

The Arc
High Street
Clowne
S43 4JY

To: Chair & Members of the Climate
Change and Communities Scrutiny
Committee

Contact: Thomas Dunne-Wragg
Telephone: 01246 242520
Email: thomas.dunne-wragg@
bolsover.gov.uk

Wednesday, 11th June 2025

Dear Councillor,

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council to be held in Committee Room 1, The Arc, Clowne on Monday, 23rd June, 2025 at 14:00 hours.

Register of Members' Interests - Members are reminded that a Member must within 28 days of becoming aware of any changes to their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests provide written notification to the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

You will find the contents of the agenda itemised on page 3 onwards.

Yours faithfully,



Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer

Equalities Statement

Bolsover District Council is committed to equalities as an employer and when delivering the services it provides to all sections of the community.

The Council believes that no person should be treated unfairly and is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination, advancing equality and fostering good relations between all groups in society.

Access for All statement

You can request this document or information in another format such as large print or **language** or contact us by:

- **Phone:** [01246 242424](tel:01246242424)
- **Email:** enquiries@bolsover.gov.uk
- **BSL Video Call:** A three-way video call with us and a BSL interpreter. It is free to call Bolsover District Council with Sign Solutions, you just need WiFi or mobile data to make the video call, or call into one of our Contact Centres.
- Call with [Relay UK](#) - a free phone service provided by BT for anyone who has difficulty hearing or speaking. It's a way to have a real-time conversation with us by text.
- **Visiting** one of our [offices](#) at Clowne, Bolsover, Shirebrook and South Normanton

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Monday, 23rd June, 2025 at 14:00 hours taking place in Committee Room 1, The Arc,
Clowne**

Item No.		Page No.(s)
	<u>FORMAL PART A</u>	
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Urgent Items of Business	
	To note any urgent items of business which the Chairman has consented to being considered under the provisions of Section 100(B) 4(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
3.	Declarations of Interest	
	Members should declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and Non Statutory Interest as defined by the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of:	
	a) any business on the agenda;	
	b) any urgent additional items to be considered;	
	c) any matters arising out of those items;	
	and if appropriate, withdraw from the meeting at the relevant time.	
4.	Minutes	5 - 11
	To consider the minutes of the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8 th April 2025.	
5.	List of Key Decisions and Items to be Considered in Private	12 - 16
	<i>Members should contact the officer whose name appears on the List of Key Decisions for any further information). NB: If Members wish to discuss an exempt report under this item, the meeting will need to move into exempt business and exclude the public in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and Local Government Act 1972, Part 1, Schedule 12a for that part of the meeting only.</i>	
6.	Community Outreach Programme - Member Update	17 - 25
7.	Review of Council's Approach to Carbon Reduction - Post-Scrutiny Monitoring and update from the Climate Change Officer	26 - 42

8.	Review of the Council's Approach to Environmental Despoilment Education and Enforcement - Formal Approval by Committee	43 - 106
9.	Work Programme 2025/26	107 - 112
	<u>INFORMAL PART B</u>	
10.	Review Work	113 - 127

Agenda Item 4

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Tuesday, 8th April 2025 at 10:00 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Ashley Taylor in the Chair

Councillors Catherine Tite (Vice-Chair), Cathy Jeffery, Emma Stevenson and Carol Wood.

Officers:- Steve Brunt (Strategic Director of Services), Jim Fieldsend (Director of Governance and Legal Services & Monitoring Officer), Mark Seston (Community Safety Officer), Matt Liddy (Community Safety and Enforcement Manager), Charmaine Terry (Environmental Health Team Manager (Licensing)), Jon Tipton (Outdoor Recreation Officer), Thomas Dunne-Wragg (Scrutiny Officer) and Matthew Kerry (Governance and Civic Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting, observing, were Councillors Rob Hiney-Saunders (Portfolio Holder for the Environment) and Jeanne Raspin (Junior Portfolio Holder for Environment), and Inspector Matthew Brown of the Derbyshire Constabulary (for Item CLI38-24/25 and CLI40-24/25).

CLI30-24/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Mark Hinman.

CLI31-24/25 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to be considered.

CLI32-24/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

CLI33-24/25 MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Emma Stevenson and seconded by Councillor Cathy Jeffery **RESOLVED** that the minutes of a Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 28th January 2025 be approved as a true and correct record.

CLI34-24/25 LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

The Committee considered the List of Key Decisions and Items.

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A Member noted the Executive Members listed in the document required updating.

RESOLVED that the List of Key Decisions and Items to be considered in the private document be noted.

CLI35-24/25 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

The Environmental Health Team Manager presented the report to the Committee.

The Council was responsible for issuing premises licences under the Gambling Act 2005 (the 'Act').

The Act had three licensing objectives:

- prevent gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime;
- ensure that gambling was conducted in a fair and open way; and,
- protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

The Council had a statutory requirement to prepare a Statement of Principles (the 'Policy'), which would act as a guide for Members, applicants, responsible authorities, and members of the public. Its aims were to promote fair, consistent, and proportionate decision making.

The Council was required to review and publish its policy every three years.

The Joint Environmental Health Service had conducted a review of the existing Policy and identified the need to:

- Modify the format of the Policy to ensure it remained cohesive and consistent with that of neighbouring local authorities;
- Ensure the Policy was consistent with legislation and statutory guidance;
- Increase the clarity of the Policy;
- Update local demographics; and,
- Provide clarity on delegations.

The fundamental principles of the Policy remained the same. However, upon review it was felt the Policy would benefit from being restructured and reformatted, with some content clarified.

The current Policy and Local Area Profile were attached at Appendices 1 and 2. The revised draft Policy and Local Area Profile were attached as Appendices 3 and 4.

An equality impact assessment had been carried out and a draft copy was attached at Appendix 5.

If approved by the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee on 30th April 2025, a 12 week public consultation would be carried out, the results of which would be presented back to

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

the Committee for consideration before a final draft was recommended to Council for adoption.

The report detailed the review's findings.

Questions / topics raised included: the requirement of Gambling Licences for small gatherings; the Council's website not being friendly for finding out information and if social media could be utilised; and safeguarding.

Moved by Councillor Cathy Jeffery and seconded by Councillor Carol Wood

RESOLVED that: 1) The Committee reviews the revised draft Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 and provides comments for consideration by the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee; and,

- 2) The Committee notes the intention to carry out a public consultation and present the findings back to the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee, before a final draft is recommended to Council.

CLI36-24/25 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S ENERGY POLICY FOR LOCAL HOUSING - POST SCRUTINY MONITORING REPORT (INTERIM REPORT)

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report to the Committee.

The Committee had agreed to undertake a Review of Council's Energy Policy for Local Housing as part of the 2023-24 Work Programme.

The Committee had put together 5 recommendations, as outlined in the attached Appendices, which had assisted the Council in improving policies and standards for energy in local housing stock:

- 2 recommendations had been achieved;
- 2 were on track and would hopefully be completed within the original target date; and,
- 1 had been extended.

A Member recommended the online publication of properties' energy efficiency.

Moved by Councillor Emma Stevenson and seconded by Councillor Carol Wood

RESOLVED that: 1) Scrutiny Members note the progress against the review recommendations;

- 2) Scrutiny Members acknowledge any exceptions to delivery and clarify the additional action required by the service;
- 3) Scrutiny Members make its report and findings public, in accordance with Part 4.5.17(4) of the Council's Constitution; and,
- 4) Officers continue to implement the recommendations and submit a further report in twelve months' time highlighting progress and any exceptions to delivery.

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CLI37-24/25 WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Work Programme 2024/25, attached at Appendix 1, to the Committee.

Moved by Councillor Emma Stevenson and seconded by Councillor Cathy Jeffery

RESOLVED that Members review this report and the Programme attached at Appendix 1 for approval and amendment as required. All Members are advised to contact the Scrutiny Officer should they have any queries regarding future meetings.

CLI38-24/25 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE BOLSOVER COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (PUBLIC)

The Community Safety Officer presented the report to the Committee.

The report provided the necessary background information for the Committee when completing its Annual Review of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

The Committee was consulted prior to the review to establish current issues and key lines of enquiry. Relevant officers were also approached prior to the review to ensure Members were fully briefed on current developments and service delivery during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Attached at Appendix 1 was an update on the CSP and its current delivery.

Attached at Appendix 2 was the CSP Plan.

The CSP's mission statement was to "work together to reduce crime and disorder and improve the quality of life for you and your Community". The presentation covered:

- Why a CSP Partnership exists;
- CSP's were a Statutory Responsibility;
- Statutory organisations in the CSP;
- The Bolsover CSP Strategic Group;
- The Bolsover CSP Plan and Priorities;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner Priorities (2022-2025);
- The CSP Plan Priorities 2023 – 2026 (Refreshed 2025); and,
- What had been achieved.

To a question on the types of Youth Diversionary Activities, the Outdoor Recreation Officer informed most young people preferred group activities with their friends (e.g. music jams – mini Glastonbury's). For some events 40-50 interested parties would attend without the need to advertise (word-of-mouth amongst friend networks). On average, 30 attended all activities.

On the possibility of the installation of a skatepark in South Normanton, the Outdoor Recreation Officer offered to attend a local Parish Council meeting to get in mind what might be preferred. The Committee discussed funding options (residential developments, UK National grants, etc.). One option voiced by some Members was to use Council assets and savings before it was dissolved and replaced by a unitary council under Local

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Government Reorganisation efforts.

Continuing, the Community Safety Officer highlighted a sign posted outside schools for driver speed awareness.

Shoplifting remained high though the total crime level was decreasing.

To a question on the current waiting lists to access support for victims of Domestic Abuse (including children), the Community Safety Officer informed the current waiting times was due to resourcing issues.

The Committee was informed of a recent spate of deliberate fires in derelict buildings that had taken place.

The Community Safety Officer passed over to Inspector Matthew Brown of the Derbyshire Constabulary to elaborate on the work of the CSP.

Specific numbers on drug trafficking and shoplifting were provided to the Committee, with it being noted overall crime and instances of Anti-Social Behaviour and acts of burglary dropping – this may have been down due to the use of “nudge theory” and an uplift of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs).

SNTs were local officers assigned to community areas (e.g. Bolsover SNT, Clowne SNT, Shirebrook SNT, etc.) which then made it possible for the retention and apprehension of outstanding suspects (i.e. people who were ‘Wanted’).

Key areas to improve included victim satisfaction levels (to update in person or over the phone instead of via email and text services)

Raised by a Member, the Committee was informed that the Pinxton and South Normanton Wards were covered by the Amber Valley Policing Area, and that Members being contacted by residents on possible crimes there would need to contact them. It was offered contact with this other area could be made on relevant Member’s behalf.

To concerns raised on the use of Cannabis, it was explained the power of entry for small / suspected uses of Cannabis could be utilised in instances of small children residing in such properties, but that it would still depend on intelligence and quality of strategies involved.

The Council’s Enforcement Team and Rangers had made use of Community Protection Warnings and / or Notices, but it was recommended for Members and residents to keep a diary of evidence (with specific times) which would enable the pinpointing of activity. This would then make successful prosecutions possible.

Due to the sensitivity of further information being presented to Members, the Committee moved to exclude the public for the remainder of the item and the meeting.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CLI39-24/25 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the stated Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

CLI40-24/25 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE BOLSOVER COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP CONTINUED (RESTRICTED)

The Community Safety Officer presented the exempted report to the Committee.

Information on the Community Safety and Enforcement Team's structure (as of December 2024) was provided.

Services the Rangers provided were listed and included:

- Patrols;
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB);
- Crime prevention;
- Fly tipping;
- Needles/Sharps removal; and,
- Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) Enforcement.

Between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024, the total number of Ranger Reports was 7,601 (Housing 28%, Patrols 15%, ASB 15%, Environmental 6%, Fly tipping 6%, and Other 30%).

Examples of Customers' comments included:

- "Just wished to pass on my thank you to your Enforcement officer. He helped us at an RTC earlier by controlling the traffic, this allowed me to help a student officer with the crash. It is greatly appreciated. Few people would've volunteered to help in the way that he did- so thank you!"
- "I would like to thank everyone involved from the lady on the out of hours phone, the emergency electrician and the community rangers who attended the water leak at our Bungalow."
- "The community rangers have just left. I've got lots of safety stuff- alarms etc. Thank you for sending them to me. I do feel safer now."
- "I will never know how to thank them as they have truly made a massive positive impact in my life!"

Feedback recited by officers included:

- "The Customer told me that she is so grateful for the Ranger's regular contact, they often see her patrolling the street and I felt this had really been making a difference to them."
- "They have been fitted window and door alarms as well as an alarm for handbag. They are so impressed with the service and ask me to pass on their thanks."

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- “Customer came in and thanked us for quick prompt action on help removing a vehicle blocking mobility access.”

Number of ASB acts included: 24 Community Protection Warnings; 9 Community Protection Notices; and 1 Premises Closure.

Existing (Shirebrook and Langwith Junction, Langwith and Whaley Thorns, Dog Control, and Nuisance Vehicle) and new as of March 2025 (Bolsover Town Centre and surrounding Areas) PSPOs were detailed.

The process of a particular case the Anti-Social Behaviour Team handled, ending in a Premises Closure, was reported in detail to the Committee.

The Committee discussed issues relating to electric scooters, vehicle speeding and the intricacies of the Bolsover PSPO (feedback from the first consultation had reshaped the designated area).

Moved by Councillor Carol Wood and seconded by Councillor Emma Stevenson

RESOLVED that: 1) Members review the supporting documents to refresh their knowledge of current delivery; and,

- 2) following briefings by the officers present, Members scrutinise current and planned delivery of the CSP, making recommendations where required, in accordance with Part 3.6(7) of the Constitution

The formal part of the meeting concluded at 12:08 hours and Members then met as a working party to continue their review work. The informal meeting closed at 12:38 hours.



The Arc
High Street
Clowne
Derbyshire
S43 4JY

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Key Decisions & Items to be Considered in Private

To be made under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Published on: 22nd May 2025

Agenda Item 5

INTRODUCTION

The list attached sets out decisions that are termed as “Key Decisions” at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken by the Executive or an officer under delegated powers.

Preparation of the list helps Executive to programme its work. The purpose of the list is to give notice and provide an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The list is updated each month with the period of the list being rolled forward by one month and republished. The list is available for public inspection at the The Arc, High Street, Clowne, S43 4JY. Copies of the list can be obtained from Jim Fieldsend, Monitoring Officer, at this address or by email to jim.fieldsend@bolsover.gov.uk. The list can also be accessed from the Council’s website at www.bolsover.gov.uk.

The Executive is allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the list, however, a notice will be published at The Arc and on the Council’s website explaining the reasons for the urgent decisions. Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change.

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Members of Executive are as follows:

Councillor Jane Yates - Leader and Portfolio Holder - Policy, Strategy and Communications
Councillor Donna Hales - Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder - Corporate Governance and Performance
Councillor Mary Dooley - Portfolio Holder - Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Clive Moesby - Portfolio Holder - Resources
Councillor Phil Smith - Portfolio Holder - Housing
Councillor Tom Munro - Portfolio Holder - Growth
Councillor Rob Hiney-Saunders - Portfolio Holder - Environmental
Councillor John Ritchie - Portfolio Holder – Devolution

The Executive agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public five clear days prior to the meeting of the Executive. The papers can be seen at The Arc at the above address. The papers are also available on the Council’s website referred to above. Background papers are listed on each report submitted to the Executive and members of the public are entitled to see these documents unless they contain exempt or confidential information. The report also contains the name and telephone number of a contact officer.

Meetings of the Executive are open to the public and usually take place in the Council Chamber at The Arc. Occasionally there are items included on the agenda which are exempt and for those items the public will be asked to leave the meeting. This list also shows the reports intended to be dealt with in private and the reason why the reports are exempt or confidential. Members of the public may make representations to the Monitoring Officer about any particular item being considered in exempt and why they think it should be dealt with in public.

The list does not detail *all* decisions which have to be taken by the Executive, only “Key Decisions” and “Exempt Reports”. In these Rules a “Key Decision” means an Executive decision, which is likely:

(1) **REVENUE**

- (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more; or
- (b) Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more

(2) **CAPITAL**

- (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more; or
- (b) Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more

14 (3) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District.

In determining the meaning of “significant” the Council must have regard to any guidance for the time being issued by the Secretary of State. The Council has decided that revenue income or expenditure of £75,000 or more and capital income or expenditure of £150,000 or more is significant.

The dates for meetings of Executive can be found here:

<https://committees.bolsover.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=1147>

The Council hereby gives notice of its intention to make the following Key Decisions and/or decisions to be considered in private:

Matter in respect of which a decision will be taken	Decision Maker	Date of Decision	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Is this decision a Key Decision?	Is this key decision to be heard in public or private session
Household Support Fund SLA 7	Chief Executive by way of Delegated Decision	22 nd May 2025	Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing	Victoria Dawson, Assistant Director of Housing Management and Enforcement	Key - It is likely to result in the Council making revenue savings or incurring Revenue expenditure of £75,000 or more.	Special Urgency Notice on 22 nd May. This item is not subject to Scrutiny Call In.

**SCHEDULE 12A
ACCESS TO INFORMATION: EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**PART 1
DESCRIPTIONS OF EXEMPT INFORMATION: ENGLAND**

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes –
 - (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) To make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.



BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 23rd June 2025

Community Outreach Service Update

Report of the Service Manager for Environmental Health

Classification	This report is public
Contact Officer	Samantha Bentley Service Manager (Residential and Technical Support) Environmental Health

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To provide members with an update on the Community Outreach Service delivered by Environmental Health.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

1.1 The Community Outreach Service is a well established, longstanding service delivered by the District Council. The links between housing and health are widely understood. A Community Outreach Service is ultimately aiming to assist our residents to live or remain in a safe and healthy home, and to assist their overall health and wellbeing. The service delivers support across the District, to some of our most vulnerable residents, across all tenures. The service delivery focusses on the following themes: -

- Support to ensure residents are receiving the financial help available
- Help with budgeting to reflect residents' individual circumstances
- Referral to debt advice agencies
- Support in tackling food and fuel poverty
- Help to deal with letters and forms
- Referral to specialist agencies to meet the resident's needs
- Help with improving physical, mental and emotional wellbeing
- Close working with partner agencies to support families in need of additional support
- and interventions

- 1.2 Whilst the service is flexible to the needs of residents in need of help and support, the demand for the service has predominantly been around advice and support for financial assistance.
- 1.3 The Community Outreach Service is managed by the Joint Environmental Health Service. There are two FTE Community Outreach Workers covering the whole of Bolsover District. (Two FTEs consist of one full time and two part time officers.)
- 1.4 In 2022, the service was replicated at North East Derbyshire District Council in response to the cost of living crisis. It had been identified by the Joint Environmental Health Service that there was a need for a service equivalent to the Bolsover Community Outreach Service, as its benefits had been visible to the service for many years.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The service receives a substantial number of service requests. In the last financial year, the number of service requests equated to approximately 13 cases per week, between 2 FTEs. The table below demonstrates how the number of cases has risen significantly since the pandemic and also perhaps as a result of the cost of living crisis.

