



## North Devon Council

Report Date: 2 August 2021

Topic: **Litter Working Group Report**

Report by: Environment Lead and Service Manager, Operational Services

### INTRODUCTION

1.1. This paper is the first report from the Litter Working Group outlining the initial projects we are pursuing, and seeking support from Strategy and Resources Committee in our efforts to clean up our environment.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. It is recommended that the Strategy and Resources Committee note the litter group projects and agree to expedite delegated powers to appropriate individuals in each parish in order to improve enforcement, to deploy a mobile CCTV unit, and to allocate funds to support the Litter working group projects.

### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. To ensure actions identified by the Litter Strategy group are progressed.

3.2. To reduce the amount of litter across the district.

### 4. REPORT

4.1. North Devon is a beautiful and popular location, visited regularly by residents and visitors alike. It is our intention to ensure high levels of cleanliness are maintained.

4.2. There are a number of actions that can be taken to try to effect behaviour change and address the existing litter problems.

4.3. The Litter working group has agreed to pursue initial actions in the following areas:

4.3.1. Education: engaging with schools and colleges. In the first instance addressing the litter around Sticklepath, working with Petroc.

4.3.2. Community Litter picking: create a model that any litter-picking group can follow: clarify engagement with NDC when requesting equipment, arranging collection, and identifying fly-tipping offenders.

- 4.3.3. Online reporting: ensuring that the information is more clearly presented on certain pages.
- 4.3.4. Parish engagement: working with parishes to create cleaner streets.
- 4.3.5. Right Bin Right Place: auditing the bins and recommending where they should be located differently, replaced with a different type of bin, replaced because they are no longer fit for purpose, or refurbished.
- 4.3.6. Cigarette butts: the biggest cause of plastic pollution in the world, apparently. This campaign initiated outside the litter working group but the members will be involved in monitoring and progressing it.

4.4. It is expected that the actions in 4.3 will help to classify zones as per the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse and ensure that the appropriate cleaning regime applies.

4.5. In order to deter littering behaviour in known hot-spots the group requests the facility to deploy CCTV. This will also require expenditure on moveable signage informing people that CCTV is operating there.

4.6. The group requests a budget of £1250 in the first instance primarily for promotional materials.

## 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Officer time: 50 hours x 2

5.2. Cost of promotional materials and signage; possible purchase of extra litter-pickers.

## 6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. There are no equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report.

## 7. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT –

7.1. Part 3, Annexe 1 (1), (i)

## 8. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

8.1. This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:



- Litter strategy (App 1)
- Code of practice on Litter and Refuse (.gov website)

9.2. The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report.

## 10. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

10.1. The author confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers.