

**From:** Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member Environment and Transport  
Roger Wilkin, Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste

**To:** Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee - 8 July

**Subject:** Highway, Transportation and Waste Kent Resource Partnership  
- Joint working

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** N/A

**Future Pathway of Paper:** N/A

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:** Litter continues to be a growing problem across the County. The Highways, Transportation and Waste (HTW) Division has been working with the Kent Resource Partnership (KRP), in particular the Street Scene Project Group, a sub-group of KRP, on a range of initiatives to address the problems caused by littering. This report updates the Cabinet Committee on the work of the group and the key projects identified for 2016/17.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Cabinet Committee endorse Highways, Transportation and Waste's continued working with the KRP in the key areas identified in section 3 below and also any future appropriate related projects identified by the Partnership.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In November 2015, a report was presented to this Cabinet Committee setting out the work being delivered by Highways Transportation and Waste (HT&W) with the Kent Resource Partnership Street Scene Project Group. This report provides an update on the work programme for 2015/16 and sets out the programme for 2016/17.
- 1.2 Litter in the public realm continues to be a problem across the country and this includes litter on the highway. As well as being unsightly and marring the appearance of the county, there is also a high cost to collect and dispose of this waste. The responsibility for waste collection and street cleansing lies with the District/Borough councils whilst KCC is the disposal authority.

## 2. Financial implications

- 2.1 The cost of litter collection and disposal across the county is being collated by all 13 Kent districts throughout the course of this year.

### **3. Kent Resource Partnership (KRP)**

3.1 The KRP Street Scene Project Group (a sub-group of KRP) has met twice since November 2015 and has discussed joint working on a number of initiatives and these are detailed in section 5 below.

#### **a) Update on 2015/16 projects**

3.2 **Fly-tipping** – Prior to March 31 2015, the arrangements and responsibilities for the clearance of fly-tipping from the public highway across the county varied depending upon which District/Borough the material was fly-tipped in. The responsibility for the clearance of fly-tipping was determined via differing criteria such as volume, the type of waste, or the location the material was fly-tipped in. All fly-tipping incidents are now being reported by the public to the relevant District / Borough council in the first instance, and not KCC. Those reports where the fly-tipped material is causing an obstruction of the carriageway will then be passed to Highway Operations for clearance.

3.3 This new process has improved reporting for customers and allowed accurate collection of fly-tipping data. This has been evidenced by the reduced number of enquires passed through to Highway Operations Priority Response Officers from districts whose responsibility it is to clear fly tips. This has therefore improved response times to the public and in addition the public now only have to contact the relevant district / borough to report them in the first instance.

3.4 **High speed roads** – Highway Operations agrees an annual programme for carrying out repairs on the high speed roads in the county. Arrangements are made for the roads/lanes to be closed and highway works carried out as needed. Clearing litter on these roads is essential, particularly in the grass verges. As this is a district function, co-operation is vital so that the works can be programmed and litter clearance done at the right time.

3.5 At the May meeting of the KRP Street Scene Project Group (SSPG), the high speed road programme was shared with districts and arrangements made for enhanced joint working during KCC road closures to ensure that litter is cleared in a timely manner either by district staff or by KCC staff acting on their behalf, prior to grass verges being cut. The programme is underway and due for completion in October 2016.

#### **b) Future activity**

3.6 At its meeting on 10 May 2016 the following activities were agreed as the focus of the work of the KRP SSPG for 2016/17:

#### **3.7 Litter**

- Joint behavioural change initiatives e.g. 'Love Kent, Hate Litter'. The next campaign takes place on 11-31 July 2016.

- Focus on reducing litter on the highway/laybys
- Ensure the Partnership is well positioned to engage with Highway England's new contractor, A1+.
- Ensure District/Borough's health & safety procedures are in place when litter picking activities take place. This can be either by contractors on District/Borough behalf or volunteers, Parishes and Community Groups. This also overlaps with discussions from the KRP Health & Safety Project Group.

### 3.8 **Fly tipping**

- 'Right Waste, Right Place' National Campaign - provide education to residents/small businesses of their duty of care when disposing of their waste.
- District/Borough to utilise the KCC Public Protection Intelligence team to ensure that information relating to flytipping is shared across the County and wider if appropriate to assist with investigations.
- Fixed penalties for flytipping came into force on 9 May 2016. This allows District/Borough enforcement teams to use new Fixed Penalty Notices. This fine is up to £400 and conversations are underway to ensure the fines are consistent across Kent.

### 3.9 **Street scene**

- Joint behavioural change initiatives, for example, 'Love Kent, Hate Litter' but focus on graffiti or dog fouling for a particular phase. (Kent-wide).
- Abandoned Vehicles (Including Caravans/ Trailers).
- Weeds

3.10 Following a recent meeting involving the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, Cllr Rory Love the KRP Chairman and Mr. Paldeep Bhatti the new KRP Manager along with KCC Waste, a joint letter was sent from KCC and the KRP to Highways England in relation to the litter issues on motorways including slip roads to the motorway network. The letter has been written to Simon Jones, South East and M25 Regional Divisional Director for Highways England asking or Highways England to be more fully engaged in KRP projects in the future and be party to addressing the serious litter problems.

3.11 Opportunities to maximise the recycling rate of the District/Borough activities will also form a strong focus for the coming year and this could be enhanced by considering options such as the opportunity to recycle litter bin waste.

## 4. **Conclusion**

4.1 Littering across the county is unsightly, blights communities and can be dangerous for road users. There are also significant costs for collection and disposal. The work that HTW has undertaken with the KRP SSPG as outlined above has made a positive contribution to addressing these

problems. The joint working that has resulted has been beneficial for the residents of Kent and people who visit the county. Going forward HTW will continue to work with KRP and district colleagues to share expertise, benefit from economies of scale and help shape the actions that will be taken in the coming year(s).

## **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Committee endorse Highways, Transportation and Waste's continued working with the KRP in the key areas identified in section 3 above and also any future appropriate related projects identified by the Partnership.

## **6. Contact details**

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