

CABINET

DATE	11 th March 2026
REPORT OF	Councillor Henry Hudson – Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero and Councillor Ron Shepherd - Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Carolina Borgstrom – Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
SUBJECT	Environment Street Scene and Enforcement Cabinet Working Party Findings and Recommendations.
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 03/26/05

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The matters for consideration in this report contribute to the strategic objectives and priorities of the Council as set out in the North East Lincolnshire Council Plan 2025-2028. This sets out our vision to create stronger economies and stronger communities.

To support this, we want to manage our land to ensure all residents have access to safe and clean streets and open spaces. People are proud of where they live and work and we work hard to make 'our place' look clean. We work and support others to take pride in their local areas. We value people, community groups, partners and businesses who help us achieve this.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides key information on how the Cabinet Working Party (CWP) have considered the Council's approach to cleansing of adopted highway and associated Council owned public open space, including statutory requirements and resource prioritisation, to provide the findings and recommendations set out in this report.

They have considered the Council's approach to street scene enforcement, including the ongoing transformation plan for regulatory services. Areas for consideration will include waste/litter on private land, fly tipping, littering, fly posting and dog fouling and report on findings and recommendations. The CWP have considered the deployment of current operational resources, the impact of current trial schemes including seasonal resources in the resort, deep clean and the barrow operative schemes, to evaluate impact and make recommendations that could be incorporated into any future approach.

The full range of activities considered by the CWP is set out within the findings

report at Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero to review the bulky waste collection service, within the next year, to see if costs can be brought down for residents; and that the results be presented to a relevant Scrutiny Panel meeting.
2. Delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero to produce an annual update to the relevant Scrutiny Panel on how the education scheme was being executed to support the educational offer within the Green and Clean initiative.
3. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director Policy Strategy and Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance Resources and Assets to improve the Self-Service customer portal, by exploring the different options set out in the Environment Street Scene and Enforcement Cabinet Working Parties Findings Reports (Appendix 1, Section 1.9.1.)

REASONS FOR DECISION

The rationale for each recommendation is included in the background and issues which follow below.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 At the Annual Meeting of Council held on 23rd May 2024, it was agreed to establish a CWP to conduct a detailed review of the Council's approach to Street Scene, including Street Scene enforcement, with its findings and recommendations to be reported to Cabinet.
- 1.2 The role of the CWP was to understand the issues around street scene cleanliness and the deployment of resources within the current budget envelope to deliver a service that is both effective and legally compliant with our statutory duties.
- 1.3 The CWP also considered and understood the issues arising from residents', landowner's and visitor behaviour, and how to address these issues using engagement, investigation and enforcement tools.
- 1.4 The CWP was held over 6 sessions with an initial meeting being held in private prior to the first meeting. Several Officers that are part of the Environment service were invited to speak with the CWP to review actions aligned to street scene recommendations. These recommendations were a result of a previously commissioned Street Scene Select Committee to look at

the quality of the local street scene in North East Lincolnshire. Following the earlier review the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made 21 recommendations, which were endorsed by Cabinet in November 2018.

- 1.5 An Enforcement Scrutiny Working Group had also met from November 2019 to February 2020 in order to review current enforcement arrangements across the council: including but not limited to: - planning, car parking, highways, housing, anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, food safety, trading standards; in short, a focus on place-based enforcement functions. As a result of the review, the group identified nine recommendations to be taken forward to the Communities Scrutiny Panel. Officers provided a response to the recommendations, and the recommendations were endorsed by Cabinet in June 2020. The CWP requested that they also received an update on the 9 recommended actions and an overview of the 2025 position.
- 1.6 For one of the sessions, the CWP invited the voluntary sector to share their experiences on environment issues and community perspectives and explore how the Council could work more effectively with local groups on environmental issues. The Canoe River Cleaner accepted the invite and shared his views with the CWP.
- 1.7 The CWP also asked to explore in more detail the current online reporting system. The Head of ICT and Digital attended a meeting to discuss their aspirations for the system in the longer term and including the customer first principle.
- 1.8 The CWP reviewed the Clean and Green evaluation report, which received additional questions around the inability to employ an Urban Litter Ranger and budget constraints. However, they saw how useful the scheme was specifically the education visits and whether they could be delivered outside of the target area.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