Number of Cases Received by the Service by Financial Year	
Financial year	Number of cases
2018/19	499
2019/20	450
2020/21	438
2021/22	599
2022/23	777
2023/24	703
2024/25	682

- 2.2 Due to the increased demand for the service over recent years, we have had to make minor changes to the service to accommodate the needs. However, during the busiest times, it is likely that people may have to wait up two weeks for an appointment. This does depend on priority and risk, so the most urgent cases are brought forward. Feedback from officers is that on the whole, customers are satisfied with the appointment times being offered. To date we have never received a complaint about the service.

2.3 For each case received, there are a wide range of interventions that may be delivered. Cases can often result in more than one visit due to their complexity. Interventions such as assisting in the completion of forms for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for example, can mean a visit takes approximately 2 hours. Therefore, of the 13 cases received on average per week, there will be cases that are ongoing with multiple interventions and will range from those completed within an hour or two, to those requiring many hours of input.

2.4 The most frequently recorded actions during 2024/25 were inevitably 'visit' and 'telephone call'. However, when you consider the types of intervention, most frequent interventions include the following:

- Benefit checks
- Discretionary Housing Payment applications
- Council tax
- Financial advice referral
- Housing applications
- Payment Plans
- Pension credit
- PIP & DLA
- Housing benefit & Universal Credit
- Housing issues

These intervention types demonstrate how the demand for the service is predominantly around finances.

2.5 The Community Outreach Service is very well integrated with the range of other council services, as well as external organisations. The strong links mean that cases are easily cross referred, ensuring the customer receives a wide suite of interventions and support, as opposed to a narrow, focussed intervention which deals with only finite matters.

2.6 The strong links are evidenced by the source of the service requests, summarised in the table below. As the service is so well established and despite limited publicity, approximately one third of all cases in 2024/25 were self-referrals and the customer has directly requested support. Almost one quarter of cases were referred by external professionals. These are mainly from Derbyshire County Council Adult Care and Children's Services. It is also notable, that approximately 20% of all cases handled are referred from the Housing Department and are council tenants. This is a disproportionate figure when considering the housing tenures across the district. However, it does demonstrate how well the service is integrated and received.

Referrals into the Service during 2024/25	
Source of referral	Approximate percentage of all cases received
BDC Housing dept	20%
Contact Centre	12%
Other internal (Benefits and Env Health)	4%
External professionals inc Social Care, DCC, Community Health, Schools	24%
Self-referral	30%
Other (inc not recorded)	10%

- 2.7 Almost all service requests result in a visit to the home or a meeting place in the community. This face to face support gives the officers an insight into the customer's circumstances, allowing them to identify interventions over and above those initially requested by the customer. This outreach approach brings valuable benefits to the customer and differs from many support services which are more restricted to telephone support. Whilst there are often phone lines for specific services, we find that the clients using this service need the additional support that face to face brings. Often customers struggle to deal with their issues and the prospect of call centres means they disengage further and problems escalate. Unlike some other services which are often simple referral schemes, this service aims to deliver direct support by being present with the customer. The direct support can include assisting in completing forms, handling telephone calls and helping customers better equip themselves to handle their affairs. The case studies attached in Appendix 1 show the breadth and detail behind the Community Outreach Service.
- 2.8 The service is managed by the Home Improvement Team in the Joint Environmental Health Service. The team's duties focus on the health and welfare of residents regardless of tenure. The Community Outreach Service is therefore closely linked with this team. In fact, there are many cases that are shared with other teams in Environmental Health, across the wider housing and public health functions. In particular, the Housing Assistance Coordinator role, which delivers specialist support around energy efficiency and fuel poverty.
- 2.9 A very successful link is that with health and social care. The frequency of referrals from such professionals shows this. However, we suspect that the knowledge and understanding of the service can be patchy across the district and may rely on an individual case worker's knowledge. It is accepted that

promotion of the service could be an area of development going forward. However, this has to be finely balanced with the level of resources, so as not to create a backlog of referrals and mismanaged expectations.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To provide Members with an update on the progress made by Environmental Health

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 N/A

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Committee note the report

IMPLICATIONS:

<u>Finance and Risk</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details:		
None for this report		
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
<u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details:		
None for this report		
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		
<u>Staffing</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details:		
None for this report		
On behalf of the Head of Paid Service		

Equality and Diversity, and Consultation

Yes No

Details:

The Community Outreach Service helps to protect the most vulnerable residents in our community.

Environment Yes No

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

In some cases, the Community Outreach Service will refer to other Services, including the Housing Assistance Coordinator, which can assist with affordable warmth and provide advice and support to access home insulation for instance.

DECISION INFORMATION:

Please indicate which threshold applies:

Is the decision a Key Decision?

A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:

Yes No

Revenue (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or **(b)** Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.

(a) (b)

Capital (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or **(b)** Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.

(a) (b)

District Wards Significantly Affected:

(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)

Please state below which wards are affected or tick **All** if all wards are affected:

All

Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If No, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? <i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation carried out: <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing
Customers - providing excellent and accessible services Environment - protect the quality of life for residents and businesses, meet environmental challenges and enhance biodiversity

DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

Appendix No	Title
1	Case Studies

Background Papers <i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>

Appendix 1

Case Studies

Case Study 1

A pension age BDC tenant living alone, was referred to the COS by the local GP surgery for a benefit check. The tenant had expressed difficulty managing his rent and utility bills. He was currently paying full rent and council tax, had lost his winter fuel payment and was suffering anxiety and depression.

COS contacted the tenant to make an appointment for a home visit. The COS established that the tenant's only source of income was his state pension of £198 per week and he was using his savings of around £10,000 to pay his weekly rent, therefore his savings were reducing significantly.

The tenant said he had previously had a joint claim for pension credit and housing benefit with his wife. However, this had ended when she had passed away and he said he did not know he could claim it again.

The COS carried out a full benefit check and established that he was under the threshold and eligible for pension credit and housing benefit and should definitely apply. The COS assisted in completing an online application for pension credit and also an application for housing benefit and council tax support.

During the visit, the COS ascertained that the gentleman was struggling with his mobility and some other health issues and required assistance daily. The COS therefore assisted in the completion of an application for Attendance Allowance whilst there.

Outcome

In addition to his state pension, the tenant is now receiving pension credit (guarantee credit) of £26.10 per week, housing benefit of £98.00 per week and £23.47 of council tax support per week

The tenant was also awarded £73.90 per week in attendance allowance, which meant that he could then get an additional £82.90 on top of his pension credit because of a disability premium. The overall benefits to the customer were not only a much increased income, but also their general wellbeing. The customer is now able to self-refer into COS at any point with any difficulties or concerns he may have in the future.

Case Study 2

A customer was referred to the community outreach service from social care when she was three months pregnant. We will refer to her as 'Sarah'. At that time Sarah was homeless, unemployed and sofa surfing with a friend who had two small children and was also receiving support from social care. This was an entirely inappropriate situation for both women and meant that social care were very concerned for the wellbeing of all the children involved. Sarah had previously had a child removed from her care. She was not receiving any DWP benefits and had no income at all, this meant that she was unable to buy food for herself or to make any contribution to the house where she was staying.

The first action that COS addressed was helping Sarah to apply for the appropriate benefit, in this case Universal Credit which would give her an amount of money to live on. COS also supported her in getting the guidance required to complete a Bolsover District Council housing application, as well as offering her support in looking for privately rented accommodation. Unfortunately, Sarah was unable to find suitable accommodation before her baby was born, and due to this her baby was removed by social care shortly after the birth. At this point, Sarah's social worker referred Sarah back to the Community Outreach service with the hope that given support to improve her financial and housing situation, Sarah could help to improve her situation to the extent of gaining back custody of her son.

At this point, COS worked alongside BDC housing department and Sarah was offered a property. COS ensured that Sarah added her housing costs onto her Universal Credit claim. However, Sarah was not coping financially. This was due to the flat being a two-bedroom property and as Sarah was under occupying, she was not receiving all the housing costs. She now had rent arrears, and other debts. Payment plans were arranged for her to pay her council tax, rent arrears, TV licence and her water rates. Sarah had made good progress with these, making payments to address them, however she needed guidance on suitable amounts to pay to make all the household payments manageable.

A Discretionary Housing Payment was applied for to help meet Sarah's under occupancy fee which she had to pay until her son returned to her care. This would stop her rent arrears increasing and she could concentrate on reducing these.

Sarah's son was returned to her when he was 6 months old, and COS helped her to ensure that all child related benefits were put in place. COS also applied for a Derbyshire discretionary fund for carpets and other essential items, and this was successful.

To ensure that Sarah stayed on top of her finances, she worked with the COS to do a personal budget plan which would allow her to stay on top of all her bills. Sarah had surplus income at the end of every week which she expressed would be spent on any extra essential items for herself or her son and she would look to saving for the future. We also discussed Sarah's desire to further her education, prepare her CV and look for a career.

Following these interventions, Sarah has kept to payment plans set up for her and fully cooperated at every meeting. Sarah continued to keep custody of her son.



BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of the Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee 23rd June 2025

Review of Council Approach to Carbon Reduction – Post-Scrutiny Monitoring Report

Report of the Chair of the Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Thomas Dunne-Wragg, Scrutiny Officer

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To present the final Post-Scrutiny Monitoring Report on the recent Review of Council’s Approach to Carbon Reduction.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. This includes reducing emissions from the devolved administrations (Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland), which currently account for about 20% of the UK’s emissions. The 100% target was based on advice from the CCC’s 2019 report, ‘Net Zero – The UK’s contribution to stopping global warming’.
- 1.2 Scrutiny has previously received updates on progress against the Carbon Reduction Plan 2019-30 (CRP) with reports presented to the Customer Service & Transformation and Healthy, Safe, Clean & Green Scrutiny Committees. The original CRP set out 8 thematic areas by which the authority aimed to reduce its carbon emissions.
- 1.3 Following structural changes in 2021/22 and a change in lead officers, the Assistant Director of Property Services & Housing Repairs reviewed the existing action plans and those in use with regional funders. In consultation with the Assistant Director of Development & Planning, a 10 point framework used by the Midlands Engine was identified which would allow the Council’s existing themes to be transferred/captured, but would also allow the streamlining of bids for schemes to be aligned with regional and national funders.
- 1.4 It was felt that the framework would allow better compatibility with funders both regionally and nationally. It included additional themes which represented new

and emerging technologies that the Council were keen to explore. It also allowed a number of different polices and groups to be brought together so progress could be clearly identified and evidenced, with greater opportunities offered to partners through the Low Carbon Thematic Group and the Bolsover Partnership

- 1.5 In March 2022, Executive agreed to accept these proposed changes to the CRP and move away from more traditional monitoring to a live document that tracked and evidenced progress across all schemes and or initiatives.
- 1.6 The Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee received a further update in May 2022, following the operational changes to the Council's approach during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.7 Committee Members agreed to complete further detailed work in relation to carbon reduction as part of the 2022/23 work programme in order to evaluate work completed within the current municipal cycle 2019-23, to guide incoming Members on potential future action.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The Committee put together nine recommendations, as outlined in Appendix 1, which will hopefully enable the Council to clarify immediate priorities for action, as well as longer term plan to ensure the Council and District is net zero by 2050.
- 2.2 Appendix 2 sets out the progress so far in meeting the recommendations.
- 2.3 To date 6 out of 9 recommendations have been achieved, 2 are on track and 1 has been extended. The outstanding recommendations are on track to be completed in late 2025. Members should note that a Climate Change Officer was appointed during July 2024 and is overseeing the completion of the outstanding recommendations. Revised target dates and detail on the actions and progress to date are set out in Appendix 2.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are required to make their report and findings public, in accordance with Part 4.5.17(4) of the Constitution.
- 3.2 Committee is required to monitor implementation of their recommendations in accordance with Part 3.6(1) of the Constitution.
- 3.3 Members must note Executive's response to the review recommendations and agree to review progress on the approved recommendations. A progress report is submitted at six and twelve months' intervals, with any exceptions to expected delivery highlighted.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There are no alternative options. Members are required to note the service's response to progress against the review recommendations.

4.2 Committee is required to monitor implementation of their recommendations in accordance with Part 3.6(1) of the Constitution and as such the report cannot be rejected.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Scrutiny Members note the progress against the review recommendations.
2. That Scrutiny Members acknowledge any exceptions to delivery and clarify the additional action required by the service.
3. That Scrutiny Members make its report and findings public, in accordance with Part 4.5.17(4) of the Council’s Constitution.
4. That Officers continue to implement the recommendations and submit a further report in six months time highlighting progress and any exceptions to delivery.

IMPLICATIONS:

<u>Finance and Risk</u>		
Details:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None from this report. Suggested action for the Council can be contained within existing budgets.		
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
<u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u>		
Details:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in Part 1A, s9F(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.		
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		
<u>Staffing</u>		
Details: N/A	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
On behalf of the Head of Paid Service		
<u>Equality and Diversity, and Consultation</u>		
Details: N/A	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Environment Yes No

Details: The creation of a local Charter acts as a statement of the Council's stance in wishing to decrease the environmental impact from sky lanterns and helium balloons on Council land and property.

DECISION INFORMATION:

Please indicate which threshold applies:

Is the decision a Key Decision?

A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:

Revenue (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or **(b)** Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.

Capital (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or **(b)** Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.

District Wards Significantly Affected:

(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)

Please state below which wards are affected or tick **All** if all wards are affected:

Yes No

(a) (b)

(a) (b)

All

Is the decision subject to Call-In?

(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)

If No, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? *(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)*

Consultation carried out:

(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)

Leader Deputy Leader Executive SLT

Relevant Service Manager Members Public

Other

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing

Ambition: Environment

DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

Appendix No	Title
1	Original Recommendations and Executive's Response - Review of Council's Approach to Carbon Reduction
2	Post-Scrutiny Monitoring Report - Review of Council's Approach to Carbon Reduction

Background Papers

(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).

Original Recommendations from Review and Executive's Response

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response	Executive Response
31 CCCSC22-23 2.1	That the officer function addressing the Council's strategic approach to carbon reduction should be kept in-house, with partnership work as required with Dragonfly Development Limited, for delivery associated with the service functions transferred.	That the current restructure following the creation of Dragonfly Development Limited keeps this function in-house so the Council can take a clear lead.	May 2023	Chief Executive	Officer time		Recommendation Approved.
CCCSC22-23 2.2	That a dedicated operational post be recruited to, in addition to the designation of a lead senior officer, to ensure that the delivery in relation to carbon reduction maintains momentum to reach the 2050 target.	Increased and dedicated resource to ensure progress in the short and medium term.	TBC	Chief Executive Director of Executive, Customer Services, Communications, Governance and Partnerships	Officer time Approval of a new post and associated budget will require a further report to Employment Committee and Executive/Council for approval.		Recommendation Approved.

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response	Executive Response
32 CCCSC22-23 2.3	That data quality related to carbon reduction be improved, with a clear baseline agreed from which to track progress up to 2050, with regular data reports as part of the corporate performance reporting.	Improved data quality	Mar 24	TBC – need lead officer in post.	Officer time Potential requirement of technical software – to be determined and would be subject to a further report to Executive/ Council for approval and budget.		Recommendation Approved.
CCCSC22-23 2.4	That the lead senior officer takes account of the Member analysis of the Council's current Ambitions and how activity was supporting carbon reduction as part of new programme development.	A review of current activity, and a clearer account moving forward of the Council's activity to ensure the 2050 target will be met.		Director of Executive, Customer Services, Communications, Governance and Partnerships New officer post - TBC	Officer time		Recommendation Approved.
CCCSC22-23 2.5	That a revised approach to communication of objectives and achievements be implemented, both external and internal, with a full	Improved documentation processes, clearer communication internally and externally.		New Officer post Communications, Design & Marketing Manager			Recommendation Approved.

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response	Executive Response
	review of the website to ensure the Council's activity, and progress towards the target, is clearly documented.						
CCCSC22-23 2.6 33	That the Council ensures that a lead Portfolio Member is agreed for Carbon Reduction from within the Executive, post-election May 2023.	A clear lead Member to champion the Council's approach to carbon reduction.	May 2023	Leader of the Council			Recommendation Approved.
CCCSC22-23 2.7	That the membership of the Low Carbon Thematic Group is reviewed, post-election May 2023, to ensure it incorporates the Portfolio lead and a link to Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny to further improve communication. It is also recommended that	Improved communication between Executive and Scrutiny on carbon reduction.	July 2023	Leader's Executive & Partnerships team	Officer time Member time (meeting attendance)		Recommendation Approved.

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response	Executive Response
	the cross-party representation remains going forward as this is seen as a positive way of working.						
CCCSC22-23 2.8 34	That the Council website is reviewed and updated to provide clear guidance on current Council activity.	Improved public facing communication of the Council's priorities and achievements in relation to carbon reduction.	TBC	New Officer post Communications, Design & Marketing Manager	Officer time		Recommendation Approved.
CCCSC22-23 2.9	That Scrutiny analysis of progress against the Council Motion previously passed to the Low Carbon Thematic Group, be shared so future work planning can take account of outstanding areas capable of delivery.	Completion of outstanding elements of the 2019 Council Motion which may be deliverable.	July 2023	Leader's Executive & Partnerships team	Officer time		Recommendation Approved.

RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION FOLLOWING SCRUTINY REVIEW

Title of Review:	Review of Council's Approach to Carbon Reduction					
Timescale of Review:	November 2022 – January 2023		Timescale of Review:	November 2022 – January 2023		
Date agreed by Scrutiny:	January 2023		Date agreed by Scrutiny:	January 2023		
Total No. of Recommendations and Sub Recommendations	Achieved	5	On track	2	Extended	1
	Achieved (Behind target)	1	Overdue	0	Alert	0

35

Key Achievements:

- A lead Portfolio Member has been agreed for Carbon Reduction from within the Executive.
- The Low Carbon Thematic Group has been reviewed and is now focussing on the findings from the review as part of its remit.
- The post of the Climate Change Officer has been appointed.

Reasons for non-implementation of Recommendations:

- The Climate Change Officer started at the Council in July 2024.
- Progress is being made and the recommendations will be completed during 2025.
- The new Performance team, which has recently taken over responsibility for corporate Performance reporting, will be reviewing the format and delivery of these reports during summer 2025. As part of this review, the team aims to incorporate carbon reduction data, as outlined in recommendation 2.3, into the quarterly Performance updates.
- Following the major changes and updates to the Council website during Spring 2025, progress has been delayed for recommendations 2.5 and 2.8.

