

TO: INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD

ON: 20 MARCH 2019

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PLANNING AND
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

**HEADING: ENVIRONMENT & PLACE FUNDING – PROGRESS AND FUTURE
ACTIVITIES**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 At its meeting on 2 March 2018, Council committed £2.5M of revenue resources to sustain for the next 5 years' investment in enhanced environmental cleaning across Renfrewshire. This will provide funding of £0.5M per financial year starting in 2018/19 and continuing until 2022/23.
- 1.2 This paper outlines the work undertaken by the Environment and Place programme in 2018/19 (Section 4) with regards to the additional funding and highlights operational activities including:
- Additional & targeted StreetScene and Roads activities, including mechanised street sweeping and the cleaning of gullies
 - Litter clean ups and targeted dog fouling activities & enforcement
 - Review of street furniture and roads infrastructure (signage, poles, barriers, etc)
 - Supporting community & volunteer participation
 - A highly visible marketing campaign
- 1.3 This paper further recommends a proposed programme of works for 2019/20 to continue and improve on the work undertaken to date. The 2019/20 priorities are detailed further in Section 5 of this report.

- 1.4 Regular updates on progress will be provided within the operational reporting updates at future Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Boards with an annual update being provided at the end of each financial year.
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2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board:
- (i) Notes the work undertaken on Environment & Place over the past year (2018/19)
 - (ii) Approves the Environment & Place programme and focus for 2019/20 and how this will influence work in the upcoming years.
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3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 2 March 2018, Council committed £2.5M of revenue resources to sustain for the next 5 years an Environment and Place programme that invests in enhanced environmental activities across Renfrewshire. This will provide funding of £0.5M per financial year starting in 2018/19 and continuing until 2022/23. The programme is principally delivered by Environment and Infrastructure and Communities, Housing and Planning Services.
- 3.2 This commitment doubled the £0.25M allocated to Environment & Communities at the Council meeting on 29 June 2017, which was prioritised to support communities through enhanced operational activities including:
- Additional & targeted StreetScene and Roads activities, including mechanised street sweeping and the cleaning of gullies
 - Litter clean ups and targeted dog fouling activities & enforcement
 - Review of old & redundant street furniture and roads infrastructure (signage, poles, barriers, etc)
 - Supporting community & volunteer participation
 - A highly visible marketing campaign
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4. WORK UNDERTAKEN IN 2018/2019

Street Gullies

- 4.1 An enhanced programme of gully cleaning has been carried out as part of this investment, through the provision of additional gully cleaning machines & staffing. The enhanced gully cleaning service is tackling a one-off cleaning of all gullies across Renfrewshire and planning for repairs and replacement of defective gullies.
- 4.2 To this point in 2018/19 13,000 gullies have been visually inspected and cleaned. Whilst the one-off gully clean has been undertaken, this will continue to be a priority in 2019/20 to allow a strategic approach to gullies to be employed, allowing a targeted approach to blockages and potential flooding issues.
- 4.3 From the 13,000 gullies cleared, 330 tonnes of debris and detritus has been removed.
- 4.4 In 2018/19 a gully App was produced to allow data to be captured on when gullies were done and what issues were found at the time. It also highlighted the reason why a gully couldn't be cleaned e.g. parked car. This data allows a proactive programme to be implemented for gullies moving forward.



Street Cleaning

- 4.5 An enhanced street cleaning and community litter picking service was undertaken with the investment. This enhanced service of mechanical sweeping allowed streets to be cleaned every 2 months, rather than 6-monthly. In addition, litter pickers have been recruited and deployed within Renfrewshire's communities, working on a rolling programme allowing all communities to be targeted.

Roadside Litter Rapid Response Team (RRT)

- 4.6 A roadside litter RRT was introduced as a priority in 2018/19 to allow roadside litter in fast flowing rural roads to be tackled. Due to the complexity of some roads in Renfrewshire, traffic management is required to ensure the safety of workers lifting litter. This team has been trained in appropriate traffic management requirements and has allowed key routes to be targeted, removing litter and debris as part of the Environment & Place funding.