- 2.1 The recommendations within this report focus on the review or continuation of schemes and initiatives to support changes to waste and littering behaviour, including how the public let us know about their issues and concerns.
- 2.2 Any risks, opportunities and equality issues will be considered as part of the discovery and review work required in advance of any service or policy changes.
- 2.3 The recommendation that the educational offer within the Green and Clean initiative be supported and requirement for an annual update on the scheme will raise the profile of this positive work and help to:
 - Improve environmental awareness.
 - Demonstrate how small actions can make a big difference and the positive impact this can have on the environment.
 - Strengthen partnerships with voluntary and community environmental champions.

- Encourage individuals and groups to carrying out community litter picks in their local area.
- Make environmental improvement fun, engaging, encourage participation in meaningful outdoor activity, improve health and inclusion.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The CWG reviewed all previous recommendations and the current transformation programme across the Regulatory Services. The option to do nothing was considered and discounted as the CWP were satisfied that there were some matters that would benefit from further discovery work.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

The continued education initiative is likely to impact positively on communication and reputation. Risks and opportunities from future discovery work will be considered once better understood.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The approved 2026/27 - 2028/29 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan includes £200,000 to continue the Clean and Green Initiative. The permanent inclusion of this budget will enable the current education offer to be continued.
- 5.2 The discovery work in respect of the other recommendations will consider any financial implications as part of the workstream.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

Our environmental education work and any future review of service delivery is likely to improve the environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Children and young people are especially concerned about our environment, and it is essential to engage with them on environmental matters.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

This report highlights the council's commitment to improve local environmental quality and deliver positive messaging to improve waste and littering within the borough.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS

The report outlines the approach to reducing the impact of litter and waste in our communities. This has positive implications for public health as improving our local areas aligns to the Marmot policy objectives to create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities and pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together.

9. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

The Environmental Street Scene and Enforcement Cabinet Working Party has reviewed in-depth Operational Services over a period of months which has been included within the content of this report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The continuation of the Clean and Green Initiative, funded at £200,000 per annum, is provided for within the approved 2026/27–2028/29 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan and is therefore affordable within the Council's current financial framework.

10.2 The further discovery and review activity does not, at this stage, commit the Council to additional expenditure. Any proposals emerging from this work that have financial implications, including changes to service delivery models or enforcement approaches, will require full financial evaluation and consideration of affordability, value for money and alignment with the Medium Term Financial Plan.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no legal implications immediately arising from the recommendations in the report.

11.2 A Cabinet Working Party is purely advisory. Recommendations arising are reported back to Cabinet for final, formal approval. Cabinet may accept, amend or reject the recommendations.

12. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

13. WARD IMPLICATIONS

This proposal affects all wards

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- [1. Street Scene Select Committee Findings report FINAL.pdf](#)
- [2. Overview & Scrutiny Committee minutes - Nov 14th 2019.doc](#)
- [3. Cabinet Minutes 2018 November 28th PR.docx](#)
- [4. Street Scene Select Committee Update.docx](#)
- [5. Scrutiny presentation 051219-rev1.ppt](#)
- [6. Summary of remaining recs 5.12.19.docx](#)
- [7. Tracking Report for 5th January 2023.docx](#)
- [8. Enforcement Working Group agenda.pdf](#)
- [9. Enforcement-Working-Group Findings 4.6.20.pdf](#)

[10. Enforcement Working Group Cabinet Report.docx](#)

[11. Cabinet 8th July 2020 PR.docx](#)

15. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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**COUNCILLOR HENRY HUDSON
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AND

**COUNCILLOR RON SHEPHERD
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**FINDINGS REPORT OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL STREET SCENE AND ENFORCEMENT
CABINET WORKING GROUP**

1

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the Annual Meeting of Council held on 23rd May 2024, it was agreed to establish a Cabinet Working Party (CWP) to conduct a detailed review of the Council's approach to Street Scene, including Street Scene enforcement, with its findings and recommendations to be reported to Cabinet.
- 1.2 The membership of the Environment Street Scene and Enforcement CWP was:
- Nicola Aisthorpe (Chair)
 - Kevin Shutt
 - Paul Bright
 - Henry Hudson (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero)
 - Ron Shepherd (Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities)
- 1.3 The CWP met on
- 15th May 2025
 - 28th July 2025
 - 25th September 2025
 - 17th November 2025
 - 26th January 2026
 - Feb 2026 - TBC

15th May 2025

- 1.4 The CWP discussed in detail the purpose and aims of the working party. A lot of the discussion was around historical schemes that had been implemented and progress on the recommendations made by a number of previous select committees and working groups on these issues. The CWP agreed that it would be useful if the Voluntary Sector was added to the scope, as it would be valuable to see how we engage and support environmental champions and recognise the help they give to the street cleansing team. The CWP also agreed that, in the interest of full transparency, that its meetings be open to the public.
- 1.5 Members agreed that the CWP would meet bi-monthly and the meetings would cover:
- Transformation and Enforcement
 - Street Scene Offer
 - Voluntary Sector
 - Mop up session/ Recommendations

28th July 2025

- 1.6 The CWP reviewed the recommendations from previous enforcement working groups and an update was provided against each action.

- 1.6.1 Going through the recommendations, the CWP thought it would be useful if all Councillors received ward-based street scene enforcement activity on a regular basis. They were informed that monitoring progress by wards was currently a work in progress. The team transformation was being supported corporately with a number of priority workstreams currently ongoing. Members were reassured that the scheme was evolving.
- 1.6.2 The CWP identified through discussion that there was a need to do more on enforcement, and enquired about capacity. The CWP was informed that an earlier change management process had strengthened the current approach to enforcement with a further service review taking place and a change management business case was to be received by Leadership Team for approval. Once this was in place, it would allow greater focus on staff development, recruitment and retention with the aim to build a more competent, integrated and resilient team .
- 1.6.3 The CWP had concerns that recommendations from the Street Scene Select Committee that took place in 2017 had not been actioned. A lot of the recommendations covered issues that were still being experienced. An update on these recommendations was asked to be provided and for this to also identify any improvements arising from implementation of these recommendations. This was provided at the next meeting about street scene issues.
- 1.6.3 The CWP then received a report on the transformation plan following Equans services being brought back into the Council. The CWP had particular concerns over the capacity of workers. The CWP was informed that there was a national shortage of Environmental Health and Housing staff in this area. Historically they had employed people with transferable skills, but this required the right training and support to be in place to ensure the team could deliver on Council priorities. The new management structure will ensure that staff are supported to develop their enforcement skills.
- 1.6.4 The CWP also had queries around planning and highway enforcement and where it would sit. They were informed that planning enforcement would remain within the planning team, whereas non-technical highway enforcement would sit within the Environmental Health and Housing team. The current processes with the Transformation Team were being reviewed to see how the different elements should work.
- 1.6.5 The CWP thought it would be useful if the progress of the transformation plan could be tracked.

25th September 2025

- 1.7 The CWP reviewed the recommendations from previous street scene working groups. Main points to come out of the discussion were:
- Additional use of barrow operatives were welcomed.

- If the use of Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) helps to carry out street cleansing duties.
- To explore using Operation Gateway to keep shop frontages clean and tidy.
- The CWP stated that as it had been seven years since the last Street Cleansing Service review, and enquired whether it was time for it to be reviewed again.
- To explore whether it would be beneficial to use wild flowers in other areas of the Borough again.
- To support the continuation of grass cutting in Cleethorpes and highway sightlines.
- Noted the 'Skip It' scheme did not improve fly tipping and the 'Clear It' scheme was more cost effective and specific to need.
- There was a need to explore using an external reporting portal, such as FixMyStreet.