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Lead Officer	Target Date	Completion Date	Status	Resources	Progress/Action
36 CCCSC22-23 2.1	That the officer function addressing the Council's strategic approach to carbon reduction should be kept in-house, with partnership work as required with Dragonfly Development Limited, for delivery associated with the service functions transferred.	Chief Executive	May 2023	May 2023	Achieved	Officer time	The Service Director of Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships is now the climate lead for the Council responsible for the strategic approach to carbon reduction.
CCCSC22-23 2.2	That a dedicated operational post be recruited to, in addition to the designation of a lead senior officer, to ensure that the delivery in relation to carbon reduction maintains momentum to reach the 2050 target.	Chief Executive Service Director Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships	Summer 2024	July 2024	Achieved (Behind Target)	Officer time Approval of a new post and associated budget will require a further report to Employment Committee and Executive/ Council for approval.	A new post entitled Carbon Reduction Officer has been approved by the Employment and Personnel Committee. Council will consider putting the post on the establishment on 6 December 2023 prior to recruitment. Interim Report The post of the Carbon Reduction Officer is now titled Climate Change Officer and is still in the hiring process.

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Lead Officer	Target Date	Completion Date	Status	Resources	Progress/Action
							<p><u>Second Interim Report</u> The post of the Climate Change Officer has been appointed.</p>
<p>CCCSC22-23 2.3</p> <p>37</p>	<p>That data quality related to carbon reduction be improved, with a clear baseline agreed from which to track progress up to 2050, with regular data reports as part of the corporate performance reporting</p>	<p>Carbon Reduction Officer (when in post).</p>	<p>March 2025</p>		<p>Extended</p>	<p>Officer time</p> <p>Potential requirement of technical software – to be determined and would be subject to a further report to Executive/ Council for approval and budget.</p>	<p>Will be undertaken when the Carbon Reduction Officer is in post.</p> <p><u>Interim Report</u> Progress for this recommendation is subject to the appointment of the Climate Change Officer</p> <p><u>Second Interim Report</u> Following the appointment of the Climate Change Officer, the CCO is working with other BDC staff and Dragonfly to calculate Scope 1, 2 and some Scope 3 emissions. We are working with other Councils locally to determine a method</p>

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Lead Officer	Target Date	Completion Date	Status	Resources	Progress/Action
38							<p>of reporting so as to provide consistency across Derbyshire.</p> <p><u>Third Interim Report</u> Data is being collected (annually) by the CCO and discussions are being undertaken with the new Performance team to integrate this data into the quarterly Performance reports. The target therefore has been extended.</p>
CCCSC22-23 2.4	That the lead senior officer takes account of the Member analysis of the Council's current Ambitions and how activity was supporting carbon reduction as part of new programme development.	Service Director Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships Carbon Reduction Officer (when in post).	January 2025	Spring 2025	Achieved	Officer time	<p><u>Interim Report</u> Progress for this recommendation is subject to the appointment of the Climate Change Officer</p> <p><u>Second Interim Report</u> Following the appointment of the Climate Change Officer, the CCO attends a monthly brief with the</p>

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Lead Officer	Target Date	Completion Date	Status	Resources	Progress/Action
39							<p>Cabinet Member for Environment. In addition, Councillor input is sought for existing projects. Action is needed to develop an authority wide forum for managers to develop projects.</p> <p><u>Third Interim Report</u> The CCO now meets monthly with the PH for Environment. Considerations are being made for LGR and future corporate plans.</p>
CCCSC22-23 2.5	That a revised approach to communication of objectives and achievements be implemented, both external and internal, with a full review of the website to ensure the Council's activity, and progress towards the target, is clearly documented.	Carbon Reduction Officer (when in post). Communications, Design & Marketing Manager	August 2025		On Track		<p><u>Interim Report</u> Progress for this recommendation is subject to the appointment of the Climate Change Officer</p> <p><u>Second Interim Report</u> Following the appointment of the Climate Change Officer, the CCO has worked with the</p>

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Lead Officer	Target Date	Completion Date	Status	Resources	Progress/Action
40							<p>Communications manager to develop web content for Energy Advice, raise the profile of the CCO, and produce content for ERIC and Bolsover Website. The CCO is also working with the Communications Manager to develop a communication plan.</p> <p><u>Third Interim Report</u> Steady progress being made however a solid plan is still yet to be implemented.</p>
CCCSC22-23 2.6	That the Council ensures that a lead Portfolio Member is agreed for Carbon Reduction from within the Executive, post-election May 2023.	Leader of the Council	May 2023	May 2023	Achieved		<p>Councillor Anne Clarke – Cabinet Member for Environment appointed since Elections in May 2023. Cllr Rob Hiney-Saunders PH for Environment appointed Spring 2025.</p>

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Lead Officer	Target Date	Completion Date	Status	Resources	Progress/Action
CCCSC22-23 2.7 41	That the membership of the Low Carbon Thematic Group is reviewed, post-election May 2023, to ensure it incorporates the Portfolio lead and a link to Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny to further improve communication. It is also recommended that the cross-party representation remains going forward as this is seen as a positive way of working.	Leader's Executive & Partnerships team	July 2023	July 2023	Achieved	Officer time Member time (meeting attendance)	Low Carbon Thematic Group reviewed with appointment of Chair and Vice Chair. Meetings have taken place and priorities set.
CCCSC22-23 2.8	That the Council website is reviewed and updated to provide clear guidance on current Council activity.	Carbon Reduction Officer (when in post). Communications, Design & Marketing Manager	August 2025		On Track	Officer time	<u>Interim Report</u> Progress for this recommendation is subject to the appointment of the Climate Change Officer <u>Second Interim Report</u> Following the appointment of the Climate Change Officer, the CCO has worked with the Communications

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Lead Officer	Target Date	Completion Date	Status	Resources	Progress/Action
42							<p>manager to; develop web content for Energy Advice, raise the profile of the CCO, and produce content for ERIC and Bolsover Website.</p> <p><u>Third Interim Report</u> Progress on this will follow the implementation of recc 2.5. The website has been in development since January 2025.</p>
CCCSC22-23 2.9	That Scrutiny analysis of progress against the Council Motion previously passed to the Low Carbon Thematic Group, be shared so future work planning can take account of outstanding areas capable of delivery.	Leader's Executive & Partnerships team	July 2023	September 2023	Achieved	Officer time	Low Carbon Group have had sight of this.

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee on Monday 23rd June 2025

Review of the Council's Approach to Environmental Despoilment Education and Enforcement

Report of the Chair of Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Thomas Dunne-Wragg

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To present to the Scrutiny Committee the completed report for the recent Review of the Council's Approach to Environmental Despoilment Education and Enforcement.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review of the Council's approach to environmental despoilment education and enforcement, as part of the 2024-25 Work Programme.
- 1.2 The issue was initially raised due to concerns about environmental despoilment in Bolsover District, including fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling.
- 1.3 These issues not only degrade the aesthetic value of the District but also pose significant risks to public health, safety, and local biodiversity.
- 1.4 Environmental despoilment has increasingly become a focal point in national policy, with the UK Government and environmental organisations highlighting the need for stronger action to reduce waste crime and promote cleaner, healthier environments.
- 1.5 Councils dealt with a record 1.15 million incidents of fly-tipping last year, an increase of 6 per cent on the year before. National initiatives, such as the mandatory digital waste tracking system set to launch in April 2025, aim to increase transparency and accountability in waste management, with the goal of reducing fly-tipping and enhancing enforcement against waste crime across the country.
- 1.6 In May 2025, the Environment Secretary announced further measures to tackle waste crime, including a review of local authority vehicle seizure powers to better

support councils in dealing with fly-tipping. Reforms to the waste carriers, brokers and dealers regime, as well as tighter controls on waste permit exemptions, will provide councils and the Environment Agency with stronger tools to crack down on illegal waste activity.

- 1.7 At the local level, Bolsover District faces unique challenges. Despite its natural beauty and rich heritage, the District has struggled with persistent environmental despoilment, especially when compared to neighbouring councils.
- 1.8 This issue has significant implications for the well-being of local communities, impacting both the physical environment and public perceptions of the area. The prevalence of environmental despoilment not only undermines residents' quality of life but also detracts from the District's appeal to visitors and potential investors.
- 1.9 Furthermore, environmental despoilment in shared public spaces can harm wildlife, pose hazards to public health, and incur high costs for clean-up efforts.
- 1.10 This is a critical issue for the Council, as it aligns with both local priorities—such as creating safer, cleaner neighbourhoods—and national objectives focused on waste reduction and environmental sustainability.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 The aims of the review were:

- That the Council reduces fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling to improve the aesthetical value of Bolsover District, to protect local wildlife and to reduce the cost of dealing with the unauthorised illegal depositing of waste by assessing the service's effectiveness in tackling environmental despoilment.
- That the Council becomes an excellent authority at 'keeping the District clean' rather than 'cleaning the District'.

2.2 The objectives agreed were:

1. Understand what Environmental Despoilment involves (fly tipping, littering and dog fouling), the Council's statutory duty and enforcement powers, and policies available to the Council.
2. Analyse the current data of incidents of environmental despoilment across the District.
3. Review the current arrangements undertaken by the Enforcement Team, Streetscene Services and Environmental Health to reduce or prevent Environmental Despoilment.
4. Improve public information/education on environmental despoilment.
5. Identify benchmarking opportunities and areas for improvement; ensure there is a clear strategy of enforcement action to improve the quality of the environment across the District.

2.3 The key issues identified for investigation included:

- Enforcement powers of the Council
- Types of land covered by the Council's statutory duties (Agricultural, Back Alley, Commercial/Industrial, Council, Footpath/Bridleway, Highway, Private Land, Railway, Watercourse)
- Public information and education
- Dog Fouling
- Fly Tipping
- Litter

2.4 The Committee met on five occasions to consider the scope of the review, discuss key issues and potential recommendations, and review the evidence gathered.

2.5 The Committee adopted a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to gather evidence, utilising both qualitative and quantitative methods including:

- Document review
- Informal presentations/briefings
- Desktop research
- Stakeholder consultation

This approach enabled the Committee to gather a broad range of evidence and perspectives to inform the review process.

2.6 A site visit took place by the former Chair of the Committee and the Scrutiny Officer to fly-tipping hotspots with the Rangers and Enforcement Team to observe the impact of environmental despoilment and enforcement actions in real-time.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The Committee have put together 11 recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council in improving the effectiveness of its response to environmental despoilment across Bolsover District.

3.2 The key findings arising from the review are:

- Environmental despoilment, particularly fly-tipping, remains a significant and persistent issue across the District, impacting both the quality of the environment and residents' sense of place.
- Current enforcement outcomes are limited, with performance data showing a low percentage of reports leading to fixed penalty notices or prosecutions, particularly for fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering.
- The joint Environmental Health service with North East Derbyshire District Council offers a useful foundation, but there is a clear need to explore alternative models or tools that could enhance enforcement capability and effectiveness.
- Hotspot locations for fly-tipping require targeted action, including surveillance, signage, and operational task groups to focus efforts and improve accountability across departments.

- The coordination between departments—Streetscene, Community Safety and Environmental Health—must be strengthened through revived Corporate Enforcement Group meetings, structured evidence processes, and shared training opportunities.
- Public engagement and education are essential components of any long-term solution, with the Council needing to amplify its communications, provide clear guidance on waste disposal, and increase the visibility of enforcement actions to deter offending.
- Improved transparency and performance benchmarking through accessible, meaningful data and public updates will help build community trust and demonstrate the Council’s commitment to tackling environmental offences.

3.3 The Committee recognises that a strategic and joined-up approach is required to deliver sustained improvements.

3.4 The recommendations in this report aim to support that goal by enhancing enforcement activity, strengthening interdepartmental coordination, increasing public awareness, and improving the visibility and responsiveness of the Council’s actions.

3.5 If implemented effectively, these measures will help reduce environmental crime, promote civic responsibility, and create a cleaner, safer Bolsover District for all residents.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Executive could choose not to endorse the recommendations of the review where they feel the course of action recommended is beyond the delivery capacity of the Authority.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Committee endorses the recommendations of the review outlined in section 2 of the attached report (Appendix 2).
 2. That Committee submits the report to Executive for approval, in accordance with the Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference – Part 3.6 (3) of the Constitution.
 3. That following approval by Executive, monitoring of these recommendations by the Committee takes place over a twelve-month period via post scrutiny monitoring reports with an update report to the Committee at the end of the monitoring period.
-

IMPLICATIONS:

<u>Finance and Risk</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: There are no immediate financial implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report. However, several recommendations suggest that the Council may need to consider future investment. As such, it should be noted that potential funding may be required at a later stage, depending on how the recommendations are implemented—particularly recommendations 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4, as outlined in the attached report within the appendices.		
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
<u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in s.21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation which added/amended these powers.		
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		
<u>Staffing</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: N/A		
On behalf of the Head of Paid Service		
<u>Equality and Diversity, and Consultation</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: N/A		
<u>Environment</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: The scrutiny review supports the Corporate Ambition of ‘Environment’ and ‘Customers’. The review also supports the Council’s Priorities of: ‘Reducing our carbon footprint whilst supporting and encouraging residents and businesses to do the same’; ‘Enhancing biodiversity across the District’; ‘Working with stakeholders, regional and local partnerships to deliver shared strategies and priorities that support the local environment’; and ‘Ensuring all areas,		

neighbourhoods and streets in the District, irrespective of housing tenure or type, are places where people want to live, feel safe and are proud to live’.

The review supports the Council’s Target ENV.06 – ‘Reduce fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people in Bolsover District over the plan period’ as well as the KPI goals SS 01 – ‘Remove 95% of hazardous Fly Tipping within 24 hours of being reported (Quarterly)’ and SS 02 – ‘Remove 95% of non-hazardous Fly Tipping within 5 working days of being reported (Quarterly)’.

DECISION INFORMATION:

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies:</p> <p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>Revenue (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.</p> <p>Capital (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.</p> <p>District Wards Significantly Affected: <i>(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)</i> Please state below which wards are affected or tick All if all wards are affected:</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>All <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p> <p>If No, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? <i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</i></p> <p>Consultation carried out: <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i></p> <p>Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing

'Environment' and 'Customers'

DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

Appendix No	Title
1	Original Review Scope
2	Review of the Council's Approach to Environmental Despoilment Education and Enforcement (REPORT)

Background Papers

(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PROJECT MANAGEMENT – REVIEW SCOPE

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee
SUBJECT TO BE REVIEWED:	Review of the Council’s approach to environmental despoilment education and enforcement
REASON(S) FOR THE REVIEW:	<p>Members are concerned about despoilment and enforcement especially in shared public spaces that residents freely enjoy together where environmental despoilment can potentially cause danger to environment, public health and well-being.</p> <p>Bolsover District has been consistently less performant than neighboring councils regarding incidents of fly tipping.</p> <p>Environmental despoilment undermines the Council’s corporate ‘Environment’ ambition, reduces the District’s aesthetics, and further undermines the perception of residents and visitors, our ‘Customers’.</p> <p>Scrutiny aims to consider the service’s effectiveness and make recommendations to influence improvements in its effectiveness increasing interventions to reduce littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling.</p>
IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE CORPORATE PLAN AIMS, PRIORITIES AND TARGETS:	<p>CORPORATE PLAN AIM – Environment, Customers</p> <p>PRIORITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing our carbon footprint whilst supporting and encouraging residents and businesses to do the same • Enhancing biodiversity across the district • Working with stakeholders, regional and local partnerships to deliver shared strategies and priorities that support the local environment • Ensuring all areas, neighborhoods and streets in the district, irrespective of housing tenure or type, are places where people want to live, feel safe and are proud to live <p>KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS 01 Remove 95% of hazardous Fly Tipping within 24 hours of being reported (Quarterly) • SS 02 Remove 95% of non-hazardous Fly Tipping within 5 working days of being reported (Quarterly) <p>TARGETS – ENV.06 - Reduce fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people in Bolsover District over the plan period</p>
DIRECTORATE/SERVICES INVOLVED:	Strategic Director of Services – Streetscene Environmental Enforcement Team

	<p>Joint Environmental Health Service, hosted by North East Derbyshire District Council.</p> <p>Legal Services</p> <p>Dog Warden and Enforcement Officer</p> <p>CAN Rangers</p>
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF REVIEW:	<p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Council reduces fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling to improve the aesthetical value of Bolsover District, to protect local wildlife and to reduce the cost of dealing with the unauthorised illegal depositing of waste by assessing the service's effectiveness in tackling environmental despoilment. • That the council becomes an excellent authority at 'keeping the district clean' rather than 'cleaning the district'. <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand what Environmental Despoilment involves (fly tipping, littering and dog fouling), the Council's statutory duty and enforcement powers, and policies available to the Council. 2. Analyse the current data of incidents of environmental despoilment across the District 3. Review the current arrangements undertaken by the Enforcement Team, Street Scene Services and Environmental Health to reduce or prevent Environmental Despoilment. 4. Improve public information/education on environmental despoilment. 5. Identify any best practice and areas for improvement and ensure there is a clear plan of enforcement action to improve the quality of the environment across the District.
KEY ISSUES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement powers of the council • Types of land covered by the Council's statutory duties (Agricultural, Back Alley, Commercial/Industrial, Council, Footpath/Bridleway, Highway, Private Land, Railway, Watercourse) • Public information and education • Dog Fouling • Fly Tipping • Litter
METHOD(S) OF REVIEW:	<p>Document review</p> <p>Informal presentations/briefings</p>
IMPLICATIONS: (legislative, regulatory, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecutions • Fixed Penalty Notices • Formal and informal warnings
DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE: (Internal/External)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Enforcement Policy • Environmental Health Service Reports • Service performance data

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National performance Council league tables
STAKEHOLDERS:	<p>*RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE REVIEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Holder for Environment Chief Executive Service Director Governance and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer Strategic Director of Services Assistant Director Streetscene, Community & Enforcement Assistant Director of Environmental Health Service Manager (Environmental Health) Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing Manager
CONSULTATION/ RESEARCH:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desktop research, site visits, benchmarking with local authorities.
SITE VISITS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit to fly-tipping sites with the Can/Rangers/Enforcement Team by the Chair and the Scrutiny Officer.

TIMESCALE	ESTIMATED	REVISED	ACTUAL
Commencement	July 2024	July 2024	July 2024
Interim Report/ Recommendations	January 2025	April 2025	April 2025
Finish (Report to Committee)	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025
Report to Executive	April 2025	May 2025	July 2025

SCRUTINY REVIEW OUTCOMES

CONCLUSIONS:	<p>The key findings arising from the review are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental despoilment, particularly fly-tipping, remains a significant and persistent issue across the District, impacting both the quality of the environment and residents' sense of place. Current enforcement outcomes are limited, with performance data showing a low percentage of reports leading to fixed penalty notices or prosecutions, particularly for fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering. The joint Environmental Health service with North East Derbyshire District Council offers a useful foundation, but there is a clear need to explore alternative models or tools that could enhance enforcement capability and effectiveness. Hotspot locations for fly-tipping require targeted action, including
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	<p>surveillance, signage, and operational task groups to focus efforts and improve accountability across departments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coordination between departments—Streetscene, Community Safety and Environmental Health—must be strengthened through revived Corporate Enforcement Group meetings, structured evidence processes, and shared training opportunities. • Public engagement and education are essential components of any long-term solution, with the Council needing to amplify its communications, provide clear guidance on waste disposal, and increase the visibility of enforcement actions to deter offending. • Improved transparency and performance benchmarking through accessible, meaningful data and public updates will help build community trust and demonstrate the Council’s commitment to tackling environmental offences.
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council undertakes a piece of work, led by the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, to explore alternative ways of working to improve the level and effectiveness of environmental enforcement activity across Bolsover District 2. That the Council targets fly-tipping hotspots (such as top 5 most frequently visited from 2023/24 including Outgang Lane in Pleasley, Wood Lane in Shirebrook, and Talbot Street in Pinxton), through targeted patrols and installation of surveillance cameras where appropriate. 3. That the Council prioritise completing the installation of the 15 metal signs and place additional signage in high-risk areas (such Outgang Lane in Pleasley, Wood Lane in Shirebrook, and Talbot Street in Pinxton) in lay-bys and secluded spots. 4. That the Council explores options for CCTV surveillance in fly-tipping hotspots. 5. That the Council reintroduces regular quarterly meetings of the Corporate Enforcement Group (Streetscene, the Enforcement Team and Environmental Health). 6. That the Council develops a clear process for evidence collection for fly-tipping sites that ensures evidence is properly managed. 7. That the Council organises joint training sessions for the Enforcement team, Streetscene workers and Environmental Health that focuses on improving understanding of each team’s roles; as well as bi-annual training for evidence collection, ensuring there is a specific process for collecting physical evidence. 8. That the Council delivers public awareness campaigns to educate residents about the risks of hiring unlicensed waste collectors and provides clear, accessible guidance on how to verify waste carrier licences. 9. That the Council enhance public information on fly-tipping and littering by regularly featuring updates on enforcement actions and responsible bulky waste removal options through existing communication channels and the newly established social media platforms, including the Bolsover District Council Facebook page. 10. That the Council enhance transparency by publishing meaningful data and information on fly-tipping activities on the website and through social media, that demonstrate what the Council is doing

	<p>to tackle environmental despoilment.</p> <p>11. That the Council provide advice on how to handle hazardous items such as needles and syringes, ensuring residents are informed on the safe disposal of such materials and the risks associated with handling them improperly.</p>
DRAFT REPORT SENT TO DIRECTOR & ANY RELEVANT OFFICERS FOR COMMENT:	April/May 2025
DATE DRAFT REPORT CONSIDERED BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	May 2025
DATE SIGNED OFF BY COMMITTEE/CHAIR:	June 23 rd 2025
DATE CONSIDERED BY EXECUTIVE:	28 th July 2025
POST-SCRUTINY MONITORING PERIOD:	July 2025 – July 2027 (6-month interim monitoring reports)
DATE OF EVALUATION OF PROCESS:	Every 6 months from July 2025

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Chair's Foreword

As Chair of Customer Service Scrutiny, I present this report as a summary of our research and recommendations for improvement.

This review was taken forward due to concerns about environmental despoilment in Bolsover District, including fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling. These issues not only pose risks to public health and the environment but also undermine the District's aesthetics and the Council's corporate goals for a cleaner, safer community. The review seeks to assess the effectiveness of current enforcement and education strategies, with the aim of improving the District's cleanliness and public perception.

It is important to note that, although this review initially sought to evaluate the issues of fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling, the focus has shifted predominantly to fly-tipping as the review has progressed. The evidence and data collected indicated that fly-tipping presents a more urgent issue, necessitating a more concentrated effort to address its prevalence and impact across the District.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director of Strategic Services and the Assistant Director (Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement) for their guidance and expertise throughout this review; the Community Safety and Enforcement manager and his team for their commitment and contribution towards this review; the Team Manager (Environmental Enforcement) and Service Manager (Environmental Health) for their contributions; the Scrutiny Committee for their excellent contribution; and our Scrutiny Officer and Governance Officers who have consistently worked effectively throughout the process of this review.

Cllr Ashley Taylor
Chair of the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee

1. Introduction

The Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee initiated this review to assess the effectiveness of Bolsover District Council's approach to addressing environmental despoilment, with a primary focus on fly-tipping. These issues not only degrade the aesthetic value of the District but also pose significant risks to public health, safety, and local biodiversity.

Environmental despoilment has increasingly become a focal point in national policy, with the UK Government and environmental organisations highlighting the need for stronger action to reduce waste crime and promote cleaner, healthier environments. Councils dealt with a record 1.15 million incidents of fly-tipping last year, an increase of 6 per cent on the year before. Councillor Adam Hug, LGA environment spokesperson, has pointed out that penalties from prosecution fail to match the severity of the offences committed. He stated: "We continue to urge the Government to review sentencing guidelines for fly-tipping so that offenders are given bigger fines for more serious offences to act as a deterrent." National initiatives, such as the mandatory digital waste tracking system set to launch in April 2025, aim to increase transparency and accountability in waste management, with the goal of reducing fly-tipping and enhancing enforcement against waste crime across the country.

In May 2025, the Environment Secretary announced further measures to tackle waste crime, including a review of local authority vehicle seizure powers to better support councils in dealing with fly-tipping. Reforms to the waste carriers, brokers and dealers regime, as well as tighter controls on waste permit exemptions, will provide councils and the Environment Agency with stronger tools to crack down on illegal waste activity. These national developments present new opportunities for Bolsover District Council to enhance enforcement and reduce environmental despoilment.

Local authorities are encouraged to adopt stronger enforcement measures and public education campaigns to tackle littering and other forms of environmental despoilment. This aligns with the Government's broader sustainability goals, as well as the Environment Act 2021, which sets clear targets for waste reduction, biodiversity enhancement, and pollution control. This review provides an opportunity for Bolsover District Council to evaluate its practices in light of these national objectives and explore how it can contribute to the UK's environmental targets, particularly in terms of waste reduction and improving public spaces.

At the local level, Bolsover District faces unique challenges. Despite its natural beauty and rich heritage, the District has struggled with persistent environmental despoilment, especially when compared to neighbouring councils. This issue has significant implications for the well-being of local communities, impacting both the physical environment and public perceptions of the area. The prevalence of environmental despoilment not only undermines residents' quality of life but also detracts from the District's appeal to visitors and potential investors. Furthermore, environmental despoilment in shared public spaces can harm wildlife, pose hazards to public health, and incur high costs for clean-up efforts.

Given these concerns, this review will examine the Council's statutory duties and enforcement powers relating to environmental despoilment. It will explore the current tools available for addressing these issues—such as Fixed Penalty Notices, Public Space Protection Orders, and community education programmes—and assess their effectiveness in tackling waste crime and encouraging responsible behaviour.

The review will also highlight best practices from other local authorities, aiming to identify opportunities for improvement and make recommendations for a more proactive, preventative approach to managing environmental despoilment in Bolsover. This is a critical issue for the Council, as it aligns with both local priorities—such as creating safer, cleaner neighbourhoods—and national objectives focused on waste reduction and environmental sustainability. By adopting a forward-thinking approach, Bolsover District Council can contribute to the broader goal of achieving a cleaner, healthier environment while enhancing the quality of life for all those who live in and visit the District.

This review will further ensure the Council is excellent and keeping the District clean, rather than being excellent and cleaning the District.

2. Recommendations

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response
CCCSC 24-25 2.1	That the Council undertakes a piece of work, led by the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, to explore alternative ways of working to improve the level and effectiveness of environmental enforcement activity across Bolsover District	Identify and implement more effective enforcement methods that lead to increased compliance and reduced environmental despoilment across the District.	Dec 2026 (18 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement	Staff resources	The Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement has already begun work on this project.
CCCSC 24-25 2.2	That the Council targets fly-tipping hotspots (such as top 5 most frequently visited from 2023/24 including Outgang Lane in Pleasley, Wood Lane in	To reduce fly-tipping and deter offenders in these areas.	June 2026 (12 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with all three teams	Staff resources Potentially additional Funding	Collaborative proactive effort with the Community Safety Team and the Environmental Health. Key focus on sharing intelligence between

	Shirebrook, and Talbot Street in Pinxton), through targeted patrols and installation of surveillance cameras where appropriate.			(Environmental Health, Community Safety and Streetscene).		departments and partners. The Assistant Director will look to set up operational task and finish groups to look at certain areas (made up of members of different departments). To focus on what to do and who will play each part to improve ongoing issues - holding certain services to account for issues.
CCCSC 24-25 2.3	That the Council prioritise completing the installation of the 15 metal signs and place additional signage in high-risk areas (such Outgang Lane in Pleasley, Wood Lane in Shirebrook, and Talbot Street in Pinxton) in lay-bys and secluded spots.	To deter and reduce rates of fly-tipping, increase awareness and encourage responsible behaviour.	June 2026 (12 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement.	Staff Resources Potentially additional Funding	Assistant Director: the deployment of the signs can be decided by the Task and Finish group referenced in service response of recommendation 2.2.

CCCSC 24-25 2.4	That the Council explores options for CCTV surveillance in fly-tipping hotspots.	To reduce fly-tipping and to catch and deter offenders.	Dec 2026 (18 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with all three teams (Environmental Health, Community Safety and Streetscene).	Staff resources Potentially additional funding	Env Health Team agree that CCTV options should be explored. Community Safety Team will work in collaboration to provide any support needed. Assistant Director: where incidents are caught on CCTV – the Council will consider potentially advertising the footage on social media to assist in identifying unknown offenders (where appropriate).
CCCSC 24-25 2.5	That the Council reintroduces regular quarterly meetings of the Corporate Enforcement Group (Streetscene, the Enforcement Team and Environmental Health).	To improve coordination, communication, and problem-solving between the departments to better address fly-tipping through shared insights and enhanced enforcement.	Dec 2025 (6 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with all three teams (Environmental Health, Community	Staff resources	Key to focus on aligning efforts, sharing insights on fly-tipping trends and enhancing evidence gathering and enforcement. Env health Team agree meetings should be revived.

				Safety and Streetscene).		Community Safety Team agree meetings should be revived. Assistant Director: the regeneration of these meetings is now in progress from early 2025 following appointment of new AD. Meetings of the Corporate Enforcement Group is chaired by the new AD.
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CCCSC 24-25 2.6	That the Council develops a clear process for evidence collection for fly-tipping sites that ensures evidence is properly managed.	To ensure the effective management and processing of evidence for fly-tipping incidents and increase the number of offenders caught.	June 2026 (12 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with Streetscene and Community Safety team.	Staff resources	Focus on ensuring the effective processing of evidence gathered by the Streetscene team and preventing delays or lost documentation. Assistant Director – a clear process will be developed, and training will be provided in house.
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CCCSC 24-25 2.7	That the Council organises joint training sessions for the Enforcement team, Streetscene workers and Environmental Health that focuses on improving understanding of each team's roles; as well as bi-annual training for evidence collection, ensuring there is a specific process for collecting physical evidence.	Enhance mutual understanding of each team's roles ensuring smoother collaboration and more effective handling of fly-tipping incidents.	June 2026 (12 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with all three teams (Environmental Health, Community Safety and Streetscene).	Staff resources	Env Health agree this would be beneficial to the collaborative effort Enforcement team agreed to assist in training for Streetscene on evidence collection/clean up processes. Assistant Director – training will be provided in house for evidence collection.
CCCSC 24-25 2.8	That the Council delivers public awareness campaigns to educate residents about the risks of hiring unlicensed waste collectors and provides clear, accessible guidance	To raise awareness among residents about the risks of hiring unlicensed waste collectors to reduce illegal fly-tipping and promote	June 2026 (12 months)	Team Manager (Environmental Enforcement) Communications Manager	Staff resources	Env Health agree this would be beneficial to the collaborative effort and will provide Comms with the appropriate educational material.

	on how to verify waste carrier licences.	responsible waste disposal practices.				
CCCSC 24-25 2.9	That the Council enhance public information on fly-tipping and littering by regularly featuring updates on enforcement actions and responsible bulky waste removal options through existing communication channels and the newly established social media platforms, including the Bolsover District Council Facebook page.	To increase awareness of the negative impact of fly-tipping and improve education on the correct and responsible methods of removing bulky waste as well as making the public aware of the legal repercussions and enforcement powers of the Council.	June 2026 (12 months)	Team Manager (Environmental Enforcement) Communications Manager	Staff resources	The Council can implement comprehensive education and awareness campaigns to inform the public about the environmental harm and legal consequences of fly-tipping, while encouraging community involvement and promoting responsible waste removal practices. Env Health Team will continue to provide comms with info and education material. The Assistant Director stated that this is what the Council is hoping to achieve.
CCCSC 24-25 2.10	That the Council enhance transparency by publishing meaningful data and	To improve transparency and inform future enforcement and cleanup efforts	June 2026 (12 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community	Staff Resources	Env Health agree this would be beneficial and can provide the Comms team with the data.

	information on fly-tipping activities on the website and through social media, that demonstrate what the Council is doing to tackle environmental despoilment.	while also benchmarking against other local councils' practices.		Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with: Team Manager (Environmental Enforcement) Communications Manager		AD response – Agrees with the benefit of this. This should focus on the work that the Council does to improve fly tipping and data that people are actually interested in: how many sites have been cleared annually etc. Publishing the outcomes of serious offences – meaningful posts from the Council.
CCCSC 24-25 2.11	That the Council provide advice on how to handle hazardous items such as needles and syringes, ensuring residents are informed on the safe disposal of such materials and the risks associated with handling them improperly.	To ensure residents are informed about the safe disposal of hazardous items to promote safety and prevent harm while also benchmarking against other local councils' practices.	June 2026 (12 months)	Team Manager (Environmental Enforcement) Communications Manager	Staff Resources	Env Health agree this would be beneficial to the collaborative effort and will provide the Comms team with the appropriate guidance to publish.

3. Scope of the review

The Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review of the Council's approach to environmental despoilment education and enforcement, as part of the 2024-25 Work Programme.

The issue was initially raised due to concerns about environmental despoilment in Bolsover District, including fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling. These issues not only pose risks to public health and the environment but also undermine the District's aesthetics and the Council's corporate goals for a cleaner, safer community. The review seeks to assess the effectiveness of current enforcement and education strategies, with the aim of improving the District's cleanliness and public perception.

The scrutiny review supports the Corporate Ambition of 'Environment' and 'Customers'. The review also supports the Council's Priorities of: 'Reducing our carbon footprint whilst supporting and encouraging residents and businesses to do the same'; 'Enhancing biodiversity across the District'; 'Working with stakeholders, regional and local partnerships to deliver shared strategies and priorities that support the local environment'; and 'Ensuring all areas, neighbourhoods and streets in the District, irrespective of housing tenure or type, are places where people want to live, feel safe and are proud to live'.

The review supports the Council's Target **ENV.06** – 'Reduce fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people in Bolsover District over the plan period' as well as the KPI goals **SS 01** – 'Remove 95% of hazardous Fly Tipping within 24 hours of being reported Quarterly)' and **SS 02** – 'Remove 95% of non-hazardous Fly Tipping within 5 working days of being reported (Quarterly)'.

The aims of the review were:

- That the Council reduces fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling to improve the aesthetical value of Bolsover District, to protect local wildlife and to reduce the cost of dealing with the unauthorised illegal depositing of waste by assessing the service's effectiveness in tackling environmental despoilment.
- That the Council becomes an excellent authority at 'keeping the District clean' rather than 'cleaning the District'.

The objectives agreed were:

1. Understand what Environmental Despoilment involves (fly tipping, littering and dog fouling), the Council's statutory duty and enforcement powers, and policies available to the Council.
2. Analyse the current data of incidents of environmental despoilment across the District.
3. Review the current arrangements undertaken by the Enforcement Team, Streetscene Services and Environmental Health to reduce or prevent Environmental Despoilment.

4. Improve public information/education on environmental despoilment.
5. Identify benchmarking opportunities and areas for improvement; ensure there is a clear strategy of enforcement action to improve the quality of the environment across the District.

The key issues identified for investigation included:

- Enforcement powers of the Council
- Types of land covered by the Council's statutory duties (Agricultural, Back Alley, Commercial/Industrial, Council, Footpath/Bridleway, Highway, Private Land, Railway, Watercourse)
- Public information and education
- Dog Fouling
- Fly Tipping
- Litter

The Committee comprised the following Members:

Councillor A Taylor (Chair)
Councillor M. Hinman
Councillor C. Jeffery

Councillor C. Tite (Vice-Chair)
Councillor E. Stevenson
Councillor C. Wood

Previous Members of the Committee who engaged with this review include Councillor R. Hiney-Saunders (Former Chair of the Committee)

Support to the Committee was provided by the Scrutiny Officer, Thomas Dunne-Wragg

4. Methodology

The Committee met on five occasions to consider the scope of the review, discuss key issues and potential recommendations, and review the evidence gathered.

The Committee adopted a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to gather evidence, utilising both qualitative and quantitative methods:

- **Document review:** A detailed analysis of key documents, including the Corporate Enforcement Policy, Environmental Health Service Reports, and service performance data, to assess current practices and effectiveness.
- **Informal presentations/briefings:** Engagement with stakeholders, such as the Enforcement Team, Environmental Health Services, the Strategic Director of Services, the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, and the Community Safety and Enforcement Team, to gather insights into operational challenges and the effectiveness of existing strategies.
- **Desktop research:** Conducting research on best practices through benchmarking with other local authorities to identify successful strategies and potential improvements.
- **Stakeholder consultation:** Collecting feedback from key stakeholders, including local authorities, the Portfolio Holder for Environment, and enforcement officers, to gain a deeper understanding of community needs and priorities.

This approach enabled the Committee to gather a broad range of evidence and perspectives to inform the review process.

