

Report for: Cabinet 9th March 2021.

Title: Cleaner Haringey Strategy.

**Report
authorised by :** Stephen McDonnell

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Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision: Key Decision**

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. This report seeks approval from Cabinet for a Cleaner Haringey Strategy to provide a high-level framework to deliver on the Council's ambition for Haringey to be a place with strong, resilient and connected communities where people can lead active and healthy lives in an environment that is safe, clean and green.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 Haringey is a vibrant and busy London borough. Like all inner London boroughs, keeping public spaces free from litter, detritus, illegally dumped rubbish and graffiti continues to be challenging. Keeping the borough clean is one of the most visible obligations the council has.
- 2.2 In this report, I set out a plan to tackle four priorities that have evolved from our consultations:
- Fight illegal rubbish dumping
 - Keep our streets free from litter and detritus
 - Tackle the blight of graffiti and flyposting
 - Ensure waste is sufficiently contained in bins
- 2.3 In satisfying these priorities, I am aware we have to work smarter and meet the financial challenges all local authorities are faced with.
- 2.4 In meeting this challenge, I call on all council staff, residents and business owners to help our officers keep the borough clean and report problems where they exist. By working together, with strong civic pride, I believe we can achieve a cleaner Haringey

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that Cabinet:
- i. Approve the Cleaner Haringey Strategy as attached at Appendix 1.
 - ii. Delegate authority to the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transformation & Public Realm Investment, to make minor amendments to the Strategy as and when required.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1. The challenges of waste management in Haringey are substantial and an ongoing key concern for our residents and business owners. We know that these challenges will increase as more people move into the borough and more businesses decide to locate to Haringey on the back of our successful regeneration plans.
- 4.2. We know from the work we have carried out over the last 18 months that a concerted effort, driven by clear priorities can deliver results. Our success in tackling problematic fly tips, waste containment issues and increasing our engagement with local communities is evident. We need to build on our work to date and believe that our Cleaner Haringey Strategy offers a framework that clearer sets out the challenges and concerns of our communities, understands the changing nature of our borough and offers four clear priorities, a set of deliverables and outcome measures for us to work towards and be held accountable for.
- 4.3. The Strategy has been informed by reviewing service data, resident surveys and member feedback. The Strategy outlines a number of short to medium term actions that will be undertaken within the remit of Waste Client that satisfy four priorities:
- Fight illegal rubbish dumping
 - Keep our streets free from litter and detritus
 - Tackle the blight of graffiti and fly posting
 - Ensure waste is sufficiently contained in bins

5. Alternative options considered

5.1. Do Nothing

- 5.1.1. There is clear ambition in Haringey for a cleaner environment, as captured in the Borough Plan's Place Priority. Doing nothing would not be consistent with this level of ambition. The delivery of a Strategy offers a set of commitments and action plans to guide all the activities around creating a more attractive, and cleaner borough.

5.2. Alternative option

- 5.2.1 The Council could continue to deliver a Waste Service and improve its offer to its many residents and businesses through a number of separate related Strategies, Policies and Action Plans. An overarching Strategy offers a joined-up framework for us to deliver on our promise, use resources effectively and more clearly link our waste improvement plans to wider priorities and strategies across the Council.

6. Background information

6.1 National Context

- 6.1.1 All local authorities have a duty to provide and maintain a clean and safe local environment. The legislative framework can be found in the Environmental Protection Act and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.
- 6.1.2. In 2017, the Government published its Litter strategy for England acknowledging the need to work together to stop people dropping litter. It endorsed and promoted support of the valuable efforts people undertake to help clear up litter in their local area. It also recognised the relationship between a clean environment and people's wellbeing and the part it can play in helping the local economy. Both businesses and residents are more likely to locate and stay in an area that feels safe and is clean.
- 6.1.3. More recently the Government published its wide-ranging Environment Bill. Within it are commitments to tighten controls on waste, increase recyclability and make manufacturers more responsible for the products they place on the market. Whilst its scope and format are yet to be decided, one initiative to evolve from the Bill is a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers. Its implementation in England is expected within the next few years. The financial value of the container to the consumer means there's far less chance it will end up as litter – either on the street or in litter bins.

6.2. Local Context

- 6.2.1. Achieving a cleaner Haringey touches upon and supports all the priorities stated within our Borough Plan: housing, people, place, economy and how the council ensures it delivers best value services. Specifically, outcomes 9 to 12 of the Plan:
- Outcome 9: A healthier, active and greener place
 - Outcome 10: A cleaner, accessible and attractive place
 - Outcome 11: A culturally engaged place
 - Outcome 12: A safer borough
- 6.2.2. The Plan also pledges to strengthen the relationship between residents and public services, building on the sense of community in the borough and achieving outcomes by working together for the benefit of everyone in Haringey. The pledge is echoed throughout this Strategy.