1.7.1 The CWP noted the current actions in progress:

- Deliver the Clean and Green initiative and assess impact.
- Recruit a new Head of Waste and Operational Services.
- Develop and implement trials for weed control.
- Develop digital maturity within the service and workforce.
- Integrate Waste Services into Doughty Road depot.
- Workforce succession planning.
- Consider changes to the bulky collection service that enable coordination of collections

1.7.2 The CWP requested additional information about

- Unadopted Walkways
- External reporting portal

17th November 2025

1.8 The CWP invited the voluntary sector to share their experiences on environment issues and community perspectives and explore how the Council could work more effectively with local groups on environmental issues. The Canoe River Cleaner accepted the invite and shared his views with the CWP.

1.8.1 The key points that came from this discussion were:

- Enforcement cameras, extra CCTV
- Increasing fine levels
- Changing the reporting system
- Departments working together/ Universal educational programme.
- Registered carriers – Publicise on community pages/parish magazines
- Budget – Clean and Green proposal (is it needed?).
- How could the authority support/promote litter picks.
- Targeted works in communities.
- Cleaner walks – do we have funds to adopt it and tailor working together on it.

26th January 2026

- 1.9 The CWP decided to call an additional meeting to invite ICT Services to discuss the current online reporting system, particularly for external customers, due to issues that had arisen during discussion of this CWP. The CWP were informed that the Council would prefer to use the current reporting system but were open to exploring how the system could look at different priorities and make it easier to use.
- 1.9.1 The key points to reflect on about the reporting system were:
- The ability to use an app.
 - Making it more user friendly – have top 10 requests for reporting easily visible.
 - Include the facility to add pictures.
 - Work on the functionality of the system and the way staff use it. Particularly customer feedback when a job had been completed.
 - Provide QR codes on bins to allow easy reporting.
 - Create an automation so that the system could identify regularly reported hotspots and inform enforcement.
- 1.9.2 During the discussion, the topic of clearing alleyways was highlighted and the CWP referred to the scheme implemented in 2012 to help clear up alleyways. The CWP were informed that when this was in place, the number of resources the Council had was very different to what it was now. A similar scheme had taken place recently where three Officers had looked at educational programmes and encouraging community engagement, but capacity was difficult to keep it up.
- 1.9.3 At this meeting the CWP also received the evaluation of the Clean and Green Project. The report was welcomed, but additional questions were asked around the inability to employ an urban litter ranger, budget restraints, cover when barrow-operative were not on shift and what was being done to advertise what barrow-operatives do.
- 1.9.4 The report identified future actions, which were:
- Await outcome of budget settlement for 2026/27. A sum of £200k had been requested to continue the project.
 - Explore scope for Barrow Operatives to be more engaged in education, comms and social media work.
 - Continue with the school visits and explore if education visits could be delivered to schools outside the target area and if further support could be provided via Community Champions.

- Consider how we enhance our relationships and support with Community Litter Picking Groups and the options to provide free coloured bags.
- Give the new Head of Waste & Operational Services the opportunity to review the current service delivery principles of the bulky waste collection service and identify opportunities and financial implications of any changes.

1.9.5 The CWP key points to think further about were:

- The impact of temporary jobs on service delivery due to recruitment problems
- The role of the Barrow-Operative in educating the community
- Explore how they could grow community engagement for litter picking
- Develop an education programme with the Behaviour and Insights Team.

2.0 RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Commit to review the bulky waste collection service, within the next year, to see if costs can be brought down for residents; and that the results be brought back to a relevant Scrutiny Panel meeting.
2. That the educational offer within the Green and Clean initiative be supported and that the relevant Scrutiny Panel receive an annual update on how the scheme was being executed.
3. That the Self-Service customer portal be improved, by exploring the different options set out in the Environmental Street Scene and Enforcement Cabinet Working Parties Findings

3.0 NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The scrutiny working group's findings and subsequent recommendation from this Cabinet Working Party will be included in the Cabinet report to be considered on the 11th March 2026.