



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 17 June 2021

Subject	REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT – PART 2
Report by	Councillor James Mallinder, Cabinet Member for The Environment
Supporting Officer	Kerry Blair Head of Operations Kerry.Blair@eastssuffolk.gov.uk 01502 523007

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Wards Affected:	All Wards

Purpose and high-level overview

Purpose of Report:

Scrutiny Committee requested a review of all aspects of Waste Management within the District, to include litter, fly tipping, recycling, waste reduction and penalty impositions.

This is the second of two reports in response to the review and this report covers the following items

- Contamination – in particular of blue bin contents, and the impact on East Suffolk Council.
- Littering and public realm – including the use of litter bins.
- PPE / Covid impacts on the refuse collection system

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Recommendation/s:

That the Scrutiny Committee considers this progress report on Waste Management in East Suffolk, with a view to making recommendations to Cabinet for service changes or improvements, as necessary.

Corporate Impact Assessment

Governance:

This report has been prepared for the Scrutiny Committee. The Council is required by Law to discharge certain overview and scrutiny functions.

These functions are an essential component of local democracy. Scrutiny Committees can contribute to the development of Council policies and also hold the Cabinet to account for its decisions

ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:

None.

Environmental:

The work covered in this report covers several important environmental issues for East Suffolk Council.

- Refuse collection helps the council deliver on its sustainability and recycling obligations. This will be increasingly important beyond 2023 with the introduction of changes under the government's Resource and Waste Strategy.
- In addition, the council's work to collect litter and ensure that bins are available in public spaces are important in order to provide a clean environment in which to live and work.

Equalities and Diversity:

None.

Financial:

The current budget for refuse collection across East Suffolk is in the region of £6m. In addition to this, around £1m is spent per annum on street cleansing.

Therefore, the issues covered in this report have a significant impact on the council's finances.

This is likely to become more acute from 2023, when the government's new Resource and Waste Strategy is likely to require local authorities to collect and process additional materials.

Human Resources:

None

ICT:

None.

Legal:

None.

Risk:

The main areas of risk for the issues summarised in this report are:

Financial: in particular, the potential for cost inflation in the waste collection service linked to the introduction of the new Resource and Waste Strategy

Reputational: Waste collection and littering are issues of key importance to local residents. Changes to this service are highly visible, and have an impact across all of the council's communities.

External Consultees:

Scrutiny Committee
Ward councillors
Suffolk County Council
Norse Commercial Services

Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the Strategic Plan which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
T01	Growing our Economy		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
T02	Enabling our Communities		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
T03	Maintaining Financial Sustainability		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T04	Delivering Digital Transformation		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T05	Caring for our Environment		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XXX	Governance		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</p> <p>Cleaner streets and well managed waste collection ensure the environment in East Suffolk is one that people feel proud to live, work and invest in.</p> <p>Working with residents to ensure that they understand the ways in which they can recycle materials is an important part of our drive to increase recycling rates</p>			

Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	<p>Scrutiny Committee asked for recycling bin contamination, labelling and educational programme to be addressed within this report. This is covered in points 2.1 to 2.12 below. Specifically, this has been examined under the following sub-sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contamination of blue bins and educating users about all types of waste. See 2.1 – 2.7. • Research the possibility of private housing developers choosing to include central waste-recycling points on estates so that only black bins are kept at homes. See 2.8 – 2.9. • Seek ways to improve community waste collection points (e.g.: bottle banks, waste-paper collection, clothing banks etc.) all of which would ease household waste disposal needs. See 2.10 – 2.12.
1.2	<p>Scrutiny Committee asked how we can engender civic pride in areas of Hidden Needs and high deprivation. This is covered in 2.13 below. Specifically, this has been further examined under the following sub-section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the possibility of acknowledging the difficulties of some residents in HMOs in managing their refuse collection bins.
1.3	<p>Scrutiny Committee asked for a review of Public spaces litter storage and collection. This is covered in the sections below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the timetable in place for the pro-active checking of on-street litter bins. See 2.14 – 2.15. • Address whether litter collected from mixed-waste bins in public spaces is sorted into recyclables and non-recyclables. See 2.16. • Review all existing public waste-bins – size, location and changing to ‘gull-proof’ lids. See 2.17. • Consider installing general waste public bins that have solar-powered internal crusher. See 2.18. • Address difficulties of who monitors litter on Retail Parks to ensure that by-laws etc. are adhered to. See 2.21.
1.4	<p>Scrutiny Committee asked that we consider the impact of Covid 19 specifically in relation to production of PPE waste, restricted hours of recycling centres and impact on beach cleans. This is covered in the sections below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not related to ESC, but consider what happens to the mixed waste collected from commercial premises, for example, Gisleham Industrial Estate - is it sorted by Biffa and other companies? They are operating in ES so, surely, we should have an interest in their operating procedures and their effect on the ES environment. See 2.20. • Review, perhaps, the impact of China refusing to take recyclables and the implications on material destination. See 2.20. • Investigate the education of takeaway outlets during these two lockdown periods where eating in has been impossible; address the new national

