

Teignbridge District Council Litter Strategy

1.0 Purpose of Strategy

- 1.1 To put in place key actions to reduce littering across the district and improve bin infrastructure to increase the amount of litter captured and recycling of litter on the go where possible.
- 1.2 The strategy and its contents are intended to provide a broad framework for the management of litter in Teignbridge over the coming months and years.

2.0 Background and Key Issues

- 2.1 Teignbridge District Council spend approximately £1.4 million per year on street cleansing. Litter and fly tipping are not only costly to clear but create a negative visual impression of the district, reduces overall quality of life, discourages investment and visitors and is a problem to the wider natural environment damaging wildlife and habitats.
- 2.2 To address these issues, the Government published their Litter Strategy in April 2017. This was part of an overall commitment to 'make ours the first generation to leave the natural environment of England in a better state than we found it'.
- 2.3 Reference Govt Env Plan 25 years (see picture below)
- 2.4 In 2018, the Government published its Resource and Waste Strategy which recognises the significant negative impacts of litter and fly tipping and promotes measures which help people 'do the right thing'.



- 2.5 Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee- 'Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay 2021-2030' outlines Devon's partnership approach to tackling litter amongst other waste and recycling priorities

2.6 The strategy has a 3-pronged approach to tackling litter around the themes of:

- Education/Awareness
- Enforcement
- Infrastructure

2.7 Teignbridge District Council as a Waste Collection Authority and Principal Litter Authority has a significant role to play and currently dedicates a large resource to providing and emptying bins as well as clearing fly tips and other street cleansing activities. This document provides the overarching strategy for the delivery of these activities and measures to reduce the issues at source.

2.8 Clean Devon – which is an umbrella group collaborating to combat litter and fly tipping. There are 15 partners in addition to Devon waste collection and disposal authorities ranging from the Police to National Parks to the Federation of Small Businesses. A strategy and business plan for the partnership is currently in development. For further information please see: <https://cleandevon.org/>.



A PARTNERSHIP TO TACKLE FLY TIPPING AND LITTER ACROSS DEVON

- Working together to collaborate to communicate messages
- Local Authorities
- Environment Agency
- Highways England
- Dartmoor National Park
- Exmoor National Park
- National Farmers' Union

- Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Devon Communities Together
- Devon Association of Local Councils
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Forestry England
- Country Land and Business Association
- Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards Service
- Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce
- Coordinated clean ups, initiate action, share intelligence and best practice.

3 Education/Awareness

3.1 The National Litter Strategy outlines the Government intention to deliver an intensive campaign aimed at changing behaviour. We will promote any national campaign such as the Great British Spring Clean as well as doing the following:

- We will use our position as waste collection authority to spread the message about the financial, environmental and social cost of litter. This will be done through social media linking up with national campaigns and county wide campaigns (Recycle Devon/Clean Devon) as well as producing our own content.
- We will also continue to provide litter banners and signage in litter hotspots and support parish and town councils with providing further litter communication resources such as posters for noticeboard and newsletters.
- We will continue to support community litter picks by providing litter picking equipment and collecting waste collected.
- We will endeavour to work with local businesses to get them involved with community clean ups and other initiatives to improve the environment in their locality.
- Continue our work with schools to provide assistance in litter picks around their areas and beach cleans.

- Provide educational support with regards to littering at school events run by our Green Spaces team throughout the school year, explaining to pupils about the environmental impacts of littering.
- Advise residents on the correct disposal of household waste including bulky household waste and house clearance waste and the importance of checking any disposal contractor for a waste carrier licence.
- Provide enhanced signage where appropriate at recycling bank sites where litter is an issue and work with site owners to manage these issues.



Example imagery from recent litter campaign targeting litter from vehicles.

Example imagery from recent fly tipping campaign.





Example vehicle livery encouraging the reporting of littering.

4 Enforcement

Enforcement is key to stop habitual litterers and change behaviour of those who have not engaged through education and awareness methods above.

