

Yorks' Anti-Litter Policy Statement (York Pride)

Introduction

This Anti-Litter Policy Statement is produced to assist the council in its aims of a cleaner and greener city by minimising the effects of certain types of litter and to examine barriers to the cleansing of this litter. Processes are being developed to assist in a more robust implementation of this Policy Statement and to monitor progress against targets and outcomes.

Issues covered in this Policy Statement are:

- Environmental awareness
- The interaction between commercial and domestic waste and litter generation
- Litter from 'fast food' outlets
- Schools generated litter
- Smoking related litter
- Chewing gum
- Drugs related litter
- Litter generated from moving traffic
- Fly tipping
- Public space generated litter
- Litter on Network Rail/c2c land
- Problems of litter clearance once it has been deposited
- Designing out litter problems
- Highway staining
- Enforcement

Environmental Awareness

Environmental awareness will take a number of forms, but the central message is always the same, don't drop litter, use the bins and be aware of the council's zero tolerance on environmental crimes. The York Pride Action Line 01901 551551 will continue to be the central contact point for all aspects of the Policy Statement. Once the issue has been logged it can then be tracked through the system until resolved.

Environment awareness, to be successful will need education to be at its forefront followed up by enforcement where necessary.

Awareness will include current and future activities:

- Community campaigns such as 'Spring Clean'
- Targeted marketing and media campaigns
- Free to Schools Environmental Education
- Support of the local newspaper including interviews and articles
- Support and sponsorship from local businesses
- Providing support for community clean-up projects
- Promotion of recycling
- Membership of Keep Britain Tidy

The successful partnering of primary schools in the development of dog fouling and litter campaigns will be built on.

The zero tolerance to litter will be at the heart of the awareness programme.

The interaction between commercial and domestic waste and litter generation

To minimise the effects of commercial and domestic waste as sources of litter the council will:

- Implement its co-ordinated enforcement policy for dealing with both commercial and domestic waste, using all relevant powers that are available. This will be a concerted and high profile effort, undertaken over a period of time street by street and area by area, with publicity of all prosecutions.

Action has already been taken to minimise the impact of recycling collection with the introduction of the '3 box' system with nets and lids to keep the materials enclosed, thus avoiding litter during windy weather.

Litter from 'fast food' outlets

To combat the large amounts of 'fast food' waste there are four approaches that will be undertaken:

- Providing litter bins in the right place
- Education programme through schools and colleges and the work place
- Vendor self management around premises
- Enforcement

Providing litter bins in the right place is not a simple task as people consume food at different rates whilst on the move. However analysis of deposited litter, will show the most frequently abused places. Litter bins will then be placed at these locations. The Environmental Enforcement Team will be needed to be very active with regard to these matters.

Litter on school routes

Tackling the issue of litter in and around schools is very important, not only because it improves the surrounding environment, but it can also be a powerful educational tool. The Street Environment Team will work with the Adult and Children Education Directorate in partnership and through school visits and campaigns to assist in the promotion of the Eco Schools programme, recycling and environmental awareness.

Smoking related litter

Preventing this type of litter is very difficult as most of the people dropping it do not see it as litter.

Research carried out by Keep Britain Tidy has shown that some smokers do respond when they are given the opportunity to correctly use litter bins. This will be one aspect of the on going educational programme with stands in the city centre and other events across the area to continue to campaign to change attitudes.

However this is only likely to have a limited impact so unfortunately enforcement will be needed to bring about behavioural change.

The issue of smoking related litter outside businesses generated by companies no smoking policies can be tackled by working in partnership with the companies. The Street Environment Officers will begin the process of education and getting companies to provide receptacles and empty them on a regular basis.

Companies would be asked to sponsor a bin to reduce the cost and ensure standardisation. The council may also bulk purchase bins and offer them to the companies as part of the York Pride targeted campaigns.

Chewing gum

One aspect of the Policy Statement is aimed at reducing the amount of chewing gum deposited. This problem is a pandemic across the whole country.

As this is a national issue and not easily resolvable the council's approach will be to continue with education work but also to accept that the problem exists and try through planning guidance to aim to use surfaces that will resist the adhesion of this material. Trials are planned in the coming months to test pavement coatings to see if this improves the look of the city. We will continue to work with and support organisations such as the Keep Britain Tidy Group in their efforts to change the way gum is manufactured. Enforcement will continue to be used to deal with this matter.

Drug related Litter

The prime concern of the council must be to protect the workforce and the public from the dangers posed by this material. The Neighbourhood Pride Manager will ensure appropriate training on risk assessment and the handling of needles and other paraphernalia is attended by relevant staff. Investment will be made where necessary in equipment to help deal with this issue.

A fine balance has to be struck regarding the level of information given to the public regarding the danger posed by this type of waste. This will be part of the longer term educational and support activities.

Residents will be encouraged to report any drug related litter to the York Pride Action line on 01904 551551. The council will aim to remove this type of litter within two hours of it being reported.

The long term minimisation of this type of material can only be achieved by working in partnership with all agencies and other stakeholders that are concerned with the misuse of drugs.

Litter from moving vehicles

Through campaigns, we will raise awareness of this issue. Partnership working with the owners of Landfill sites is also recognised as a key factor if the residue from Lorries on the major routes in the City is to improve.

As part of the York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership targeted enforcement will take place to reduce the nuisance which is also the cause of much of the A59 and A1237 waste accumulation.

Our own waste vehicles are all equipped with the necessary equipment to eliminate the loss of material during transportation. Encouragement work will be done with other carriers to ensure they meet the necessary standards. Ultimately enforcement action will be taken where there is clear evidence of poorly contained loads.

Fly tipping

The usually accepted definition of when litter becomes fly tipping is when there is more than a cubic metre i.e. the size of a full black bag or where a cubic metre worth of rubbish is within a small area i.e. 4 square metres.

Neighbourhood Pride staff will continue to collect all waste that falls below these levels as part of their scheduled cleansing. Street Environment and Enforcement Officers will call upon the re-active team or specialist contractors to remove large fly tipping.

All waste above this level will be classified as 'fly tipping' and handled by the Rapid Response Team in accordance with the Environment Agency, the council protocol and best practice methods. Where it is a significant amount of fly tipping or specialist in nature then external contractors will be used at the discretion of the Neighbourhood Pride Manager.

The council will make public all prosecutions in connection with fly tipping to demonstrate to all the zero tolerance to such practice.

Litter from public open spaces and private property

The clearance of litter from public open spaces abutting or close to the highway is the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Pride Team.

The aim of the team is to:

- Ensure that the whole of the 'street scene' is cleansed at the same time and maintained in a clean and litter free state.
- Prevent litter from migrating from un-cleansed areas, to those that have been cleansed.
- Eliminate duplication of travel time and effort of staff.
- Reduce the incidents of the shredding of litter during grass cutting.
- Improve the public perception that 'the council' is acting in a sensible and unified manner with regard to creating a Cleaner Greener City.

With regard to private land abutting or close to the highway the owners or occupiers should be persuaded to keep their land litter free or if necessary enforcement action will be taken.

Gated back lanes will be cleared by the Rapid Response Team where requested by Members to do so or as determined by the Neighbourhood Pride Manager to maintain a clean neighbourhood. The clearing of back lanes will be dependent on resources and not as a way of dwellings frequently depositing large items for collection.

Litter on Network Rail/Sustrans

Litter on Network Rail land and cycle paths managed by Sustrans is a difficult problem, however we are continuing to improve our working relationship with Network Rail and we are becoming more successful at working together to remove litter from railway land.

The Neighbourhood Pride Manager will work with Sustrans to establish how the council can work in partnership with them to reduce the environmental impact of litter on cycle paths.

Problems of litter clearance once it has been deposited

Improvements to the quality of the street scene will depend on:

- Supervision
- Training
- Raising morale

The level and quality of work has risen considerably and will be linked to continuous training of the workforce through the Excellence in Everything Programme.

The training and re-training of operatives on a regular basis is essential if high quality services are to be achieved and this will be co-ordinated by the Neighbourhood Pride Manager.

Street Cleansing Officers need to be reminded of the level of cleansing that is expected of them to achieve high NI 195 levels, especially regarding the backlines and round and under street furniture. This will be achieved through positive encouragement of the team.

The reasons for the use of mechanical sweepers need to be fully understood and regularly reviewed as new equipment becomes available. Understanding and adapting to systematic sweeping, particularly in large pedestrianised areas and around street furniture is an important part of the council's approach to cleanliness.

Designing out litter problems

It is essential that the Planning Team consult with the Neighbourhood Pride Services during the design stage of highway projects to ensure that the new developments can be cleansed efficiently and economically.

Experiments with different types of paving and highway surfaces have shown that the retention of chewing gum and other stains can be greatly reduced by using suitably resistant materials.

From a Neighbourhood Pride Services perspective surface materials should only be considered if they can provide some degree of resistance to the adhesion of chewing gum and other staining.

Where proofing is considered to be the best option, the cost of the initial treatment and subsequent treatments over the life of the surface must be taken into account in the budget estimate.

In addition the designs, curves, angles of kerblines should reflect, where possible, the needs of the mechanical sweepers.

Highway staining

Consideration will be given to using all suitable sweeping vehicles to wash the streets on a regular basis, as part of their normal sweeping duties.

This will help remove the unsightly bird droppings and most of the other staining before it becomes a problem and will help improve residents' perception of a Cleaner, Greener York.

Enforcement

Litter can affect the quality of the local environment and can influence how places look and are perceived, how attractive areas are to workers, visitors and existing and new business investors and how safe and happy people feel about living in an area.

The Council's policy is to protect the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all persons within the City. We will enforce Litter legislation in all areas of the city. This section of the anti-litter Policy Statement sets out the general principles of enforcement and the use of litter legislation. It will be used in conjunction with guidance issued from the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and professional bodies.

There is no comprehensive definition of litter, however it is most commonly assumed to include materials, often associated with smoking, eating and drinking, that are improperly discarded and left by members of the public; or are spilt during business operations as well as waste management operations. The discarded ends of cigarettes, cigars and like products and discarded chewing gum and discarded remains of other products designed for chewing are specifically stated to be items of litter in legislation.

The above will be achieved through education, by providing advice and by enforcement of regulations. Securing compliance with statutory requirements and using enforcement powers, including prosecution is an important part of this Policy Statement.

The City of York Council will ensure that all appointed officers are competent and are trained in the use of this policy. We will work with the other Local Authorities, professional bodies and DEFRA to ensure coherent regulation.

The Council regards prevention as better than cure and as such offer information and advice to those we regulate.

Enforcement will be used to deliver this Policy Statement

Our Enforcement Policy has been produced having regard to three principal documents:-

- The Enforcement Concordat
- The Code for Crown Prosecutors
- The Regulators' Compliance Code

The Enforcement Concordat

The Concordat is a Code of Practice between Government and local Councils. It sets out what businesses and others being regulated can expect from the Council's enforcement services. The City of York Council has signed the Concordat. This means all Services provided by the Council are committed to good enforcement practices and procedures.

The Code for Crown Prosecutors

The code for Crown Prosecutors sets out general principles to be applied when making decisions about prosecutions. As a regulatory body the Council also follows the principles of the guide when considering enforcement action.

Regulators' Compliance Code

The Regulators' Compliance Code (the Code) is made under Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. The code sets out that Regulators must *have regard* to the provisions of the Code when determining general policies and principles or when setting standards or giving general guidance about the exercise of general functions.