Litter Strategy and how this has affected the number of penalty notices issued for offences of throwing litter from cars. See 2.21 and 2.22.

- Impact of Covid-19 on community beach cleans and litter picks and HWRCs. See 2.23.

2 Current position

2.1 Contamination levels are recorded as a percentage of the total recycling household waste rejected for processing. This is expressed as a percentage of the total recycling tonnages collected in the district.

There are a number of elements to this. Each load that arrives at the MRF is sampled. Highly contaminated loads can be rejected at this stage. These loads are identified as 'gate rejects'.

In addition to gate rejects, the level of contamination of each load is determined. This is known as the 'contamination level'. Stats for both of these are shown below.

Total recycling collected for the period (the 12 months ending March 2021) was 18,180 tonnes. This doesn't include materials rejected either as a whole load (gate reject) or during the sorting stage.

Gate Rejects

The gate rejects are split between the 2 regions, with each having deposited initially into its own Transfer Station.

The Northern part of the district has shown a level of gate rejects at 10.5% and for the Southern part of the district this is 0.3%. The weights of the rejected whole recycling loads were:

- North – for the 12 months ending March 2021, resulted in 918 tons rejected.
- South – for the 12 months ending March 2021, resulted in 30 tons rejected.

The prime reason for gate rejects loads to be initially rejected is excessive moisture, typically due to rain or fluids, such as drinks / food etc.

The financial impact of gate rejects

This contamination of whole loads translates in lost Recycling Performance Payments equating to £1,639 for the South region, and £50,308 for the North region, totalling £51,947.

The balance of the rejected materials are the 'processed rejects' i.e. sifted during the sorting stage.

Once being 'sorted' the rejected materials are combined together with other LA's materials from across the County, therefore an exact weight for ES rejected material is not available, albeit total tonnages sent to the Incinerator are recorded. Therefore, to determine the main contaminants for ESC and to obtain a

contamination % a sample is assessed.

Contamination rates – ESC

The sampling process includes capturing between 5 and 8 ESC material bundles, each weighing 60kg.

The sampling data shows the average over the 12 month period:

	Acceptable	Objectionable	Prohibitive
South	81.547%	4.18%	14.27%
North	76.066%	4.75%	19.19%

South

North

The average contamination rate across Suffolk for this period based on the sampling data was 15.9%.

This compares with the targeted materials recycling for the MRF based on a contracted input specification of 95% Acceptable with 5% allowed for objectionable materials. It has been agreed by SCC with Viridor to reduce this to 90% Acceptable and with a permitted 10% Objectionable.

It should be noted that higher levels of contamination are associated with two rounds in Lowestoft. Section 2.2 of this report, details are given of the work that is taking place to address the issues presented by these two rounds.

2.2 ESC has been working with FCC, the operators of the Transfer Station in Lowestoft – which has the most significant issues with contamination - to try to reduce the impact of contamination, and this is being performed in three stages:

- 1) Each load tipped at the Lowestoft Transfer Station (see above figures detailing the levels of contamination) is checked by both the Driver and a member of staff from FCC (Transfer Station). The reason for a focus on Lowestoft is because the issues of contamination are so acute in Lowestoft – driven by two rounds where there are particularly high rates of contamination.
- 2) The load is then categorised as Good, Fair or Bad. In conjunction with this any loads classed as Bad are located in a separate bay, to avoid contaminating the whole bulked load, albeit all waste is sent to Viridor for processing.
- 3) The round number is also recorded allowing us to focus on these collection areas to provide additional support. Particular rounds where contamination is an issue further educational material will be issued.

