



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

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
 - 12th February 2026

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 to 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

(1) TBC

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.