

Bolsover District Council

**Meeting of the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 14th
October 2025**

**Review of the Council's Approach to Environmental Despoilment Education
and Enforcement – Post Scrutiny Monitoring (Second Interim Report)**

Report of the Chair of Customer Services Scrutiny Committee

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Governance and Civic Manager

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To present Executive's Response to the Review of the Council's Approach to Environmental Despoilment Education and Enforcement.
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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. These issues not only degrade the aesthetic value of the District but also pose significant risks to public health, safety, and local biodiversity.
- 1.3 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 were as follows:

- 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 Following the review the Customer Services Scrutiny Committee agreed the following recommendations:

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 to tackle environmental despoilment.

2.6 Appendix 1 details the Executive's response to the Review's recommendations. A Post Scrutiny Monitoring Report will be delivered to the Committee in April 2026 which will track the progress of actions taken, the Key Achievements and any reasons for non-implementation of recommendations.

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. Members are required to make
- 3.3 Members must note Executive's response to the review recommendations and agree to review progress on the approved recommendations. A progress report will be submitted in twelve months' time, with any exceptions to expected delivery highlighted.

4 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 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 Members note Executive's Response to the Review of Effectiveness of Council's Waste Collection and Disposal Education
2. That Members make its report and findings public, in accordance with Part 4.5.17(4) of the Constitution.
3. That Officers monitor progress on the recommendations and report in six and twelve months' time highlighting exceptions to delivery, in accordance with Part 3.6(1) of the Constitution.

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		

Equality and Diversity, and ConsultationYes ☐No ☒**Details:**

N/A

EnvironmentYes ☒No ☐**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:☒ ***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 type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>	

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing
‘Environment’ and ‘Customers’

DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

Appendix No	Title
1	Executive Response to Review of Effectiveness of Council's Waste Collection and Disposal Education

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>