- We currently employ Community Environment Wardens who can issue fixed penalty notices for littering.
- Wardens also work to ensure that small-scale take-aways and other food premises have waste agreements in place and follow up any that do not.
- We will continue to work collaboratively with our Community Environment Wardens to identify and fine fly-tippers around our recycling bank sites.
- We will continue to promote and encourage the reporting of littering especially from vehicles which our Community Environment Wardens can follow up and take the necessary action.
- We will continue to update online web forms for reporting littering and overflowing bins to make it as accessible as possible for litterers to be reported.
- We will continue to pursue fly tipping through the use of reports and investigative work.
- We will continue to work with private sector housing companies to address any waste issues associated with the poor management of waste.
- We will promote 'Duty of Care' and work with other agencies to reduce fly tipping. An example of a newly formed partnership is the 'Clean Devon Partnership'.
- We have Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in place across the district introduced in April 2019 to cover various anti-social behaviours

including not picking up after dogs which can result in a £100 fixed penalty notice or a fine of up to £1000 if taken to court.

- Localities Project: Officers are currently investigating the benefits of using technology to triage service request to the nearest officer who is available working in the district. This would allow skilled investigators to make a more efficient assessment of fly tipping or littering service requests and task the cleansing team to remove the waste.

Infrastructure

4.1 Infrastructure includes bins and signage and any software or technology that may help to improve efficiency or collection rounds and service delivery. This includes:

- Investment in new/improved street cleansing system to make the scheduling of sweeping and bin emptying clear and more efficient, including route optimisation.
- All litter and dog waste bins have been plotted on a mapping system, including photos of the bins and information as to the type of bin they are, e.g., normal litter, dog waste, split litter and recycling etc.
- As part of the mapping process going forward, more detailed audits of our bin infrastructure will be carried out including the recording of physical characteristics of the bins such as capacity, aperture, type, fixings etc, as well as the current condition such as visual appeal, structural defects, signage etc. A record of the target materials will also be recorded. This can be done via a standard audit sheet for which a template will be put together.
- Litter bin policy in place – this policy was adopted in 2018 and ensures that bins are only installed in areas where there is a genuine need factoring in existing bin provision in the surrounding areas and based on evidence of need through litter surveys.
- Officers are consulted in the planning stage of new developments to ensure adequate space is allocated for the storage of household bins to reduce litter build up in these areas.
- Much of the waste collected in litter bins can theoretically be recycled. This policy includes a section to encourage ‘on-the-go’ recycling stating that ‘wherever practical litter bins with recycling facilities should be installed instead of standard ‘waste only’ litter bins’.

5 Monitoring

5.1 In order to continually improve the way in which we manage litter and cleansing operations, it is essential to monitor and evaluate progress. We will do so using the following:

- Indicators on SPAR: Current indicators reported against are ‘Improved Street and Environmental Cleanliness’ which includes level of litter, number of reported fly tipping incidents, number of community litter picks supports and ‘Street Cleaning & Litter responsibilities’ with an

indicator of £'s per household. Cleanliness of streets forms part of corporate customer satisfaction surveys.

- We are able to monitor litter and street cleansing complaints logged and see any trends.
- Street inspections – we will look to fully utilise the ad hoc inspection facility on the street cleansing system to undertake regular random inspections of sweeping schedules to ensure that the work is being completed to a satisfactory standard.

The list of actions above are not exhaustive but highlight key areas we are working in and will continue to do so.

6 Future work

- 6.1 We will continue to support national campaigns and respond proactively to any consultations or outcomes from the recent government strategies including any changes to legislation.
- 6.2 We will look into any technological advances in software which may be advantageous to us and help to improve efficiencies further.
- 6.3 We will apply for any external funding opportunities where appropriate which will help to improve our service including bin infrastructure.
- 6.4 We will continue to audit our bin infrastructure to ensure we have the right bins in the right places.
- 6.5 We will review complaints, fly tipping reports and inspections to identify hotspots which need further intervention.
- 6.6 We will continue to strive to forge links with individuals, groups, organisations and the larger community. Establishing 2-way communication streams (where possible) in order to discuss, advise, instruct, educate and support in appropriate actions and behaviours.

Supporting documents

- Litter strategy for England
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/630999/litt0er-strategy-for-england-2017-v2.pdf
- Resource and Waste Strategy
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england>
- Environmental Protection Act 1990

- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>
- Code of Practice of Litter and Refuse
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/834331/pb11577b-cop-litter1.pdf
- Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee 'Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay 2020-2030'
<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s32889/HiW-20-34.pdf>
- Teignbridge Litter Bin Policy [G:\Cleansing & Market Services\Recycling\Policies\Litter and Dog Bin Policy](#)
- Litter Act 1983 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/35>
- Highways Act 1980 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66>
- Waste Regulations 2011
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/988/contents/made>