A site visit took place by the former Chair of the Committee (before Council's political reshuffle in March 2025) and the Scrutiny Officer to fly-tipping hotspots with the Rangers and Enforcement Team to observe the impact of environmental despoilment and enforcement actions in real-time. Photographic evidence of fly tipping sites is included in Appendix 2 and 3.

A document review was completed of the following as part of the evidence gathering process:

- Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Defra - April 2006 Modified in September 2019)
- Bolsover District Council Environmental Enforcement Policy 2016
- The Bolsover District Council Corporate Enforcement Policy 2018
- Environmental Health Annual Report 2023
- House of Commons Research Briefing: *Fly-tipping: the illegal dumping of waste*

Equality and Diversity

Within the process of the review, the Committee has taken into account the impact of equalities by ensuring that the approaches and recommendations considered the diverse needs of all residents across the District. This involved reviewing how

environmental despoilment issues, such as fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling, affect different communities. The review also considered whether enforcement policies and strategies were equitable, ensuring that no group faced disproportionate penalties or barriers to accessing support services. By incorporating equalities and diversity considerations, the review aimed to ensure that solutions were inclusive and fair, promoting a clean and safe environment for all.

5. Analysis of evidence and key findings

5.1 Understand what Environmental Despoilment involves, the Council's statutory duty and enforcement powers and policies available to the Council.

Environmental despoilment refers to the illegal and irresponsible disposal of waste in both public and private spaces, encompassing behaviours like fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling. Among these, fly-tipping stands out due to its larger scale and the potential dangers it poses.

Fly Tipping

Fly-tipping involves the unlawful disposal of various types of waste, including household, industrial, commercial, and controlled waste such as garden refuse, furniture, and large domestic items like fridges and mattresses. It is crucial to differentiate fly-tipping from littering, as the latter typically involves smaller, everyday items, while fly-tipping involves larger volumes of waste that are often more hazardous.

Fly-tipping continues to be a significant issue across the UK. In 2022/23, local authorities in England managed 1.08 million fly-tipping incidents, a slight decrease of 1% from the previous year. Household waste accounted for 60% of these incidents, totalling 653,000, a 3% drop from 2021/22. Highways were the most common location for fly-tipping, representing 40% of incidents, with a 7% decrease in highway-related cases. The most frequent size category for fly-tipping was equivalent to a small van load, while large-scale incidents (tipper lorry load or more) increased by 13%, leading to a £13.2 million clearance cost. Enforcement actions rose by 5%, with 532,000 actions taken, although Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) fell by 25%. Court fines grew in value, but the total number and combined value of fines decreased by 17% and 6%, respectively. Despite this decrease, fly-tipping remains a major concern for local authorities, especially in both urban and rural areas.

Fly-Tipping Management and Responsibility

The responsibility for addressing fly-tipping is shared between local authorities and the Environment Agency, depending on the scale of the incident. Local authorities are responsible for investigating, clearing, and enforcing actions against small-scale fly-tipping occurring on public land. For larger-scale fly-tipping, or incidents involving hazardous waste or organised criminal activity, the Environment Agency takes over. If fly-tipping occurs on private land, the landowner is generally responsible for clearing the waste, although both local authorities and the Environment Agency have the legal power to require landowners to do so and may seek reimbursement for any associated costs.

Legal Penalties and Enforcement Measures

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, fly-tipping carries severe penalties. While there is no minimum fine prescribed by law, the maximum fine for illegal waste disposal can be substantial. Offenders may also face imprisonment for up to five years. In addition to these penalties, enforcement measures include the issuance of FPNs), vehicle seizures, and fines of up to £600 for households that pass waste to unlicensed carriers, especially if the waste is subsequently fly-tipped. Local authorities also employ various methods to investigate fly-tipping, such as collecting witness statements, using CCTV footage, and conducting surveillance. In serious cases, particularly those involving large quantities or hazardous materials, incidents may be referred to the Environment Agency for further action.

Government Reforms to Combat Fly-Tipping

To address the persistent issue of fly-tipping, the UK Government has introduced several reforms. One of the key measures is the mandatory digital waste tracking system, set to be implemented by April 2025. This system will require the digital logging of information about waste production, handling, and disposal, enabling better regulatory oversight and making it easier to track illegal activities, including fly-tipping. This reform aims to ensure that waste is managed only by authorised individuals and organisations, thereby reducing fly-tipping across communities.

Furthermore, consultations are underway to revamp the waste carrier, broker, and dealer registration system. Proposed changes include mandatory environmental permits for waste management professionals, ensuring that waste handling is carried out by those with the proper credentials and in a safe, legal manner.

In addition, the Government has recently indicated, through proposed revisions to the Crime and Policing Bill currently progressing through Parliament, that councils will soon be provided with statutory guidance on how to deal with fly-tipping. These revisions also encourage councils to adopt a tougher enforcement approach, including the potential seizure of vehicles involved in fly-tipping offences.

Fly-Tipping in Local Communities

Fly-tipping remains a significant challenge, impacting local communities, public health, and the environment. While the recent decline in incidents is encouraging, continued efforts are needed to address the root causes and reduce the frequency of fly-tipping. The proposed reforms, including digital waste tracking and stricter regulations for waste carriers, are important steps toward tackling the issue. Local authorities, the Environment Agency, private landowners, and the public must continue to work together to ensure that waste is disposed of properly, minimising the negative impact of fly-tipping on communities and the environment.

Bolsover District Council's Role and Responsibilities

As a District Council, Bolsover is classified as a 'litter authority', responsible for keeping public spaces free from litter and refuse. This responsibility extends to land that is open to the air on at least one side, under the Council's direct control, and

accessible to the public, such as parks, streets, and highways. Councils must ensure that litter is cleared from these spaces in a timely manner, as outlined in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.

Littering and Dog Fouling

Littering is a criminal offence, and offenders may be prosecuted and fined up to £2,500. For less serious incidents, local authorities may issue FPNs. However, FPNs are not appropriate for repeat offenders or individuals involved in serious littering behaviour, who should be prosecuted instead.

Councils have the power to issue Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to address ongoing Anti-Social Behaviour and dog fouling problems in specific public spaces. PSPOs can make it an offence for dog owners to fail to clean up after their dogs or allow their dogs to enter designated areas, such as playgrounds or sports fields. This legislative tool helps ensure that public spaces are kept clean and safe for all users.

Dog fouling, while a common issue in many urban and rural areas, is also subject to penalties under local authority regulations. In areas where dog fouling is a persistent problem, councils may introduce PSPOs, requiring dog owners to clean up after their pets. Failure to comply with these orders can result in fines and other enforcement actions.

Council's Enforcement Powers and Legal Framework

The Council's statutory duties and enforcement powers in relation to environmental depollution are governed by several key pieces of legislation and policy frameworks. The review of fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling highlights the significant role that local authorities play in maintaining clean and safe public spaces. Bolsover District Council, in particular, must continue to develop and enforce policies that address these environmental issues effectively, while also engaging with the public to promote greater awareness and responsibility.

Environmental Enforcement Partnership and Performance Overview

Bolsover District Council currently holds a partnership working arrangement with North East Derbyshire District Council for the joint delivery of Environmental Health services which includes environmental enforcement such as littering, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, waste duty of care and dog fouling.

Environmental Enforcement can consist of a variety of interventions, including but not limited to, education, issuing of fixed penalty notices, seizing vehicles, and prosecution of offenders. The joint service currently issues all environmental related fixed penalty notices on behalf of Bolsover District Council, albeit Bolsover's Legal Services Team undertake prosecution case work.

The following table demonstrates a selection of the key environmental enforcement matters that were investigated on behalf of Bolsover District Council. The data within the table is from 1st April 2024- 31st March 2025.

Type of Environmental Issue	No of reports received by BDC	Investigations carried out by joint service	FPNs Issued	Percentage of reports resulting in investigations	Percentage of reports resulting in FPNs issued	Percentage of investigations resulting in FPNs issued
Fly tipping investigation	1374	88	8	6.40%	0.58%	9%
Dog fouling	136	58	4	42.64%	2.94%	6.90%
Abandoned vehicle	211	211	2	100%	0.94%	0.94%
Duty of care investigations	22	22	3	100%	13.00%	13%
Littering reports received	200	18	10	9%	5%	56%
		Total FPNS	27			

The above data demonstrates there is a need to improve and deliver more effective outcomes for Bolsover District and develop the opportunities to carry out productive enforcement, particularly relating to fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering

The table above illustrates the number of reports received by the Council in comparison to the resulting enforcement outcomes. It is important to note that reports of abandoned vehicles almost always trigger an investigation in order to formally close the case, which explains why the number of reports and investigations for this issue are consistently equal. Further analysis of environmental despoilment data is examined in chapter 5.2 from pages 24-30.

Future Service Improvement

In light of this performance data, it is recommended that the Council undertakes a piece of work to explore how alternative models or methods of environmental enforcement could improve outcomes in the Bolsover District. Specifically, it is proposed that the Assistant Director for Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement be tasked with undertaking this review, assessing whether revised practices, new enforcement tools, or structural changes could enable the Council to respond more effectively to environmental offences, particularly in high-impact areas such as fly tipping and dog fouling. The findings of this review should inform future decision-making and service planning, with the aim of delivering stronger enforcement outcomes and improved environmental quality across the District.

Conclusions

Environmental despoilment remains a persistent challenge, with issues like fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling significantly impacting communities and the environment. Local authorities play a crucial role in addressing these problems through enforcement actions, public education, and collaboration with various stakeholders. Bolsover District Council's current joint service arrangement with North East Derbyshire District Council supports a broad range of environmental enforcement activity; however, recent data highlights the need for more effective outcomes. To address this, it is recommended that the Council undertakes a piece of work, led by the Assistant

Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, to explore alternative ways of working that can enhance the level and impact of enforcement across the District. With continued vigilance, strategic review, and evolving approaches, the Council can strengthen its efforts to tackle environmental crime and create cleaner, safer spaces for local communities.

Recommendation:

That the Council undertakes a piece of work, led by the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, to explore alternative ways of working to improve the level and effectiveness of environmental enforcement activity across Bolsover District.

5.2 Analysis of the Current Data on Incidents of Environmental Despoilment Across the District

The data presented below reflects the effectiveness of the Council's environmental enforcement services, examining response times, removal costs, prosecution rates, and trends over the course of three years.

Fly-Tipping Data (2021-2022)

Month	Incidents Reported	Completed	Completed Within Target	Hazardous	Confirmations	Duplicates	Removal Cost (Large Flytips)	Average Response Time	% Completed Within 5 Day Target	% Completed Within 24 Hour Target
April	209	209	200		1	39	£ 214.17	1.9 Days	96%	
May	122	122	119		3	18	£ 443.65	1.6 Days	98%	
June	99	99	96		2	1	£ 275.37	1.6 Days	97%	
July	106	106	103			14	£ 1,132.07	1.9 Days	97%	
August	106	106	104			8	£ 367.16	1.6 Days	98%	
September	153	153	142	1	1	28	£ 1,095.46	2.5 Days	91%	100%
October	139	139	137	3		30	£ 489.54	1.7 Days	98%	100%
November	117	117	115			18	£ 61.19	1.7 Days	98%	
December	104	104	98			24	£ 951.77	1.7 Days	94%	
January	147	147	142			26	£ 1,101.47	2.0 Days	96%	
February	92	92	88	1	8	10	£ 214.17	1.9 Days	95%	100%
March	116	116	112			13	£ 5,561.78	1.9 Days	97%	
Total	1510	1510	1456	5	15	229	£ 11,907.80	1.9 Days	96%	100%

	Total Incidents	Total - Performance	Total - 5 Day Target	5 Day Target Met	Total - 24 Hour Target	24 Hour Target Met	Removal Cost (Large)
Quarter 1	430	366	366	97%	0		£ 933.19
Quarter 2	365	314	313	95%	1	100%	£ 2,594.68
Quarter 3	360	288	285	97%	3	100%	£ 1,502.50
Quarter 4	355	298	297	96%	1	100%	£ 6,877.43

Overall: 96% Completed Within Target (0 Currently Outstanding)

Note: The total for performance does not include duplicate reports. It does include flytipping found by crews that would be reported by the public if not picked up (Confirmations)

During the 2021/2022 period, a total of 1,510 fly-tipping incidents were reported across Bolsover District. Of these incidents, 96% were successfully removed within the targeted timeframe, with an average response time of 1.9 days. The highest number of reported incidents occurred in April, with 209 incidents recorded, while February saw the fewest, with only 92 incidents. These fluctuations in monthly incidents highlight the varying challenges faced by the Council throughout the year.

The data reveals that while most fly-tipping incidents were resolved promptly, March saw a particularly high cost associated with large fly-tips, amounting to £5,561.78. This indicates that, while the removal process was efficient, there were months where the scale of fly-tipping required substantial resources. Furthermore, the response time consistently remained well within expectations, with a peak performance of 98% of incidents resolved within the 5-day target in several months. The lowest recorded response was 94% in December, indicating that the majority of incidents were dealt with efficiently.

Quarterly performance data from 2021/2022 shows strong results in fly-tipping removal. In Quarter 1, 97% of incidents were resolved within the 5-day target, with no incidents exceeding the 24-hour response time. By Quarter 2, the performance slightly dipped to 95%, though still remained within acceptable limits. Quarter 3 showed a return to the higher completion rates of 97%, while in Quarter 4, the overall completion rate was 96%. These figures demonstrate consistent and effective fly-tipping removal efforts, with few major discrepancies throughout the year.

The total removal cost for large fly-tipping incidents in 2021/2022 amounted to £11,907.80, with significant fluctuations in cost across the months. The considerable removal cost in March highlights the need for focused action in managing large-scale fly-tipping incidents that often incur higher financial costs for the Council.

Fly-Tipping Hotspots: 2021/22:

Rank	Incidents	RoadTown	Area
1	28	Outgang Lane Pleasley	South
2	22	Syday Lane Spinkhill	North
3	14	Deep Lane Hardstoft	South
4	19	Field Lane Rowthorne	South
5	15	Model Village Creswell	North
6	18	New Bolsover Bolsover	North
7	20	Saw Pit Lane Tibshelf	South
8	18	Whaley Road Whaley	North
9	19	Wood Lane Shirebrook	South
10	15	Balkham Lane Shirebrook	South
11	12	Hilcote Lane Hilcote	South
12	14	Welbeck Street Creswell	North
13	14	Gapsick Lane Clowne	North
14	11	Hickinwood Lane Clowne	North
15	14	Highwood Lane Whitwell	North
16	13	Oxcroft Lane Bolsover	North
17	14	Slayley Lane Barlborough	North
18	11	Bondhay Lane Whitwell Common	North
19	12	Brunner Avenue Shirebrook	South
20	13	Duke Street Creswell	North
21	10	Elmton Road Creswell	North
22	11	Green Lane Stony Houghton	South
23	10	Newtonwood Lane Newton	South
24	9	South Avenue Shirebrook	South

In 2021/22, Outgang Lane, Pleasley was the top flytipping hotspot with 28 incidents, followed by significant activity in the South, including Wood Lane, Shirebrook and Saw Pit Lane, Tibshelf, while the North had hotspots like Syday Lane, Spinkhill and Model Village, Creswell. The data shows a consistent issue across the District, especially in the South.

Fly-Tipping Data (2022-2023)

Month	Incidents Reported	Completed	Completed Within Target	Hazardous	Confirmations	Duplicates	Removal Cost (Large Flytips)	Average Response Time	% Completed Within 5 Day Target	% Completed Within 24 Hour Target
April	145	145	136		1	42	£ 1,273.03	2.0 Days	95%	
May	101	101	100	1	3	16	£ 397.75	1.7 Days	100%	100%
June	101	101	101			14	£ 624.22	1.4 Days	100%	
July	116	116	115			14	£ 795.51	1.9 Days	99%	
August	130	130	129	1		18	£ 563.30	1.5 Days	100%	100%
September	130	130	125		3	34	£ 673.12	2.0 Days	96%	
October	97	97	93		1	17	£ 350.36	1.8 Days	95%	
November	117	117	113		6	21	£ 330.55	1.8 Days	98%	
December	72	72	71		8	7	£ 152.98	1.4 Days	98%	
January	152	152	147	2	1	47	£ 597.72	2.0 Days	96%	100%
February	178	178	150		14	78	£ 917.89	3.3 Days	86%	
March	129	129	123	1	1	22	£ 183.58	2.4 Days	94%	100%
Total	1468	1468	1403	5	38	330	£ 6,860.00	2.0 Days	96%	100%

	Total Incidents	Total - Performance	Total - 5 Day Target	5 Day Target Met	Total - 24 Hour Target	24 Hour Target Met	Removal Cost (Large)	Overall: 96% Completed Within Target (0 Currently Outstanding)
Quarter 1	347	271	270	98%	1	100%	£ 2,295.00	Note: The total for performance does not include duplicate reports. It does include flytipping found by crews that would be reported by the public if not picked up (Confirmations)
Quarter 2	376	308	306	98%	1	100%	£ 2,031.93	
Quarter 3	286	229	229	97%	0		£ 833.89	
Quarter 4	459	312	309	92%	3	100%	£ 1,699.19	

In 2022/2023, 1,468 fly-tipping incidents were reported. Despite the increased volume of incidents compared to the previous year, the Council maintained an impressive performance, resolving 96% of the incidents within the 5-day target, although the average response time increased to 2 days. A noteworthy trend was observed in February, when 178 incidents were reported, marking the peak of the year. In contrast, December recorded the lowest number of incidents, with only 72 reports.

Despite the high volume of incidents in February, performance remained strong in the earlier months of the year. May and June had 100% of incidents resolved within 24 hours, indicating a well-functioning enforcement process during these months. However, as the year progressed, particularly in the third and fourth quarters, performance showed signs of strain, with February experiencing the longest average response time at 3.3 days and a dip in performance with only 86% of incidents resolved within the 5-day target.

The removal cost for large fly-tips in 2022/2023 totaled £6,860.00, which was significantly lower than in the previous year. This reduction could be attributed to more efficient fly-tipping responses or fewer large-scale incidents. However, the cost still varied month by month, indicating that large fly-tips continue to present a financial challenge for the Council.

Fly-Tipping Hotspots: 2022/23

Rank	Incidents	RoadTown	Area
1	38	Outgang Lane Pleasley	South
2	35	Wood Lane Shirebrook	South
3	21	Talbot Street Pinxton	South
4	17	Brookhill Lane Pinxton	South
5	15	Balkham Lane Shirebrook	South
6	14	Gapsick Lane Clowne	North
7	14	Model Village Creswell	North
8	14	Sheffield Road Clowne	North
9	14	Slayley Lane Barlborough	North
10	13	Batley Lane Pleasley	South
11	12	Gipsyhill Lane Whitwell Common	North
12	12	Highwood Lane Whitwell	North
13	12	Mansfield Road Scarcliffe	North
14	12	Market Street Shirebrook	South
15	12	Prospect Drive Shirebrook	South
16	11	Dale Lane Rowthorne	South
17	11	Station Road Shirebrook	South
18	11	Woodhouse Lane Bolsover	North
19	10	Meadow Lane Shirebrook	South
20	10	Syday Lane Spinkhill	North
21	10	Whaley Road Whaley	North
22	9	Deep Lane Hardstoft	South
23	9	Duke Street Creswell	North
24	9	Mill Lane Stainsby	South
25	9	New Bolsover Bolsover	North

In 2022/23 fly-tipping hotspots were concentrated in areas such as Outgang Lane in Pleasley, which had 38 reported incidents and Wood Lane in Shirebrook, with 35 incidents. These areas represented some of the highest frequencies of incidents, suggesting a recurring issue that may require focused intervention, such as enhanced monitoring and enforcement efforts. It is important to note that despite these hotspots, the overall completion rate remained consistently strong at 96% for the year, with minor fluctuations in performance.

Fly-Tipping Data (2023-2024)

Month	Incidents Reported	Completed	Completed Within Target	Hazardous	Confirmations	Duplicates	Removal Cost (Large Flytips)	Average Response Time	% Completed Within 5 Day Target	% Completed Within 24 Hour Target
April	141	141	134			48	£ 1,273.03	2.4 Days	92%	
May	139	139	130			31	£ 1,828.13	2.4 Days	94%	
June	133	133	130	1	2	32	£ 999.85	2.0 Days	97%	100%
July	94	94	90		4	13	£ 428.35	2.2 Days	95%	
August	114	114	109	1	1	17	£ 1,746.18	1.9 Days	96%	0%
September	121	121	117			23	£ 832.66	2.2 Days	96%	
October	120	120	111			30	£ 1,444.59	2.4 Days	93%	
November	103	103	98	2		23	£ 489.54	1.9 Days	97%	100%
December	56	56	53			15	£ 783.49	2.1 Days	93%	
January	136	136	128	2	3	18	£ 673.12	2.2 Days	95%	100%
February	145	145	135	1	1	27	£ 644.71	2.8 Days	93%	0%
March	90	90	85	1		10	£ 767.09	2.5 Days	94%	100%
Total	1392	1392	1320	8	11	287	£ 11,910.72	2.3 Days	95%	75%
	Total Incidents	Total - Performance	Total - 5 Day Target	5 Day Target Met	Total - 24 Hour Target	24 Hour Target Met	Removal Cost (Large)	Overall: 95% Completed Within Target (0 Currently Outstanding)		
Quarter 1	413	300	299	95%	1	100%	£ 4,101.00	Note: The total for performance does not include duplicate reports. It does include flytipping found by crews that would be reported by the public if not picked up (Confirmations)		
Quarter 2	329	271	270	96%	1	0%	£ 3,007.18			
Quarter 3	279	211	209	95%	2	100%	£ 2,717.61			
Quarter 4	371	312	308	94%	4	75%	£ 2,084.92			

In 2023/2024, a total of 1,392 fly-tipping incidents were reported, with 95% of these incidents successfully removed within the 5-day target. However, the average response time slightly increased to 2.3 days, reflecting the growing challenge of managing fly-tipping in the District. April recorded the highest number of incidents for the year, with 141 reports, while December saw the lowest with just 56 incidents.

The first quarter of 2023/2024 performed strongly, with 95% of fly-tipping incidents resolved within 5 days. Notably, June was an outstanding month, with 97% of incidents meeting the 5-day target and 100% completed within 24 hours. However, performance in February showed significant deterioration, with only 75% of incidents resolved within the 24-hour target. This drop in performance could be attributed to seasonal variations or specific operational challenges faced during that period.

The quarterly breakdown for 2023/2024 shows that while performance remained strong in the early part of the year, there were noticeable dips in Quarter 4, particularly in February, where only 94% of fly-tipping incidents were resolved within the 5-day target. This suggests that, while the Council’s overall response to fly-tipping has been effective, there are certain periods of the year where the service experiences challenges that impact its performance.

The total cost for removing large fly-tips in 2023/2024 amounted to £11,910.72, a figure almost identical to the previous year’s total. However, the cost fluctuated monthly, with higher removal costs in May and August, which could be indicative of larger or more difficult-to-remove incidents during those months.

Fly-Tipping Hotspots: 2023/24

Rank	Incidents	RoadTown	Area
1	37	Outgang Lane Pleasley	South
2	14	Whaley Road Whaley	North
3	24	Wood Lane Shirebrook	South
4	14	Deep Lane Hardstoft	South
5	13	Oxcroft Lane Bolsover	North
6	9	Alexander Terrace Pinxton	South
7	14	Balkham Lane Shirebrook	South
8	6	Duchess Street Creswell	North
9	12	Sheffield Road Clowne	North
10	12	Blind Lane Bolsover	North
11	4	Elmton Lane Bolsover	North
12	9	Fox Hill Scarcliffe	North
13	10	Gipsyhill Lane Whitwell Common	North
14	14	Highwood Lane Whitwell	North
15	7	Sheffield Road Barlborough	North
16	6	Woodfield Road Pinxton	South
17	13	Dale Lane Rowthorne	South
18	9	Duke Street Creswell	North
19	5	Elmton Close Creswell	North
20	6	French Terrace Whaley Thorns	North
21	5	Hickinwood Lane Clowne	North
22	7	Skinner Street Creswell	North
23	5	Springfield Avenue Shirebrook	South
24	3	Welbeck Street Whitwell	North

The flytipping incident hotspots in Bolsover District for 2023/24 show that Outgang Lane, Pleasley (South) is repeatedly the most used hotspot with 37 incidents, followed

by Wood Lane, Shirebrook with 24 incidents. The South generally has more incidents than the North. The areas with the highest frequencies should be specifically targeted by the Council for improvement.

Outgang Lane in Pleasley remains the top hotspot consistently from 2021-2024. This one site received 28 incidents in 2021/22, 38 incidents in 2022/23 and 37 incidents in 2023/24, showing invariable high levels of repeating offences. Wood Lane, Shirebrook also stays high on the list, with 35 incidents in 2022/23 and 24 in 2023/24. Other recurring hotspots include Balkham Lane, Shirebrook and Highwood Lane, Whitwell. Overall, the South area continues to have higher incident numbers than the North, indicating a more significant fly tipping issue in southern parts of the District. Regular monitoring and targeted interventions are needed in these areas.

Prosecution and Enforcement – FPNs

32 FPNs were issued during 2023/2024 for offences such as littering, breach of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO), failure to produce documents, and fly-tipping. Of these, 26 fines were paid, while 6 remain unpaid. The high number of unpaid fines, particularly for littering and fly-tipping offences, suggests that more robust follow-up actions may be necessary to improve compliance.

DATE OF OFFENCE	DATE ISSUED	OUTSTANDING	DISTRICT	FPN REF	OFFENCE
23/03/2023	04/04/2023	NO	BDC	23/02468/DOGSTR	BREACH OF PSPO
14/04/2023	14/04/2023	NO	BDC	5901	LITTERING
14/04/2023	14/04/2023	No	BDC	23/03437/PROPAT	LITTERING
18/04/2023	18/04/2023	NO	BDC	5902	BREACH OF PSPO
11/04/2023	04/05/2023	NO	BDC	23/03404/DOGSTR	BREACH OF PSPO
21/03/2023	12/05/2023	NO	BDC	23/02662/ACCMIS	LITTERING
18/05/2023	18/05/2023	NO	BDC	5852	LITTERING
18/05/2023	18/05/2023	NO	BDC	5853	LITTERING
18/05/2023	18/05/2023	NO	BDC	5904	LITTERING
18/05/2023	18/05/2023	NO	BDC	5905	LITTERING
30/05/2023	12/03/2023	NO	BDC	5951	HOUSEHOLDER DUTY OF CARE
04/06/2023	12/06/2023		BDC	5952	FAILURE TO PRODUCE
12/06/2023	12/06/2023	NO	BDC	5753	Littering
12/06/2023	12/06/2023	NO	BDC	22/11026/ACCMIS	FAILURE TO PRODUCE
12/06/2023	12/06/2023	Yes	BDC	5808	Littering
08/06/2023	16/06/2023	NO	BDC	5953	HOUSEHOLDER DUTY OF CARE
16/06/2023	20/06/2023	NO	BDC	5954	HOUSEHOLDER DUTY OF CARE
	28/05/2023	NO	BDC	5809	LITTERING
15/07/2023	15/07/2023	NO	BDC	5955	FLY TIPPING
	18/07/2023	YES	BDC	23/05379/ACCCAR	ABANDONED VEHICLE
26/07/2023	28/07/2023	NO	BDC	23/07333/PROPAT	LITTERING
18/07/2023	03/07/2023	YES	BDC	5957	ABANDONED VEHICLE
04/08/2023	21/08/2023	YES	BDC	23/06970/ACCCAR	ABANDONED VEHICLE
30/06/2023	12/09/2023	NO	BDC	23/06505/ACCLIT	LITTERING
21/09/2023	22/09/2023	NO	BDC	23/09317/PROPAT	LITTERING
22/09/2023	22/09/2023	NO	BDC	5906	LITTERING
26/09/2023	26/09/2023	NO	BDC	5855	LITTERING
26/09/2023	26/09/2023	No	BDC	5907	LITTERING
13/11/2023	14/11/2023	NO	BDC	5959	LITTERING
16/11/2023	17/11/2023	NO	BDC	5960	LITTERING
30/10/2023	22/11/2023	NO	BDC	23/10693/FLYINV	FLY TIPPING
30/10/2023	04/12/2023		BDC	23/10558/FLYINV	FLY TIPPING
05/12/2023	07/12/2023	NO	BDC	5962	LITTERING
14/03/2024	27/03/2024	NO	BDC	5966	BREACH OF PSPO

During 2023/24, two fly-tipping cases were referred to the legal team, with one going to trial but resulting in a mistrial due to insufficient evidence, while the other was discontinued because it was too old. No cases for dog fouling were referred for prosecution, and in the case of littering, one referral was made, but the defendant was found not guilty due to a lack of evidence.

Challenges and Areas for Improvement

The data on fly-tipping incidents over the past three years highlights that while the Council's enforcement services have been effective overall, there are clear areas for improvement. The removal of fly-tips is generally completed within the 5-day target, and response times have been consistently within an acceptable range. However, there are specific challenges in certain months, particularly in February of 2023 and 2024, where performance dips were noted. The continued identification of hotspots like Shirebrook and Pinxton will be crucial for more targeted enforcement actions, while addressing staffing shortages and improving follow-up on unpaid FPNs will be key to enhancing the Council's overall performance in tackling environmental despoilment. Additionally, the fluctuating removal costs, particularly for large fly-tips, point to the need for a more consistent approach to managing larger-scale incidents, which continue to place significant financial strain on the Council's resources.

Financial Impact

The removal cost for large fly-tips in 2023/2024 amounted to £11,910.72, a figure almost identical to the previous year's total. However, the cost fluctuated monthly, with higher removal costs in May and August, which could be indicative of larger or more difficult-to-remove incidents during those months.

Conclusions:

The Council has shown strong overall performance in fly-tipping removal, maintaining high completion rates within the targeted response times. However, there are several challenges to address, including fluctuating performance in specific months, hotspots that require focused action, unpaid FPNs, and limited success in legal actions. Addressing these areas, particularly by tackling staffing issues, improving evidence collection for prosecutions, and enhancing follow-up on fines, will be crucial to further improving the effectiveness of environmental enforcement efforts in the District.

Recommendations:

That the Council targets fly-tipping hotspots (such as top 5 most frequently visited from 2023/24 including Outgang Lane in Pleasley, Wood Lane in Shirebrook, and Talbot Street in Pinxton), through targeted patrols and installation of surveillance cameras where appropriate.

That the Council explores options for CCTV surveillance in fly-tipping hotspots.

5.3 Review the current arrangements undertaken by Streetscene Services and Environmental Health to reduce or prevent Environmental Despoilment.

Environmental Despoilment and Fly-Tipping in Bolsover District

Environmental despoilment, particularly through fly-tipping, littering, and other waste management issues, remains a significant concern for Bolsover District Council. The Council has implemented several strategies to address this problem, involving multiple teams such as Streetscene and Environmental Health. These teams work together to manage waste, investigate offences, and educate the public on responsible waste disposal. However, despite these efforts, challenges persist in achieving more effective prevention and enforcement.

Relevant Council Policies

The Bolsover District Council Environmental Enforcement Policy 2016 outlines the procedures and criteria used by the Council to determine when prosecution is warranted for environmental offenses. This policy is guided by two primary tests: the Evidential Test and the Public Interest Test. The Evidential Test ensures that there is sufficient reliable evidence to warrant a realistic prospect of conviction. Factors such as the credibility of the evidence and the context surrounding the defendant are taken into account. The Public Interest Test, evaluates whether prosecuting the offense serves the public interest by considering the severity of the offense and its broader impact on the community.

Additionally, the policy addresses the review and potential revocation of licenses issued by the Council. It ensures that regulated entities comply with the terms and conditions of their licenses. The enforcement policy places a strong emphasis on legal compliance, fairness and transparency, promoting consistency and accountability in all enforcement actions. The Council is committed to collaborating with various agencies and adhering to relevant legislation, including human rights and data protection laws. Ultimately, the policy seeks to protect public safety while encouraging compliance among regulated entities.

The Bolsover District Council Corporate Enforcement Policy 2018, established in partnership with North East Derbyshire District Council, is designed to safeguard the well-being of residents, workers, visitors, and the environment. The policy is in alignment with the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 and the Regulators Code, reinforcing the commitment to a proactive and fair approach to enforcement. It sets out key principles, including proportionality, accountability, and transparency, which underpin the Council's enforcement activities.

The policy outlines a wide range of enforcement options available to the Council, from informal advice and warnings for minor breaches to formal prosecution for more serious offenses. The document emphasises the importance of well-trained authorised officers in making enforcement decisions, ensuring that they are supported by adequate training and working in partnership with other regulatory bodies. It also highlights the importance of adhering to data protection laws while making

enforcement decisions. Furthermore, the policy provides a framework for prioritising enforcement matters, ensuring that statutory requirements and regulatory codes are met. It promotes the adoption of core principles that guide decision-making and the selection of appropriate enforcement actions. The overarching goal of the policy is to foster a regulatory environment that upholds safety, legal standards, and community well-being while encouraging compliance across the District. Through its strategic approach to enforcement, the policy aims to create a safe and compliant environment for all Council stakeholders.

Role of Community Enforcement Rangers

The Enforcement Team, which includes the Community Enforcement Rangers, plays a crucial role in ensuring community safety and addressing environmental concerns. The Community Enforcement Rangers, previously known as the CAN Rangers, have undergone a rebranding as part of a wider initiative to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of the Enforcement Team. This rebranding includes the introduction of a highly visible vehicle scheme aimed at promoting community reassurance and deterring criminal behaviour. The Rangers provide a uniformed, highly visible presence in a range of settings, including residential areas, town centres and high-crime locations, making them a key deterrent against anti-social behaviour.

The core mission of the Community Enforcement Rangers is to improve the quality of life in the areas they patrol by serving as the "eyes and ears" of the community. Their work extends beyond simply patrolling these areas—they actively assist in resolving anti-social behaviour issues at the early stages and support community regeneration. Additionally, the Rangers act as a vital link between local residents and key agencies such as the local authority and the police, providing guidance on tackling environmental issues like littering, graffiti, and dog fouling. They also have the authority to issue FPNs for such offences, helping to ensure that these issues are properly managed.

A significant aspect of the Rangers' work is their collaboration with the Environmental Health Department in addressing environmental crimes. The Rangers work closely with the department to tackle various issues, including fly-tipping, noise nuisance, the burning of waste, littering, and dog fouling. The Rangers are instrumental in identifying and reporting these environmental offences, contributing to the overall management of public spaces. Fly-tipping, in particular, is a key concern for the Enforcement Team. Rangers undertake both daytime and nighttime patrols to spot fly-tipping incidents. When waste is discovered, the Rangers either remove it themselves by loading it into their vehicles and transporting it to a depot, or they mark the site with yellow crosses, indicating that the waste has been logged by the team. Rangers document each incident on a self-service portal, providing details such as location, date, and time. If the waste is too large or numerous for the Rangers to remove, they report it to the Streetscene Team for further action.

During this review, a site visit was conducted where the Scrutiny Officer and the original committee Chair spent the morning with one of the Council's Enforcement Rangers. They patrolled the District in the Ranger's van, visiting six fly-tipping hotspots reported the previous day. The visit provided an opportunity to observe the Rangers' cleanup and reporting processes in action. Photographs were taken as evidence at

one of the sites by the Scrutiny Officer (Appendix 2) and of an outdated fly-tipping deterrent sign (Appendix 3), which was located near the fly-tipping site. Members noted that this sign was ineffective and poorly placed. They agreed that improved signage is needed, recommending the use of the more visible metal signs already procured by the Council to better deter offenders (see recommendation **2.3**).

One of the critical roles of the Rangers is to search for evidence in the waste that could identify the perpetrator of the fly-tipping. Items such as CCTV footage, receipts, bank statements, or documents with personal information may provide crucial evidence. If such evidence is found, the Rangers refer the case to Environmental Health for investigation and potential legal action. Although the police are not directly involved in fly-tipping cases, they may report incidents to the Enforcement Team when encountered during their own duties.

The focus of the Enforcement Team remains on investigating and managing fly-tipping incidents, as environmental offences such as these typically fall outside the remit of the police. Despite the team's effectiveness in cleaning up after such incidents, the greater challenge lies in preventing them from occurring in the first place. While efforts to deter offenders continue through increased monitoring and enforcement, fly-tipping remains a persistent issue that the team is working hard to combat.

In terms of organisational structure, the Enforcement Team previously reported to the Housing Department. However, following the appointment of the new Assistant Director for Streetscene, Community Safety, and Enforcement in December 2024, the team now reports directly to this position. This restructuring is intended to improve coordination and streamline the team's efforts in tackling both community safety and environmental enforcement.

The Community Enforcement Rangers are a vital part of the Enforcement Team, offering a visible presence that helps deter crime and tackle environmental issues. Through their work in collaboration with other agencies and their focus on community engagement, they play a critical role in improving public spaces. With the recent structural changes, the team is well-positioned to continue enhancing its efforts in promoting community regeneration and addressing environmental crime in a more coordinated manner.

