out in the RMBC Corporate Plan

- ***helping to create safe and healthy communities, and***
- ***ensuring people feel safe where they live, particularly that Anti-Social behaviour and crime is reduced and people from different backgrounds get on well together.***

In particular the proposal contributes in ensuring that;

- People feel safe where they live
- ASB and crime is reduced
- People enjoy parks, green spaces, sports, leisure and cultural activities
- Our streets are cleaner

And fits totally within the business methodology of the Council by;

- Getting it right 1st time, reducing bureaucracy and getting better value for money,
- working with partners, and
- having the right people, with the right skills in the right place at the right time

Accordingly ensuring that anti-social behaviour is reduced and that people feel safe where they live is a key objective of the 2010/11 Neighbourhood & Adult Service plan

The approach has clear linkages to the seven outcomes of the Outcomes Framework for Social Care, and importantly contributes to ***Improving the Quality of Life***, and support to ensure ***Freedom from Discrimination or Harassment***.

The strategy takes close account of the developing Government policy drivers regarding crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and localism, but locally is built from the statutory analysis undertaken by the partnership Community Information Unit and reported in the latest Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment which identified Anti-Social Behaviour as a priority for the Safer Rotherham Partnership.

## 11. Background Papers and Consultation

- n/a

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