It should be noted that dealing with contamination at the transfer station is only one approach to dealing with the issue. Resident education and – if necessary – enforcement is also needed, and our approach to this is detailed later in this paper.

2.3	<p>Main contaminants</p> <p>The MRF 'gate fee' includes the additional cost of depositing rejects at the Energy from Waste Facility in Great Blakenham (EFW) for incineration. Whole rejected loads cost £102 / ton. This is the fee that ESC is charged at the gate of the EFW facility. SCC currently fund this – therefore the cost is to the 'whole system' rather than ESC specifically. However, this is currently being reviewed.</p> <p>The contaminants that can spoil a load are classed as either Objectionable or Prohibitive. Objectionable includes metals and hard plastics (where there is some value, minimal, to be gained if processed). Prohibitive items are those items that cannot be recycled – or that damage other materials (for example, soil, garden waste or wet material)</p> <p>The sample analysis performed at the MRF shows a similar pattern across East Suffolk. The main contaminants in ranked order are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Glass • 2nd Black Plastic waste sacks • 3rd former Waveney area - Food • 3rd former Coastal area - Foil / Tetrapaks • 4th former Waveney area – Foil / Tetrapaks • 4th former Coastal area - Food
2.4	<p>Work has been carried out to try to address poor recycling behaviours amongst residents.</p> <p>A number of initiatives have been employed, focusing on education, accountability and enforcement, with the focus being to help and educate residents as to which materials can be recycled, and to provide some key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firstly, an updated recycling leaflet – 'Together we can get our recycling right' was posted to all householders in January 2021 (produced by the Suffolk Waste Partnership). This was complemented by various social media campaigns (via ESC, SCC / SWP). • Secondly A5 and A3 recycling stickers (the same design as the above) have been produced for crews to place on bins, where required. For example, the A3 sticker can be placed onto communal waste bins. • Thirdly, RCV Banners are being produced (following on from the Food Savvy campaign consisting of vehicle banners and a social media release) to highlight certain key contaminants - glass, food, plastic bags and nappies - that should not be placed into your recycling bin.
2.5	<p>As well as the actions above - supplementary support from such bodies as the Greenprint Plastic Action Champions who communicate / recommend how best to reduce overall consumption, resulting in less waste.</p> <p>In addition, the Suffolk Waste Partnership carry out information campaigns that aim to educate residents on which items go in which bin – for example, the Christmas 'bin hanger' campaign, which is carried out every year.</p>
2.6	<p>Persistent poor recycling and contamination</p> <p>In the event of repeated 'non-compliance' – there are a number of options for East</p>

	<p>Suffolk Council.</p> <p>First amongst these has to be education. This can include distributing leaflets to the householder, or engagement with residents on the doorstep to educate what material can be disposed of in each bin.</p> <p>There are enforcement options available to ESC if education does not work - however these are complex, and should be used only where all other options have failed.</p>
2.7	<p>For point 1 (mentioned in 2.2) a daily record is also sent to both Norse and the Council. Overall recycling statistics are provided for by Viridor / SCC.</p>
2.8	<p>A requirement that private housing developers to provide centralised recycling facilities would be a consideration for Planning and from an operational perspective agreed with the waste contractor.</p> <p>Importantly the Council's Environmental-Guidance-Note.pdf (eastsoffolk.gov.uk) states (on page 11, Materials and Waste) that "New development should have enough space to store sufficient wheelie bins for each individual dwelling".</p> <p>However, in larger developments, there is an opportunity to review this approach – as set out in point 2.9.</p>
2.9	<p>ESC is also reviewing the potential use of central collection points in our own developments such as Deben High School. Where East Suffolk Council is developing housing schemes, the viability of central refuse collection points will be explored as part of the feasibility study.</p> <p>This <i>could</i> include centralising all collection points (for example, black and blue bin collections) Or – and more likely – the provision of additional recycling points for non-standard items within the housing development.</p> <p>The advantages of a central collection point are twofold – firstly to increase the efficiency of collection, by reducing the number of points that crews need to visit in order to collect refuse. And secondly to reduce the visual impact of large numbers of wheeled bins at each property.</p> <p>It should be noted, however, that whilst collection points are generally accepted in, say, blocks of flats, there is still an expectation amongst UK house owners that they will have a dedicated bin and separate collection for their property.</p>
2.10	<p>Within East Suffolk, there are two providers of glass recycling – Indigo as part of a contract covering all of Suffolk except the former Suffolk Coastal area, and Norse in the south of the district.</p> <p>Norse glass recycling allows for greater flexibility in placement over the standard fixed container as the collection 'banks' are 1100litre wheelie bins lifted by an RCV equipped with a tail lift.</p> <p>This enables containers to be situated in places that would otherwise be inaccessible to the machinery that is required to empty the standard bell-style containers, such as those operated by Indigo, which are lifted by a crane and cannot be sited close to overhanging obstacles such as power lines and trees.</p>