6.3. Why do we need a Cleaner Haringey Strategy?

- 6.3.1. The borough of Haringey is a vibrant, 24/7 urban borough. It has a high number of private sector properties and in some areas, densely populated social housing estates. It is also home to some of the best green spaces and parks in London. Keeping the borough clean and providing a variety of waste services to the community already presents a number of challenges. We expect those challenges to increase over the next few years as the number of properties, people and businesses grow as a result of our large-scale ambitious regeneration plans.

- 6.3.2. Our residents like living in Haringey, they feel attached to their local area and share a sense of community and belonging. Generations of families from all different backgrounds have made Haringey their home and continue to do so. Our residents and businesses have invested in the borough and more will do so in the future as new people and families move into the area. They all rightly expect and deserve the best environment to live in - a place that is clean and safe where people are proud to live.
- 6.3.3. The strategy will offer a framework for us to deliver and be held accountable by our local resident and business owners to deliver on our place promise. Although the Strategy is limited to cleansing services only, its ambition is big and seeks to deliver on four key priorities:
- Fight illegal rubbish dumping
 - Keep our streets free from litter and detritus
 - Tackle the blight of graffiti and flyposting
 - Ensure waste is sufficiently contained in bins
- 6.3.4. Within all priorities we have identified the following key methods to get us to a cleaner Haringey:
- Prevention is better than cure
 - Clear public communication and information, using effective channels
 - Empower and support active community
 - Use what we have to best effect
 - A fair yet firm approach to enforcement
 - Be proactive – tackle problems early; don't let them repeat
- 6.3.5. Each priority is backed up with a series of actions and tools we will use to monitor our progress are detailed in a template and action plan that offers timescales for delivery.
- 6.3.6. We know that the above four priorities are key concerns for local residents and business owners, we also know through a wealth of research carried out that cleaner, greener and safer environments can support both mental and physical health and wellbeing.
- 6.3.7. Continuing to provide and improve a range of cleansing services will be difficult, especially against a background of reducing resources, but together with our residents, business and partners, we are committed to doing so.

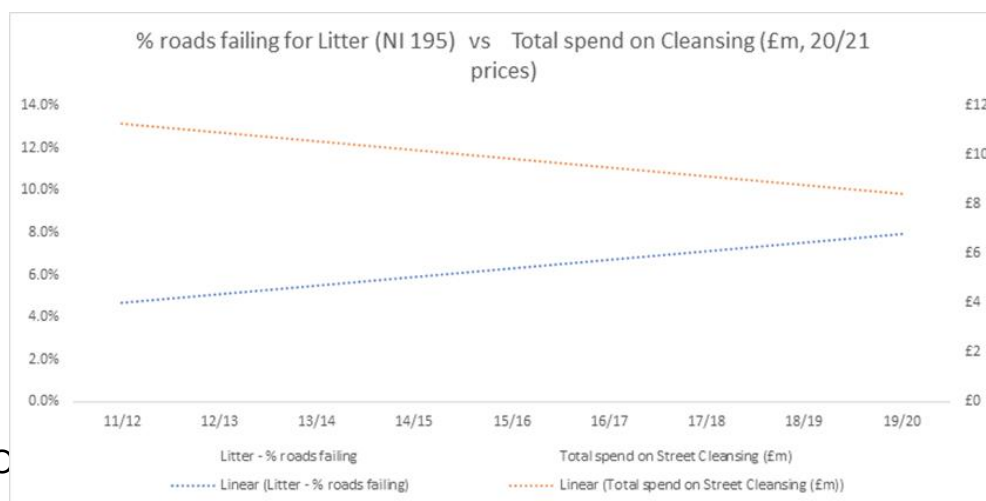
6.4. The cleansing service.

- 6.4.1. Haringey awarded an 'integrated waste contract' to our incumbent contractor Veolia in 2011. Under this, Veolia perform all street cleansing, weeding, fly tip and graffiti removal, domestic and commercial waste and recycling collections, fleet and winter maintenance, call and complaint handling, as well as leading on waste and litter engagement and communications. The contract was extended in 2018, with the agreement of both parties and can be extended for a final seven years from April 2025. It is the period leading up to this milestone that

this Strategy focuses upon, so Haringey is well placed to make informed, best value choices about its contractual relationship and or commissioning options, including insourcing thereafter.

- 6.4.2. Our contract monitoring team and Veolia's village managers make sure our cleansing performance keeps to the standards set. So far during 2020/21, between 96-98% of streets passed our 'day of sweep' contract performance criteria for litter immediately after being swept. The same test for detritus hit pass rates consistently above 98%, with the vast majority of assessments passing 99-100% of streets.
- 6.4.3. Haringey has successfully contained the sum it pays out for waste collection and street cleansing services. Our expenditure today is broadly comparable with that of over ten years ago, despite a growing population and inflationary uplifts year-on-year over that period. These reductions have been achieved by tactically redesigning services, making sure we do what we need to by minimising the impact on performance and providing cost-effective frontline services. If we had made no changes at all since 2011, we would have paid out £16million more on the integrated contract to date.
- 6.4.4. Our funding is tighter than ever before. To meet our Medium-Term Financial Strategy commitments, we will be reviewing how we clean Haringey's streets and testing new ways of working to make £300k of contract savings. The challenge is to find the optimum balance between expenditure and performance. The graph (fig.1) below tracks both of these factors since contract inception and as might be expected, the two start to converge. As we have reduced the resource deployed on street cleansing since 2011; 64 posts have been cut from a starting figure of 187, to find cost savings (the orange trendline and right axis), so the performance of that cleansing becomes more challenging (blue trendline and left axis).

Fig.1, street cleansing expenditure versus NI195 performance since contract inception



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6.5. Our Challenges and progress to date

6.5.1. The Strategy clearly sets out the challenges a borough such as Haringey presents when trying to keep it clean and clear of litter and fly tips. It recognises that parts of the borough lack much needed storage facilities for waste containment and that some of our arrangements in place for waste collections, such as timed collections on main roads, do not meet the needs of either our residents or traders.

6.5.2. We have also used the Strategy to highlight some of the progress made over the last 18 months in tackling some of these long-standing challenges. Our joining up of services, investment in CCTV and the imaginative work we have carried out to address the 10 top worst fly tipping locations, will be further rolled out and developed as part of the Strategy's answer to the ongoing problems.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1. The Cleaner Haringey Strategy sets out a high-level framework for delivering a wide range of Council Priorities in the Borough Plan, especially around improving the environment and reducing our impact on the environment, improving health and wellbeing and delivering these in a joined-up way.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

8.1 Finance

8.1.1 The adoption and implementation of the strategy will support the delivery of agreed MTFS savings of £0.3m. The ongoing implementation of the strategy will need to be within existing resources, but should additional resources be required these will need to feed into the next update of the MTFS.

8.2 Strategic Procurement

8.2.1 Strategic Procurement note the contents of the report and the strategy. There is no Procurement activity required as a result of this report at this time.

8.3 Legal

8.3.1 The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments as follows:

8.3.2 Pursuant to its powers and duties under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, the Council must provide a domestic waste collection service to all households in the Borough, may provide commercial waste collection services to businesses in the area and has a range of enforcement powers.

8.3.3 The Environment Bill 2019-21 which is passing through the House of Commons is aimed to replace the environmental protections enshrined in EU law which are no longer effective following the UK's departure from the EU and it includes powers aimed to ensure that local authorities can work more effectively to combat waste crime, with better access to evidence, improved powers of entry and the ability to keep fixed penalty notices at the appropriate level.

8.3.4 The delegation to the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods will enable minor amendments to be made to the Strategy once the Environment Bill is enacted.

8.3.5 The powers available to the Council are sufficient to enable the Cleaner Haringey Strategy to be implemented without any legal implications.

8.4 Equality

8.4.1 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

8.4.2 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex, and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status apply to the first part of the duty.

8.4.3 The proposed decision is to seek approval for a Cleaner Haringey Strategy to provide a high-level framework to deliver on the Council's ambition for Haringey to be a place with strong, resilient and connected communities where people can lead active and healthy lives in an environment that is safe, clean and green.

8.4.4 This strategy will impact all residents. The overall objective will be to make the physical environment in Haringey cleaner. We therefore anticipate that there will be an overall positive equalities impact – both directly and indirectly. Certain areas of the strategy and action plan carry equalities implications, which are set out in the attached EqIA.

8.4.5 It is noted that the strategy itself does not change policy or state new policy but suggests where new policy or service review is needed. As these are delivered, further equality assessments will be required in line with good practice and our equality obligations.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cleaner Haringey Strategy

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 Not applicable