

**BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY PROJECT MANAGEMENT – REVIEW SCOPE**

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE:</b>	Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee
<b>SUBJECT TO BE REVIEWED:</b>	Review of the Council's approach to environmental despoilment education and enforcement
<b>REASON(S) FOR THE REVIEW:</b>	<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>
<b>IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE CORPORATE PLAN AIMS, PRIORITIES AND TARGETS:</b>	<p><b>CORPORATE PLAN AIM</b> – Environment, Customers</p> <p><b>PRIORITIES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Reducing our carbon footprint</b> whilst supporting and encouraging residents and businesses to do the same</li><li>• <b>Enhancing biodiversity</b> across the district</li><li>• Working with stakeholders, regional and local partnerships to deliver shared strategies and priorities that <b>support the local environment</b></li><li>• Ensuring all areas, <b>neighborhoods</b> and <b>streets in the district</b>, irrespective of housing tenure or type, <b>are places where people</b> want to live, feel safe and <b>are proud to live</b></li></ul> <p><b>KPIs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SS 01 Remove 95% of hazardous Fly Tipping within 24 hours of being reported (Quarterly)</li><li>• SS 02 Remove 95% of non-hazardous Fly Tipping within 5 working days of being reported (Quarterly)</li></ul> <p><b>TARGETS</b> – ENV.06 - Reduce fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people in Bolsover District over the plan period</p>
<b>DIRECTORATE/SERVICES INVOLVED:</b>	<p>Strategic Director of Services – Streetscene</p> <p>Environmental Enforcement Team</p>

	<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>
<b>AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF REVIEW:</b>	<p><b>Aims:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• That the council becomes an excellent authority at 'keeping the district clean' rather than 'cleaning the district'.</li> </ul> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. Analyse the current data of incidents of environmental despoilment across the District</li> <li>3. Review the current arrangements undertaken by the Enforcement Team, Street Scene Services and Environmental Health to reduce or prevent Environmental Despoilment.</li> <li>4. Improve public information/education on environmental despoilment.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
<b>KEY ISSUES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement powers of the council</li> <li>• Types of land covered by the Council's statutory duties (Agricultural, Back Alley, Commercial/Industrial, Council, Footpath/Bridleway, Highway, Private Land, Railway, Watercourse)</li> <li>• Public information and education</li> <li>• Dog Fouling</li> <li>• Fly Tipping</li> <li>• Litter</li> </ul>
<b>METHOD(S) OF REVIEW:</b>	<p>Document review</p> <p>Informal presentations/briefings</p>
<b>IMPLICATIONS:</b> (legislative, regulatory, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosecutions</li> <li>• Fixed Penalty Notices</li> <li>• Formal and informal warnings</li> </ul>
<b>DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE:</b> (Internal/External)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Enforcement Policy</li> <li>• Environmental Health Service Reports</li> <li>• Service performance data</li> </ul>

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

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

### **SCRUTINY REVIEW OUTCOMES**

<b>CONCLUSIONS:</b>	<p>The key findings arising from the review are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Hotspot locations for fly-tipping require targeted action, including</li> </ul>
---------------------	--

	<p>surveillance, signage, and operational task groups to focus efforts and improve accountability across departments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>4. That the Council explores options for CCTV surveillance in fly-tipping hotspots.</li> <li>5. That the Council reintroduces regular quarterly meetings of the Corporate Enforcement Group (Streetscene, the Enforcement Team and Environmental Health).</li> <li>6. That the Council develops a clear process for evidence collection for fly-tipping sites that ensures evidence is properly managed.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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</li> </ol>

	<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>
<b>DRAFT REPORT SENT TO DIRECTOR &amp; ANY RELEVANT OFFICERS FOR COMMENT:</b>	April/May 2025
<b>DATE DRAFT REPORT CONSIDERED BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	May 2025
<b>DATE SIGNED OFF BY COMMITTEE/CHAIR:</b>	May 29 <sup>th</sup> 2025
<b>DATE CONSIDERED BY EXECUTIVE:</b>	June 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2025
<b>POST-SCRUTINY MONITORING PERIOD:</b>	June 2025 – June 2027 (6-month interim monitoring reports)
<b>DATE OF EVALUATION OF PROCESS:</b>	Every 6 months from June 2025