Signage and Infrastructure across Renfrewshire

- 4.7 An assessment of signage and poles across Renfrewshire was undertaken to identify the location and condition of the infrastructure and if there is any vegetation encroaching/overhanging. To date, 70% of Renfrewshire has been assessed and has identified street furniture, road signage & infrastructure for removal/ replacement and cleaning across Renfrewshire.
- 4.8 The completed works will be transferred onto a GIS layer within the Renfrewshire Council Asset database and will allow work to be undertaken in 2019/20 on addressing issues identified.

Team Up to Clean Up

- 4.9 The Team Up to Clean Up campaign is a key strand of the Environment & Place workstream in getting communities working together. Team Up to Clean Up has seen a 474% increase in community clean ups since being launched in November 2017 and has successfully harnessed the efforts of volunteers from the local community, schools and business, to make a difference to the local environment.
- 4.10 The Big Spring Clean in April 2018 brought together communities to undertake community litter picks and led to:
- 33 community clean ups over one weekend
 - Over 600 bags of litter being collected
 - Over 1000 individual participants
- 4.11 School children and school communities were both early and keen participants in the Campaign. School pupils are recognised as a key focus group who can lead the way in behavioural change and school pupils have been active and enthusiastic participants, keen to demonstrate in a positive way their concern for their local environment. A number of schools participated in the Big Spring Clean event and 52 school clean-ups have taken place since April 2018.
- 4.12 Many businesses also actively participated and litterpick events have been organised and delivered by some relatively large employers in the area:
- McKenzie Distribution, Phoenix
 - Glasgow Airport (Industrial Park)
 - Morrisons Johnstone
 - McDonalds, Burger King, KFC and Showcase Cinemas
- 4.13 September 2018 saw the launch of the Spotless September Challenge, another month-long event. An impressive 45 clean-ups took place removing 745 bags of litter. The final weekend in September offered a celebration in

recognition of volunteers efforts at the Team Up to Clean Up Appreciation Event in Paisley Town Hall. Volunteers and community groups received thanks and the Convenor of the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board issued participants with a Certificate of Appreciation.



- 4.14 The Team Up to Clean Up campaign to reduce levels of dog fouling is intelligence-led and concentrates resources where dog fouling issues have been identified. Patrols are increased to detect or deter instances of dog fouling, signage is erected, and templates are sprayed on footpaths with messages: "Someone isn't picking up after their dog.... is it you?" or Kids play here. Pick up after your dog". These stencils are designed to resonate with the irresponsible owners and create a stigma around failure to pick up.
- 4.15 A dedicated website section has been developed for Team Up to Clean Up and provides information on how to take part in Community Clean Ups and relevant contact information. From April 2018 to December 2018, 4,128

pageviews were generated. The website can be accessed at <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/teamuptocleanup>.

- 4.16 A sustained programme of social media engagement has also taken place with a series of Facebook posts and tweets to promote the brand and encourage local support of the campaign. From July 2018 to December 2018 the Team Up to Clean campaign has achieved a total social media reach of 937,000 with 64 posts and 3358 clicks.
- 4.17 As part of the LENS intrapreneur project, Team Up to Clean Up was successful in gaining money to roll out caddies to community groups. This included a starter pack for communities to undertake work including rake, hoes, wheelbarrow etc. This could potentially include power tools and training is being undertaken to assist community groups. The caddies are currently being rolled out in a programme that will continue throughout 2019.

Gritter Tracking Application

- 4.18 As part of the renaming of gritters across Renfrewshire, a commitment was made to produce a “live” gritter application that would allow members of the public to see where the gritters were deployed to ensure their area was covered. This was delivered in early 2019 and is available to the public at <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/grittertracker>
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5. PRIORITISED WORK FOR 2019/20

- 5.1 To continue and enhance the cleanliness and infrastructure operational activities in Renfrewshire, most of the work activities that were prioritised and undertaken in 2018/19 will continue, with the focus on delivering long term sustainable improvements to the environment and infrastructure across all of Renfrewshire.

- 5.2 The planned initial programme of work for 2019/20 is set out below:

Signage, Infrastructure and Fly Posting across Renfrewshire

- 5.3 As detailed in Section 4 above, a survey was undertaken to identify and quantify issues with signage and poles across Renfrewshire. An enhanced asset management scheme will be undertaken to allow assets to be plotted on GIS and work will be undertaken in 2019/20 to repair, remove or clean poles and signs across Renfrewshire. This will include resourcing support to focus on fly posting, targeting repeat offenders of fly posting and potential enforcement under the Roads Scotland Act.

Street Sweeping and Community Litter Picking

- 5.4 Enhanced mechanical sweeping will continue throughout 2019/20 in line with work undertaken over the previous year. Additional community litter pickers will remain to support a rolling programme, across all of Renfrewshire's communities.

Roadside Litter RRT (including Traffic Management)

- 5.5 The Roadside Litter RRT was well received in 2018/19 and the enhanced service will continue in 2019/20. The team will continue to focus on rural and arterial roads and will tackle litter, predominantly thrown from vehicles.

Gully Cleaning

- 5.6 The focus over 2019/20 will be with those previously inspected and cleaned in 2017/2018 to again inspect, clean and detail the level of fill since last cleaned to provide a future picture of the frequency each gully needs cleaned going forward as part of a scheduled programme.

Team Up to Clean Up

- 5.7 The funding allocated will enable the continued development of the Team Up to Clean Up campaign and programme activities. The trend in increased activity over spring months will be harnessed with the launch of the Big Spring Clean 2019. The event will launch on 29 March 2019 and take place across the month of April. Schools and communities have already expressed an interest as well as a few local businesses.
- 5.8 A strong partnership is being developed with Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) who are keen to work alongside Renfrewshire in delivering their 2019 national campaigns. KSB plan to shine a light on roadside litter and litter in our waterways (#upstreambattle). This joint working will support Team Up to Clean Up in targeting local HGV/taxi drivers to reduce roadside litter. KSB will further arrange training for 2 Renfrewshire community groups on the actions they can safely take to reduce or clear litter from waterways.
- 5.9 Corporate Communications have commissioned a short story "The Clumps....." which is currently under construction, due to be issued to primary school children in April 2019. The book tells the story of a litter-louping family who change their ways only after an unpleasant experience is delivered. The book enables children to imagine the impact of a world full of litter and dog fouling and is hoped to have a long-lasting impact.
- 5.10 A Team Up to Clean Up short clip has been filmed for social media which aims to let prospective litter pickers appreciate how easy it is to arrange an event. The clip was filmed as a "How to..." guide. It is expected this clip will go into circulation publicly around mid-March 2019.

- 5.11 Further to these exciting, innovative workstreams, the core campaign will continue to build strong, meaningful connections throughout 2019, supporting communities, schools and businesses to look after their neighbourhoods.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** – None

Renfrewshire is thriving – a clean and welcoming environment will make Renfrewshire a better place to live, work, visit and invest.

Renfrewshire is well – The Environment & Place work allows members of the community to assist with community clean ups leading to an improved feeling of wellbeing and ownership amongst citizens and communities.

4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**

(a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website

8. **Health & Safety** – All work undertaken is assessed under appropriate Health and Safety legislation.
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9. **Procurement** – All procurement legislation is adhered to when items are procured for this project.
 10. **Risk** – None
 11. **Privacy Impact** – None
 12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None
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List of Background Papers

- a) Improving Renfrewshire's Environment and Place – Renfrewshire Council meeting 29 June 2017.
- b) Environment & Place Funding – Progress Update and Future Activities – Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board 21 March 2018.
- c) Environment & Place Funding – Future Activities – Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board 30 May 2018.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Environment & Infrastructure Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is the Operations Manager.

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