	<p>Locations of sites available on our website Recycling » East Suffolk Council and SWP Recycling bring banks - Suffolk Recycling. It should be noted that these locations are under review.</p> <p>It is almost certain that these arrangements will have to change in line with the new Resource and Waste Strategy. Whilst this strategy – which represents a major shift in how local authorities collect waste – is yet to be finalised, it is likely that glass will need to be collected by councils at the kerbside, as part of people’s domestic collection.</p>
2.11	<p>Currently East Suffolk Council provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South of the District – 193 Bottle Banks, 75 Bring Banks for textiles, clothing, shoes and books. • North of the District – 81 Bottle Banks, 8 Bring Banks for textiles <p>These are the banks operated by East Suffolk Council – although some of these banks (particularly textile banks) might be owned by charities. Ward members can request - if there is space – that a bring bank is added to a location.</p> <p>In addition, bring banks can be requested by any landowner – for example, a supermarket chain - and as a result, the provision of bring banks are often outside of ESC’s control. The commercial arrangements between bring banks (often charities) and the landowner again can vary from site to site.</p> <p>Collection Bring Bank weights (12 months) are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass c. 6300 tons (3800 – South, 2400 North) • All others c. 43 tons (37 South, 6 North) <p>Often textile banks are completely independent from the council, as many 3rd party sites make their own arrangements directly with a charity or commercial bank provider to have a textile bank situated on their premises and make it accessible to public.</p>
2.12	<p>Due to fewer numbers of banks provided in the North of the District, it could be considered that it should be a priority to increase the number of bring sites in the North. Suggestions have been made in the scoping document that sites could be installed offering increased paper collection, for example.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that ESC offers a wide-ranging kerbside recycling service, which collects wastepaper effectively through the blue bin. In fact, paper and card are the most commonly collected items through the blue bin. There is a risk that if ESC funded bring banks for paper, these would attract the wastepaper of commercial businesses – who are currently paying for a trade waste service. Therefore the implications of increasing facilities need to be carefully considered.</p> <p>It should be noted that some materials – for example, paper – have a negative value in terms of the market for resale. So, operating an additional paper bank means additional cost for East Suffolk Council – with no benefit to the</p>

	<p>householder, who can use their blue bin to dispose of paper.</p> <p>Across the District residents can also access the Household Waste Recycling Centres (as provided for in the links above) for materials such as Tetrapaks that cannot be recycled through the blue bin.</p>
2.13	<p>The Scrutiny scoping document seeks thoughts on addressing and helping support residents in HMO's and engender civic pride in areas of Hidden Needs and high deprivation.</p> <p>In parts of our more urban areas, this is a significant issue. We know that some rounds in parts of Lowestoft see contamination rates greater than 25% - which is significantly higher than the average across the district.</p> <p>This is thought to be driven by the difficulties of encouraging good recycling behaviour in areas where there is a more transient population – for example in buildings that have been converted to Homes of Multiple Occupation (HMOs)</p> <p>There are a number of potential approaches to improving this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Labelling all communal bins to clearly show what material should go into each bin. This may help those people who are new to the area – and who may have had different disposal rules in their previous area of residence. 2) Contacting households where persistent issues continue with additional information, including the outcomes of recycling i.e. reasons why and global / environmental benefits. 3) Providing residents who have confirmed they wish to participate with separate receptacles, following on from point 2 above, essentially a bagged waste service already provided for by Norse in cases where bins cannot be safely emptied. 4) ESC also seek to work directly with landlords and housing associations to promote and educate residents / occupiers to recycle. In some parts of the district, a single property management company may be responsible for a large number of HMOs – and we can engage with these companies through our Private Sector Housing team. We need to ensure that the refuse collection arrangements of housing providers are fit for purpose. <p>However – it is clear that given the impact of high levels of contamination in some areas, further enforcement options are explored, and consideration given to the collection policy at those HMOs where all other options have been explored.</p>
2.14	<p>Norse prepare a schedule for emptying litter bins based on expected and actual use.</p> <p>At our Coastal locations, such as Felixstowe, Southwold, Aldeburgh and Lowestoft additional resource is provided to ensure the bins are emptied when full on a daily basis – or more frequently in the summer period.</p> <p>The emptying regime is reviewed by Norse in consultation with the Town Council and ESC. ESC and Norse aim to take a flexible and responsive approach to litter collection – adding resources where issues arise or are anticipated to arise. For example, ESC has added several additional bins and collection points in coastal</p>

	<p>locations for the summer of 2021, in anticipation of increased visitor numbers.</p> <p>ESC is also trialling the use of new technology to improve with collection – for example the use of sensors which alert Norse when a bin is full, triggering a collection. More detail in section 2.15.</p>
2.15	<p>ESC is commencing a trial with Suffolk County Council and University of Suffolk and other partners where bin level sensors are installed to monitor when a bin requires collection. Norse would only arrive to empty the bin when it is at a certain fill level, for example 3 quarters full.</p> <p>This trial is for 6 months ending September 2021. The results of this could determine a wider roll out of this smart bin technology. This delivers service efficiencies and environmental benefits, ensuring the bin is only visited when required. Anticipated benefits include reduced carbon emissions as a result of unnecessary visits to empty the bin.</p>
2.16	<p>We have installed mixed litter and recycling bins in Aldeburgh, Southwold and Felixstowe. The contents are sent for recycling (and monitored on an ad-hoc basis).</p> <p>If successful, the intent is to continue deploying these elsewhere. Existing older style mixed bins (we have identified 33 across the District) are being reviewed if they can be recommissioned for use and assessing the operational practicalities of collecting.</p> <p>ESC has increased the visibility of recycling information at these bin sites – to encourage members of the public to use the right bin to recycle material.</p> <p>It is more difficult to get people to use the correct bin in ‘on the go’ locations, compared with a domestic bin – but ESC has been working with Town Councils and with Norse to try to address this issue.</p>
2.17	<p>In reviewing the provision of litter bins we have successfully, and are continuing to, locate standard 240lt lidded general public litter bins of the same colour and design as household bins.</p> <p>This provides a consistent message for litter disposal (and will include the same labelling) and avoids the multi-colour bins (green, blue, open top etc.) that were there previously for the collection of litter.</p>
2.18	<p>Solar power compactor bins cost approximately £5000 each. The balance between benefit and cost needs to be considered when deciding whether this is a good investment. The business case for this would need to be based on an assessment that a compacting bin requires less frequent emptying than a conventional bin.</p>
2.19	<p>Viridor – PPE</p> <p>There has been minimal impact at the MRF for bulked recycled loads – if in the load they tend to appear in clusters / in bags and ‘are easily captured in the pre-sort areas of the plant before they can get mixed into any recovered commodities. The public have been sensible and must have been placing them into their residual waste bins. It does go to show that when the public understand, they can do a good job in placing the right items in the right bins’.</p>
2.20	<p>The Kerbside Bin End Use Register would provide such data Where recycling goes - Suffolk Recycling This provides annual data for each recyclate collected at the kerbside and the destination country, as summarised below for the period 1 April</p>

2019 to 31 March 2020 (please note these figures are for all of Suffolk):

Metals (steel and aluminium cans) – 3605 tonnes (6.9%)

- UK 96.3%
- Germany 3.4%
- Greece 0.4%

Card – 6856 tonnes (13.1%)

- Vietnam 25.6%
- India 23.4%
- China 17.7%
- Indonesia 15.1%
- Taiwan 9.2%
- Thailand 3.4%
- Pakistan 2.7%
- Turkey 2.2%
- UK 0.7%

Paper – 24530 tonnes (46.7%)

- UK 28.5%
- India 26.5%
- Indonesia 17.4%
- China 8.7%
- Vietnam 7.8%
- Germany 5.9%
- Thailand 3.9%
- Netherlands 1%
- Turkey, South Korea, Malaysia, Belgium each <1%

Plastics (tubs, trays, bottles) – 8635 tonnes (16.4%)

- UK 65.2%
- Turkey 15.1%
- Romania 5.9%
- Netherlands 5%
- Germany 3.2%
- Spain 1.7%
- France 1.3%
- Ukraine, Italy, Thailand, Russia, Portugal, Taiwan, Slovenia, Greece, Slovakia each <1%

Contaminants – 8921 tonnes (17%)

With reference to collection of material from commercial sites – for example, Gisleham Industrial Estate – each business will have their own commercial collection arrangements. These may be with companies such as Biffa, or Veolia. These companies in turn will have their own processing and disposal contracts, and disposal will need to comply with UK legislation.

2.21 **In respect of Takeaways and Retail Parks:**

	<p>Powers exist under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to address the problems caused by litter from takeaway outlets which, for example, do not provide street bins commensurate with their contribution to the problem of street litter.</p> <p>Those powers can be used to require establishments to provide and maintain a sufficient number of bins and adequate frequency of emptying. These powers have not been used, because the same objective has been achieved informally by negotiation, without recourse to legal powers.</p> <p>We record complaints of litter on our complaint recording system (UNIform), so that any recurrence of incidents arising from the same premises can be identified and addressed with the appropriate graduated response, beginning with education and persuasion, leading to enforcement and appropriate sanctions where these fail to achieve improvements.</p> <p>We received 220 litter complaints in East Suffolk for the whole of 2019 (78 during the first 4 months). This fell to 144 during 2020 (48 during the first 4 months). During the first 4 months of 2021 we have received 80 litter complaints.</p> <p>In respect of retail parks, we do have access to legal powers to tackle ‘defacement of land by litter’ under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014, which repealed and replaced the previous powers under the EPA1990. The first part of the process is to document the existence of an actual problem which is persistent or likely to recur, detrimental to the community and unreasonable. (The three tests for a community protection notice).</p>
2.22	<p>In respect of Littering from Vehicles:</p> <p>East Suffolk Council has an agreement with the DVLA which allows us to interrogate their computer records remotely to discover the registered keeper details of a vehicle used in connection with certain offences, including littering and fly-tipping.</p> <p>We have always pursued reports of littering from vehicles by issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice where the evidence is sufficient to sustain prosecution. In 2019, we investigated 37 complaints of littering from vehicles, 77 in 2019, 41 in 2020 and 5 during the first 4 months of 2021.</p> <p>The amount of a Fixed Penalty for littering is £80 and must be paid within 14 days. This amount is reduced to £60 if paid within 10 days.</p> <p>We issued 29 FPNS for littering in 2018, 69 in 2019, 38 in 2020 and 7 for the first 4 months of 2021. The way our data on these FPNS and the incidents from which they arise is stored makes it difficult to provide detail about how many littering FPNS were issued in respect of litter thrown from vehicles, however, anecdotally it is possible to say that the majority of littering FPNS do indeed arise from incidents of this nature.</p>
2.23	<p>Impact of Covid-19 on community beach cleans and litter picks and HWRCs</p>

Due to Covid-19 the provision of returnable equipment (litter pick sticks, hoops and tabards) to community volunteer groups was suspended due to concerns over the possibility of facilitating the spread of Covid-19 on infected surfaces. The incentive scheme Love East Suffolk which had been due to run through March, April and May 2020 was also cancelled.

In terms of groups supported with loans of equipment, the numbers are as follows:

- In 2019 ESC supported 146 groups
- In 2020 ESC only supported 23 groups
- In 2021 so far, ESC have supported 5 groups.

- In 2020, 12 litter picking sets have been sent to individuals who wanted to litter pick during lockdown.
- In 2021, 5 litter picking sets have so far been sent to individuals who want to litter pick on an ongoing basis.

The numbers above do not include support given in the form of collection of the bagged litter only, to those groups and individuals who have their own equipment (such as Litter Free Felixstowe and the Beccles Bombs whose members pick litter on an ongoing and repeated basis throughout the year).

Due to the easing of restrictions, Norse are again supporting community litter collections, and parish councils and community groups can request support in the normal manner for equipment, collection and disposal.

3 Reason/s for recommendation

3.1	To enable Scrutiny Committee, having reviewed the two parts of the report on waste management, to make recommendations to Cabinet as it sees fit.
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Appendices

Appendices:

Appendix A	Questions from Scrutiny
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Background reference papers:

None.