Streetscene's Role and Limitations

Streetscene is responsible for responding to fly-tipping incidents across the region, with a dedicated two-person crew working full-time on this issue. The team is highly efficient, clearing approximately 95% of reported fly-tipping within five days. Each year, Streetscene receives around 1,400 fly-tipping reports, which are tracked through a spreadsheet to ensure efficient management, meet corporate targets and avoid duplication. These reports are categorised based on the type, size and land type for tracking purposes and auditing, allowing the team to assess the scale of the problem and inform future strategy.

The majority of the waste cleared by Streetscene consists of household waste, although some construction waste—typically from businesses—and green waste is also dealt with. Streetscene works to clear waste from land within the Council's responsibility, but if the waste is found on private land or if there is evidence suggesting

a need for further investigation, the matter is referred to Environmental Health for further action.

In terms of evidence gathering, Streetscene previously used surveillance cameras to monitor fly-tipping hotspots, but this practice was discontinued approximately nine years ago due to limitations in time and resources. While cameras remain in place, they are no longer actively monitored. However, there is potential for Streetscene workers to receive training on gathering better evidence, particularly through photographic documentation. For example, capturing images of identifiable items such as letters found among the fly-tipped waste could help trace the offenders responsible. In the past, when evidence was sent to Environmental Health, there were instances where no feedback or follow-up was received, leaving Streetscene uncertain about the outcome of investigations.

The division of responsibilities between the Streetscene and Environmental Health presents some challenges. While Streetscene is focused on waste clearance, Environmental Health, specifically the Environmental Enforcement and Pest Control team, is responsible for finding evidence and enforcing action against offenders. This separation of priorities can result in difficulties in obtaining the evidence needed to support enforcement actions. Quarterly meetings between the two teams were held in the past to discuss fly-tipping issues and improve collaboration, but these meetings ceased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now strongly recommended to reinstate these meetings to enhance communication and coordination.

The recent appointment of a new Assistant Director, who oversees both the Streetscene and Community Safety/Enforcement teams, offers a significant opportunity to improve collaboration. With this leadership change, there is potential to enhance the evidence-gathering capabilities of Streetscene by empowering them to take more proactive steps, such as documenting fly-tipping with photographs that could assist in tracing offenders. This could ultimately lead to more effective enforcement and better outcomes for tackling fly-tipping.

To support this effort, it is recommended that Streetscene workers receive training on how to collect evidence more effectively, particularly through photographic documentation. This training should cover best practices for data collection, evidence handling and working collaboratively with the Enforcement Team. By equipping the Streetscene team with these skills, they will be better positioned to address fly-tipping incidents in a more proactive and efficient manner.

Furthermore, the new Assistant Director has the opportunity to foster closer collaboration between Streetscene and Environmental Health, which would streamline the process of handling fly-tipping incidents and improve enforcement actions. A more coordinated approach would help ensure that all aspects of fly-tipping cases—ranging from waste clearance to investigation and prosecution—are handled in a more timely and effective manner.

By implementing these recommendations—reviving regular meetings between Streetscene and Environmental Health, providing training on evidence gathering, and promoting greater collaboration between departments—Bolsover District Council can significantly improve its approach to tackling fly-tipping. These steps would help

enhance the efficiency of waste clearance, increase enforcement capabilities, and contribute to a cleaner and safer environment for the local community.

Environmental Health: Environmental Enforcement/Pest Control team (EEPC)

The Environmental Enforcement and Pest Control (EEPC) team plays a pivotal role in ensuring the cleanliness and safety of public spaces through the enforcement of various regulations. The team consists of four Enforcement Officers, one Trainee Environmental Health Officer and two Pest Control Officers. Their responsibilities span a wide range of environmental health issues, including managing fly-tipping, littering, dog control, stray dogs, abandoned vehicles and ensuring business waste compliance.

In 2023, Environmental Health effectively managed and addressed a variety of incidents and service requests. The team handled 432 service requests and issued 58 FPNs for offences related to fly-tipping, littering, and waste disposal violations. They also monitored four hotspots using CCTV technology, which aided in deterring fly-tipping and littering. Additionally, they responded to 185 reports of abandoned vehicles, tackled 112 fly-tipping incidents and managed 1,115 pest control requests. Moreover, Environmental Health conducted 195 proactive enforcement initiatives and patrols, issued four microchipping notices to ensure proper dog control and secured one prosecution for fly-tipping.

The EEPC team is responsible for enforcing regulations concerning public health and environmental cleanliness, including issues related to waste disposal, dog control and pest management. However, they do not handle waste on private property or commercial land, which is under the purview of Streetscene. Furthermore, the team does not engage in waste clearance operations but instead focuses on investigating and enforcing regulations on waste disposal violations. When it comes to fly-tipping, the EEPC team only investigates incidents where evidence is available and pursues enforcement actions such as issuing fixed penalties or initiating legal proceedings.

The enforcement policy used by the team is a zero-tolerance approach, meaning that fixed penalties are issued without prior warning. Each report is handled using a standardised script and an online form is available for the submission of evidence, though the usefulness of evidence varies. The team occasionally receives reports that lack substantive evidence, such as residents providing statements without actual proof of fly-tipping. The team has emphasised the importance of educating the public about the dangers of using unlicensed waste collectors. Residents are encouraged to verify the credentials of waste disposal services, as failing to do so could leave them liable for illegal waste disposal.

The investigation process begins once an incident report is received. The team aims to visit the site within three days, collecting evidence and where applicable, issuing FPNs for minor cases of waste disposal violations. In more serious cases, such as large-scale fly-tipping, the team invites individuals for interviews as part of the investigation. If the individual refuses to cooperate, this refusal could be seen as a negative factor in their case if it goes to court. The team also utilises Section 108 notices, which allow them to ask key questions regarding waste disposal, such as

identifying who was hired to collect the waste and when the waste was disposed of. Non-compliance with these questions can lead to prosecution.

The EEPC team keep a comprehensive register of all offences, which helps track and monitor the effectiveness of their enforcement efforts. They also utilise an electronic processing system to manage prosecutions. Proactive patrols are a key part of the team's strategy, with around 40 patrols conducted each quarter to monitor littering and dog fouling in the District. In addition, the team conducts proactive patrols targeting small businesses to ensure compliance with waste disposal regulations. Businesses are legally required to have a commercial waste contract, and if they cannot produce the necessary documentation, they face a fixed penalty. Business waste investigations are jointly managed by the Community Safety/Enforcement team and the EEPC/Environmental Health teams. EEPC also sets a target of 15 enforcement initiatives each year, with monthly patrols aimed at addressing environmental violations in the main towns.

The EEPC team's use of technology to deter environmental violations has been met with mixed success. Initially, wildlife cameras were deployed in car parks to monitor fly-tipping, but these cameras proved ineffective at night due to poor low-light performance and limited battery life. As a result, the team shifted away from relying on cameras and focused on more practical solutions, such as proactive patrolling and issuing FPNs. However, the team has explored newer camera technologies, though these systems require heavy car batteries, making them less practical for continuous use.

Additionally, the effectiveness of camera-based enforcement has been limited, as no prosecutions have been secured in the past two years based solely on camera evidence. The team is currently assessing the feasibility of increasing the number of cameras, but considerations include the number of cameras needed, staffing requirements to monitor them, and the possibility of creating a dedicated role for overseeing camera operations. The team also employs deterrent tactics, such as using signage to signal the presence of CCTV in hotspots even when no cameras are installed.

To further deter fly-tipping, the team has invested in metal signage, with 15 signs already purchased for installation in targeted hotspots. However, the installation of these signs has not been completed, as the Streetscene team has not yet put them up in the designated areas. The EEPC team has also placed paper signs in some hotspots but is planning to expand this effort. The implementation of additional signage in key areas such as laybys is seen as a crucial step toward raising awareness and deterring illegal waste dumping.

While the EEPC team is committed to addressing environmental health issues within their resource constraints, there are several areas for potential improvement. Public engagement and outreach could be enhanced through targeted social media campaigns to raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage public participation in reporting violations. Additionally, expanding the team's capacity by reallocating or increasing resources would enable more proactive enforcement, particularly in hotspot areas. The EEPC team has also highlighted the need for training Streetscene workers to improve their ability to identify, document, and address fly-

tipping incidents and gather evidence at the scene. Furthermore, the EEPC manager has identified the need to complete the installation of the remaining metal signs and increase signage in key hotspots.

The recent leadership change with the appointment of a new Assistant Director overseeing Streetscene, Community Safety, and Enforcement presents an opportunity to improve collaboration between departments. Enhanced cooperation with Streetscene could help improve evidence gathering, especially when it comes to documenting fly-tipping incidents. The close collaboration between Streetscene and Environmental Health could lead to more effective enforcement and better outcomes for tackling environmental crimes.

The EEPC has shown a strong commitment to maintaining public health and environmental cleanliness. Despite facing resource limitations and staffing shortages, the team has successfully tackled a range of issues related to fly-tipping, littering, and waste disposal. However, there is room for improvement in areas such as staffing, technology, and public engagement. By increasing resources, enhancing training, and fostering collaboration between departments, Environmental Health can further strengthen its efforts to protect the environment and maintain a cleaner, safer community.

Challenges with Evidence Collection

Evidence collection remains a significant challenge for both teams. Current camera technology has limitations, especially in poorly lit areas, and surveillance efforts have been insufficient to deter offenders. Recommendations have been made to upgrade existing camera systems, particularly with solar-powered cameras for 24/7 monitoring. Additionally, there is a need for better training for Streetscene staff in evidence collection, particularly in photographing and documenting fly-tipping sites, which could help build stronger cases for prosecution. It is also recommended that both teams increase proactive patrols in fly-tipping hotspots to catch offenders in the act and deter future incidents.

Public Awareness and Engagement

Public awareness campaigns are another area that could be improved. The Council has used social media in the past to raise awareness about fly-tipping and its consequences, but there is potential for more targeted campaigns. Educating residents about the risks of hiring unlicensed waste collectors and promoting legal disposal options could reduce the instances of fly-tipping caused by irresponsible waste disposal. Additionally, encouraging residents to report incidents of fly-tipping can help the council respond more quickly and effectively.

Resource Allocation and Technology Investment

Resource allocation is another key consideration in addressing fly-tipping. Environmental Health, for example, could benefit from additional enforcement officers dedicated to more proactive patrols and investigations. Similarly, dedicated staff to manage and process evidence could help streamline operations and prevent delays.

Investing in technology, such as apps or databases to track and manage fly-tipping incidents, could improve efficiency and response times.

Strengthening Enforcement and Deterrence Measures

To improve enforcement and deterrence, it is recommended that the council highlight successful prosecutions more widely, both through local media and social media channels. Publicising these successes would serve as a deterrent to potential offenders and reinforce the importance of following environmental regulations. In addition, increasing patrols in known fly-tipping hotspots, installing more effective signage, and using surveillance cameras could create a stronger deterrent effect. Such measures would not only help address existing incidents but also reduce the likelihood of future fly-tipping in these areas.

Strengthening Licensing and Compliance Checks

Finally, strengthening licensing and compliance checks for waste collectors is another recommendation. By educating residents on the risks of hiring unlicensed waste collectors and providing easy access to resources for checking waste carrier licences, the council can help prevent fly-tipping caused by improper waste disposal practices (this is examined further in chapter 5.4 – see recommendation 2.9). Encouraging businesses and residents to report fly-tipping incidents and incentivising these reports could also help create a culture of responsibility and vigilance in the community.

Conclusions

While Bolsover District Council has made strides in addressing environmental despoilment, there are still areas for improvement. By enhancing collaboration between teams, improving evidence collection methods, increasing public awareness, and allocating additional resources to enforcement and technology, the Council can more effectively reduce fly-tipping and create a cleaner, safer environment for residents. The integration of these strategies, coupled with stronger deterrence measures, will hopefully reduce the incidence of environmental despoilment in the District.

Recommendations:

That the Council prioritise completing the installation of the 15 metal signs and place additional signage in high-risk areas (such as Outgang Lane in Pleasley, Wood Lane in Shirebrook, and Talbot Street in Pinxton) in lay-bys and secluded spots.

That the Council reintroduces regular quarterly meetings of the Corporate Enforcement Group (Streetscene, the Enforcement Team and Environmental Health).

That the Council develops a clear process for evidence collection for fly-tipping sites that ensures evidence is properly managed.

That the Council organises joint training sessions for the Enforcement team, Streetscene workers and Environmental Health that focuses on improving understanding of each team's roles; as well as bi-annual training for evidence collection, ensuring there is a specific process for collecting physical evidence.

That the Council commissions a piece of work, led by the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, to explore alternative ways of working to improve the level and effectiveness of environmental enforcement activity across Bolsover District.¹

¹ N.B – It is relevant to repeat here the recommendation previously raised in Chapter 5.1 (page 23) as this is also relevant to the issues discussed in Chapter 5.3.

5.4 Improve public information/education on environmental despoilment.

Effective public information and education on environmental despoilment are crucial in fostering community engagement, promoting responsible behaviour, and supporting the Council's broader environmental goals. Bolsover District Council currently employs a range of communication channels to inform residents about environmental offences. These include the Council's website, the InTouch magazine, and educational messaging embedded in its enforcement and service delivery operations. While these efforts are significant, there are several areas where the Council can strengthen its approach to improve public understanding and reduce incidents of environmental crime.

Current Educational Materials and Communication Channels

The Council's website is the principal platform for conveying detailed and accessible information to the public about fly tipping, littering, and related offences; it provides clear definitions of what constitutes fly tipping. The site reinforces that such behaviour is a criminal offence, and explicitly outlines the penalties associated with it. Offenders may face fines of up to £50,000 and/or 12 months of imprisonment. The website also makes clear that while the Council is responsible for clearing fly tipping from public land, the responsibility for waste deposited on private land falls to the landowner. Importantly, it notes that failure by landowners to address waste on their property may result in enforcement action, particularly if the waste poses a risk of further tipping or causes visual blight.

Residents are actively encouraged to report incidents of fly tipping via the Council's Self-Service portal, which is accessible through the website. The portal allows users to submit reports and pay fixed penalty notices (FPNs) online, making the process efficient and straightforward. The website also contains detailed information about littering, identifying common forms of litter such as cigarette ends, food containers, plastic bottles, and chewing gum. It emphasises that the absence of nearby bins or signage does not excuse littering behaviour and outlines the Council's zero-tolerance policy in this area.

The Council has established a clear and structured system of FPNs for various environmental offences, and these are also listed on the website. Penalties include £400 for fly tipping (reduced to £300 if paid within 10 days), £150 for littering (reduced to £100), and £100 for breaches of Public Space Protection Orders, including dog fouling. Additional penalties apply for offences such as abandoning a vehicle, transporting waste without authorisation, and failing to comply with waste receptacle notices. This list not only clarifies the financial consequences of offending but also acts as a deterrent. To support enforcement, the Council has equipped its officers with body-worn cameras, helping to ensure transparency and credibility in their operations.

It is key to note, however, that these FPN levels are relatively low in comparison to neighbouring authorities and many Metropolitan or City Councils. As such, the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement has indicated that a review is necessary. A further paper will be presented to Members outlining

potential options for adjusting FPN levels moving forward, to ensure they remain a robust and effective deterrent.

In addition to the website, the Council communicates with residents through InTouch magazine, a quarterly publication distributed across the District. Historically, the magazine has been used to raise awareness of environmental crimes and highlight the Council's enforcement successes. For example, the April 2022 issue included coverage of three asbestos fly tipping incidents on country lanes and detailed the successful seizure of a vehicle involved in illegal dumping in Shirebrook. This enforcement action, conducted in partnership with the Police under Section 34B of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, led to the identification and prosecution of those responsible. The same issue also introduced the Council's new (2022) CCTV capabilities, noting that cameras had been deployed in fly tipping hotspots and were already contributing to prosecutions.

The October 2022 issue provided further educational content by announcing significant increases to FPN rates, including the rise in fly tipping penalties from £200 to £400, and for littering from £65 to £150. These announcements helped to reinforce the Council's tougher stance on environmental crime and demonstrated transparency around the use of enforcement powers. The January 2023 issue also featured an article highlighting the work of the Enforcement Team in addressing anti-social behaviour, graffiti, dog fouling, and fly tipping. However, since January 2023, there has been no substantive mention of fly tipping or environmental despoilment across eight consecutive issues up to July 2024. This decline in coverage may have diminished public visibility of the Council's environmental enforcement efforts.

Despite this, InTouch has continued to promote responsible waste disposal through its advertisement of the Council's bulky waste collection service. For example, the July 2024 issue featured a reminder that bulky waste can be collected for as little as £10. The advertisement is shown below.



This is an important preventive measure, as it provides residents with a legal and affordable alternative to fly tipping. However, further detail on how to access this service, including item eligibility and step-by-step booking instructions, could improve uptake and reduce illegal disposal.

The Council's bulky waste collection service is a useful mechanism for reducing illegal dumping, but public awareness of the service could be improved. Residents may not be fully aware of how to use the service or may be unclear about what items are accepted, the costs involved, or how to book a collection. By enhancing the availability and clarity of this information—through regularly promoting the service through platforms like InTouch and Facebook—the Council could make the service more

accessible and reduce reliance on informal or illegal disposal methods. The Council should more regularly and effectively promote its Bulky Waste Collection Service through existing communication channels and the newly established social media platforms, including the Bolsover District Council Facebook page.

Positive Efforts of the Council's Current Strategy

The Council's public education strategy benefits from a multi-channel approach that includes both digital and print media. The website provides easily navigable, well-structured, and informative content that explains legal definitions, reporting processes, and penalties in plain language. The use of technology, such as the Self-Service portal and body-worn enforcement cameras, improves accessibility and builds confidence in Council operations. Furthermore, InTouch magazine allows the Council to reach audiences who may not engage with digital media.

Another key strength is the Council's consistent emphasis on enforcement. The detailed publication of FPN charges and legal consequences for environmental offences sends a clear message to the public and reinforces a strong deterrent. This zero-tolerance approach, combined with publicised enforcement action and investment in surveillance technology, illustrates a commitment to upholding environmental standards and safeguarding the local landscape.

Opportunities for Enhancing Public Engagement and Environmental Education

While the Council has built a strong foundation for public education on environmental crime, there are clear opportunities for improvement. One such area is the InTouch magazine, which has seen a noticeable reduction in coverage of fly tipping and environmental despoilment since early 2023. The Council should consider reinstating regular content on environmental issues in each edition. This could include features on recent enforcement outcomes, interviews with enforcement officers, updates on hotspot activity, or community stories highlighting local clean-up initiatives. Consistent visibility of these issues would help sustain public awareness and encourage proactive engagement from residents.

In addition, the Council could enhance its educational efforts by embracing more interactive and visually engaging content. While static website text and print articles serve an important informational purpose, they could be supplemented with accessible formats such as infographics, short animations, or video explainers. These could cover topics such as what constitutes fly tipping, its environmental impact, how to report it, and the consequences of illegal disposal. The recent launch of the Council's official Facebook page in February 2025 offers a valuable new platform for distributing this type of content. Social media provides an excellent opportunity to reach a wider demographic, engage with residents in real time, and deliver ongoing educational messages in a more dynamic and shareable way.

Another opportunity lies in expanding direct engagement with communities most affected by fly tipping. The consideration of the deployment of CCTV at hotspot locations is a key step; however, this could be complemented by outreach initiatives

that foster two-way communication and local ownership of the issue. For example, the Council could organise public information sessions, distribute locally targeted leaflets, or collaborate with schools, youth groups, and community organisations to raise awareness. Hosting community clean-up days—combined with educational talks or demonstrations on proper waste disposal—could build trust, encourage participation, and reinforce shared responsibility for the local environment. Additionally, the Council’s recently launched Facebook page (active since February 2025) presents a valuable platform for enhancing communication. By using social media to share updates, promote local events, highlight enforcement outcomes, and engage residents in dialogue, the Council can reach a broader audience and strengthen public awareness around environmental responsibilities.

Conclusions

Bolsover District Council has taken important steps to inform and educate the public on environmental despoilment, particularly in relation to fly tipping. Through the website, enforcement practices, and prior use of the InTouch magazine, the Council has demonstrated a clear commitment to tackling these issues. To maximise the effectiveness of its public education strategy, the Council should consider more frequent and engaging content in its publications, increased use of interactive media, targeted community outreach, and clearer guidance on legal waste disposal options. The recent launch of the Council’s Facebook page presents an exciting new avenue to modernise and amplify its educational efforts. By adopting a more integrated and responsive communication approach, the Council can better equip residents to contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more environmentally responsible Bolsover District.

Recommendation:

That the Council enhance public information on fly-tipping and littering by regularly featuring updates on enforcement actions and responsible bulky waste removal options through existing communication channels and the newly established social media platforms, including the Bolsover District Council Facebook page.

That the Council delivers public awareness campaigns to educate residents about the risks of hiring unlicensed waste collectors and provides clear, accessible guidance on how to verify waste carrier licences.

5.5 Identify benchmarking opportunities and areas for improvement; ensure there is a clear strategy of enforcement action to improve the quality of the environment across the District.

Comparative Benchmarking: Bolsover District Council and Other Local Authorities

The information currently available on Bolsover District Council's website regarding fly-tipping and responsible waste disposal is brief and limited. While it provides a basic definitions and education, it offers little in terms of practical advice for residents on how to dispose of waste legally. The guidance advises that waste should remain within an individual's boundary or garden until it can be legally disposed of.

The site encourages the public to report incidents of fly tipping through the Council's Self Service portal, which allows the relevant teams to investigate and take appropriate action. It also clarifies responsibilities by explaining that the Council will remove fly tipping from public land, but that it is the responsibility of private landowners to clear waste from their own property. Furthermore, it highlights the legal consequences of fly-tipping, identifying it as a criminal offence that can result in fines of up to £50,000 and/or 12 months' imprisonment.

In summary, the website's current content covers the basics: it defines fly tipping, encourages residents to report incidents, outlines responsibility for waste clearance, and warns of legal penalties. However, several key areas of information are notably absent. There is no guidance on how to dispose of waste responsibly, such as checking whether a waste carrier is licensed. This is a significant omission, as residents can be held legally responsible if waste they pass to an unlicensed collector is later found fly tipped, with potential consequences including Fixed Penalty Notices or prosecution.

Additionally, the website does not promote or explain the Council's bulky waste collection service, which is an important alternative to illegal dumping for disposing of large household items. Nor does it provide publicly accessible data or statistics on fly tipping incidents across the District, which could help raise awareness of the scale of the issue. Finally, there is no advice on dealing with hazardous waste such as needles or drug-related litter—critical safety information for residents who may encounter these items in their communities.

Enhancing the depth and accessibility of information on the Council's website is a low-cost yet highly effective way to support public education, encourage responsible behaviour, and reinforce the Council's broader environmental enforcement strategy.

Chesterfield Borough Council Website

Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) demonstrates a proactive and transparent approach to tackling fly-tipping through the comprehensive data it provides on its website. The Council publishes detailed records of fly-tipping incidents across the

Borough, updating this information quarterly and submitting it to the national Waste Data Flow management system. In addition, CBC makes monthly fly-tipping data from the past five years publicly available, with each record broken down by waste type, land type, and the size of each incident.

Fly-tipping data

We report information about fly-tipping cases in the borough to the government, along with details of other waste related services.

Every quarter we upload detailed information to the national [WasteDataFlow](#) management system.

You can [register on WasteDataFlow](#) and access the information we have provided.

You can also see data about the fly-tipping cases we have dealt with since 2012-2013 on [Gov.uk](#).

Fly tipping facts and figures by year

[+ Expand all](#)

Fly-tipping data 2023	▼
Fly-tipping data 2022	▼
Fly-tipping data 2021	▼
Fly-tipping data 2020	▼
Fly-tipping data 2019	▼

Fly tipping facts and figures by year

[+ Expand all](#)

Fly-tipping data 2023

▲

Monthly fly-tipping data for 2023 broken down by waste type, land type and incident size.

This data is also available as accessible a PDF document below the tables.

Fly-tip by primary waste type 2023

Waste type	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Dec
Animal carcass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Green	2	0	4	3	2	3	2	3	4	1	0	
Vehicle parts	2	1	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	
White goods	3	14	4	3	1	3	2	6	4	3	3	
Other electrical	3	3	1	0	1	2	4	0	0	0	4	
Tyres	1	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	
Asbestos	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	
Clinical	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Construction / demolition	5	6	3	3	3	7	3	7	3	4	6	
Black bags / commercial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Black bags / household	4	9	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	5	4	
Chemical, oil fuel	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	
Other household	18	28	28	14	18	26	18	23	21	17	20	
Other commercial	2	4	0	0	1	7	4	0	1	1	1	

The categorisation is extensive, covering a wide range of materials including animal carcasses, green waste, vehicle parts, white goods, electrical items, tyres, asbestos, clinical waste, construction and demolition debris, black bags (both commercial and household), chemicals, and other miscellaneous household or commercial waste. This level of detail allows the Council and the public to track trends in illegal dumping, better understand which waste types are most frequently fly-tipped, and identify seasonal patterns or high-incidence periods. Such insights can inform future enforcement strategies, resource allocation, and targeted public education campaigns, making CBC's data-driven approach a model of good practice that Bolsover could consider.

Derbyshire Dales District Council Website

Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) provides clear and practical guidance on its website to help residents dispose of waste responsibly and legally. The Council offers advice on how to verify the legitimacy of waste carriers, encouraging residents to ask for the necessary licenses or credentials before allowing someone to remove waste on their behalf. This is accompanied by a strong warning that individuals may face Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) or prosecution if their waste is found fly-tipped and traced back to them, even if it was disposed of by a third party such as a "man with a van" service.

DDDC emphasises that residents remain legally liable when their waste is handled improperly. In addition to this legal guidance, the Council also provides important safety advice on handling hazardous items, particularly needles, syringes, and other drug-related litter. The website explains the risks associated with these materials and advises the public to avoid contact, ensuring that residents are better informed and protected when encountering such waste in their communities. This combination of legal accountability and personal safety information represents a thorough and responsible approach to public education on environmental cleanliness.

Evaluation of Benchmarking Approaches

This chapter highlights both best practices and areas for improvement in how Bolsover District Council communicates its environmental enforcement strategy to the public. By comparing the Council's website content with that of neighbouring authorities, such as CBC and DDDC, it is evident that while Bolsover District Council provides basic information on fly-tipping, there are significant gaps in the advice and resources offered to residents. Chesterfield's data-driven approach to transparency, where detailed and categorised fly-tipping figures are regularly published, shows how clear communication and public accountability can inform strategic enforcement and raise community awareness. Derbyshire Dales, on the other hand, offers practical advice on how residents can verify the legitimacy of waste carriers, as well as providing important safety information on handling hazardous items, such as needles and syringes. This approach ensures residents are better informed and protected.

In contrast, Bolsover's website lacks this level of detail, particularly in offering preventative advice or promoting its own bulky waste collection services. These omissions present missed opportunities to educate the public, reduce environmental crime, and reinforce the collective responsibility of the community.

To strengthen its approach, Bolsover District Council could benefit from making more visible the actions it is already taking to tackle environmental despoilment, particularly by sharing meaningful updates through its website and social media channels. This should focus on the types of information that residents are genuinely interested in—such as the number of fly-tipping sites cleared each year, trends over time, and the outcomes of serious offences. Sharing this data in an accessible format would not only enhance transparency but also reinforce public confidence in the Council's enforcement efforts.

Additionally, providing practical guidance on the safe handling and reporting of hazardous waste—such as needles or drug-related litter—would help residents stay informed and protected, while contributing to a more engaged and responsible community. Collectively, these steps would support a clearer, more proactive enforcement strategy aligned with best practice examples seen elsewhere.

Ensuring a Clear Enforcement Strategy to Improve Environmental Quality Across the District

Part of the fifth objective of this review, as agreed by the Committee, is to ensure there is a clear and effective strategy of enforcement action to improve the quality of the environment across the District. As previously mentioned in Chapter 5.1 (pages 21–23), Bolsover District Council operates a joint Environmental Health service with North East Derbyshire District Council, covering enforcement areas such as fly-tipping, littering, abandoned vehicles, waste duty of care, and dog fouling. Performance data from April 2024 to March 2025 (see the table on page 22) highlights low enforcement rates for key issues—particularly fly-tipping—indicating a need for stronger, more effective action. Therefore, a more effective strategy for a specific Environmental Enforcement Policy will be developed by the Council, led by the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, which is detailed in recommendation 2.1 of this report, to improve environmental despoilment outcomes and better address environmental offences across the District.

The need for improvement and benchmarking reinforces the need for a clearer and more proactive enforcement strategy that both drives improved outcomes and responds to public expectations. Enhancing transparency, increasing the visibility of enforcement data, and strengthening public-facing guidance are key elements of this wider strategic approach—helping not only to deter offending, but to engage residents in supporting a cleaner, safer environment across the District.

Recommendations:

That the Council enhance transparency by publishing meaningful data and information on fly-tipping activities on the website and through social media, that demonstrate what the Council is doing to tackle environmental despoilment.

That the Council provide advice on how to handle hazardous items such as needles and syringes, ensuring residents are informed on the safe disposal of such materials and the risks associated with handling them improperly

6. Conclusions

The Committee have put together 11 recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council in improving the effectiveness of its response to environmental despoilment across Bolsover District.

The key findings arising from the review are:

- Environmental despoilment, particularly fly-tipping, remains a significant and persistent issue across the District, impacting both the quality of the environment and residents' sense of place.
- Current enforcement outcomes are limited, with performance data showing a low percentage of reports leading to fixed penalty notices or prosecutions, particularly for fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering.
- The joint Environmental Health service with North East Derbyshire District Council offers a useful foundation, but there is a clear need to explore alternative models or tools that could enhance enforcement capability and effectiveness.
- Hotspot locations for fly-tipping require targeted action, including surveillance, signage, and operational task groups to focus efforts and improve accountability across departments.
- The coordination between departments—Streetscene, Community Safety and Environmental Health—must be strengthened through revived Corporate Enforcement Group meetings, structured evidence processes, and shared training opportunities.
- Public engagement and education are essential components of any long-term solution, with the Council needing to amplify its communications, provide clear guidance on waste disposal, and increase the visibility of enforcement actions to deter offending.
- Improved transparency and performance benchmarking through accessible, meaningful data and public updates will help build community trust and demonstrate the Council's commitment to tackling environmental offences.

The Committee recognises that a strategic and joined-up approach is required to deliver sustained improvements. The recommendations in this report aim to support that goal by enhancing enforcement activity, strengthening interdepartmental coordination, increasing public awareness, and improving the visibility and responsiveness of the Council's actions. If implemented effectively, these measures will help reduce environmental crime, promote civic responsibility, and create a cleaner, safer Bolsover District for all residents.

Appendix 1: Stakeholders

Stakeholders engaged during the Review:

- Cllr Rob Hiney-Saunders (Portfolio Holder for Environment)
- Strategic Director of Services
- Assistant Director, Streetscene Community Safety and Enforcement
- Director of Governance and Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)
- Communications, Marketing and Design Manager
- Environmental Enforcement and Pest Control Manager
- Enforcement Officers / Rangers
- Streetscene Manager

Stakeholders impacted by the Review:

- Bolsover District Council tenants
- Assistant Director, Streetscene Community Safety and Enforcement
- Enforcement Manager and Team
- Environmental Health Manager
- Streetscene Manager and Team

Appendix 2: Fly-Tipping Site, Bolsover District



(12/10/2024)

Appendix 3: Fly Tipping Sign In Use



(12/10/2024)

Appendix 4: Bibliography

Bolsover District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council Joint Partnership. Corporate Enforcement Policy 2018. 2018.
<https://committees.bolsover.gov.uk/Data/Executive/20181105/Agenda/report21109.pdf>.

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Litter and Refuse: Code of Practice. Statutory guidance. First published April 1, 2013. Last updated October 19, 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/litter-and-refuse-code-of-practice>.

Environmental Health Manager. Enforcement Policy (Joint Environmental Health Service). Bolsover District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council, May 2016.
<https://committees.bolsover.gov.uk/Data/Healthy%20Safe%20Clean%20&%20Green%20Communities%20Scrutiny%20Committee/20160628/Agenda/report18545.pdf>.

Environmental Health Service. Environmental Health Annual Report 2023: Summary of Activity, Calendar Year 2023. Bolsover District Council, 2023.

Local Government Association. Public Spaces Protection Orders: Guidance for Councils. February 2018.
https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.21%20PSPO%20guidance_06_1.pdf.

Smith, Louise. Fly-tipping: The Illegal Dumping of Waste. Commons Library Research Briefing. House of Commons Library, 19 December 2023.
<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-10796/CBP-10796.pdf>.



BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of Customer Services Scrutiny Committee on 23rd June 2025

Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2025/26

Report of the Scrutiny Officer

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Thomas Dunne-Wragg, Scrutiny Officer

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To provide members of the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the meeting programme of the Committee for 2025/26.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The main purpose of the report is to inform members of the meeting programme for the year 2025/26 and planned agenda items (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 This programme may be subject to change should additional reports/presentations be required, or if items need to be re-arranged for alternative dates.
- 1.3 Review Scopes submitted will be agreed within Informal Session in advance of the designated meeting for Member approval to ensure that there is sufficient time to gather the information required by Members and to enable forward planning of questions.
- 1.4 Members may raise queries about the programme at the meeting or at any time with the Scrutiny Officer should they have any queries regarding future meetings.
- 1.5 All Scrutiny Committees are committed to equality and diversity in undertaking their statutory responsibilities and ensure equalities are considered as part of all Reviews. The selection criteria when submitting a topic, specifically asks members to identify where the topic suggested affects particular population groups or geographies.
- 1.6 The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.
- 1.7 As part of the scoping of Reviews, consideration is given to any consultation that could support the evidence gathering process.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the meeting schedule for 2025/26 and the proposed agenda items for approval/amendment.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 This report sets the formal Committee Work Programme for 2025/26 and the issues identified for review.
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Programme enables challenge to service delivery both internally and externally across all the Council Ambitions.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny functions outlined in Part 3.6(1) of the Council's Constitution requires each Scrutiny Committee to set an annual work plan.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There is no option to reject the report as the Scrutiny functions outlined in Part 3.6(1) of the Council's Constitution requires each Scrutiny Committee to set an annual work plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Members review this report and the Programme attached at Appendix 1 for approval and amendment as required. All Members are advised to contact the Scrutiny Officer should they have any queries regarding future meetings.

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: None from this report.		
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
Legal (including Data Protection) Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details: In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in Part 1A, s9F(2) of the Local Government Act 2000.		
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		
Staffing Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: None from this report.		

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

Equality and Diversity, and Consultation

Yes

No

Details:

None from this report.

Environment

Yes

No

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

None from this report.

DECISION INFORMATION:

Please indicate which threshold applies:

Is the decision a Key Decision?

A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:

Revenue (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or **(b)** Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.

Capital (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or **(b)** Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.

District Wards Significantly Affected:

(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)

Please state below which wards are affected or tick **All** if all wards are affected:

Yes

No

(a)

(b)

(a)

(b)

All

Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If No, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? <i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation carried out: <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing
All

DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

Appendix No	Title
1.	Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2025/26

Background Papers
<i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>

Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme 2025/26

Performance Review	Policy Development	Policy/Strategy Programme Monitoring	Review Work	Call-In/Review of Executive Decisions	Petition

Items to add

Date of Meeting	Items for Agenda		Lead Officer
23 June 2025 1111	Part A – Formal	• Community Outreach Programme – Member Update	Service Manager (Environmental Health)
		• Review of Council’s Approach to Carbon Reduction – Post-Scrutiny Monitoring and update from the Climate Change Officer	Scrutiny Officer; Climate Change Officer
		• Review of the Council’s Approach to Environmental Despoilment Education and Enforcement – Formal Approval by Committee	Scrutiny Officer
		• Agreement of Work Programme 2024/25	Scrutiny Officer
	Part B – Informal	• Review work	Scrutiny Officer
8 October 2025	Part A – Formal	• CCO Updates TBC	CCO
		• Review of the Council’s Energy Policy for Local Housing – Post Scrutiny Monitoring Report (Second Interim Report)	Scrutiny Officer
		• Review of the Council’s Approach to Environmental Despoilment Education and Enforcement – Executive Response	Scrutiny Officer
		• Work Programme 2024/25	Scrutiny Officer
	Part B – Informal	• Review work	Scrutiny Officer
3 February 2026	Part A – Formal	• Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Monitoring Update	HR Business Partner
		• CCO Updates TBC	CCO

Date of Meeting	Items for Agenda		Lead Officer
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the Council's Approach to Environmental Despoilment Education and Enforcement – Interim Post Scrutiny Monitoring Report 	Scrutiny Officer
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for Annual Review of the Community Safety Partnership 	Scrutiny Officer
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Programme 2024/25 	Scrutiny Officer
	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work 	Scrutiny Officer
14 April 2026	Part A – Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the Council's Energy Policy for Local Housing – Post Scrutiny Monitoring Report (Second Interim Report) 	Scrutiny Officer
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Review of the Community Safety Partnership 	Assistant Director Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement; Community Safety & Enforcement Manager
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Programme 2024/25 	Scrutiny Officer
	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review work 	Scrutiny Officer

Agenda Item 10

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted