

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2009**

**NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 2009**

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**ABSTRACT**

**This report advises the Committee on National Spring Clean month 2009 and how the local authorities can participate in this event co-ordinated by Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB).**

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree:-

- (i) That the council 'sign on' to the National Spring Clean concept in 2009 and ask the Head of Environmental and Consumer Protection to make the necessary resources and support available to the various volunteer groups registering their participating in the event through Keep Scotland Beautiful.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 Through the National Spring Clean, Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) encourages as many people as possible to pick up litter at some point during the month of April, a time of year when people are giving their homes and gardens a spruce up and starting to get back out into the great outdoors after the long winter. It is also an ideal opportunity for groups around the country to unite in a common cause and make a concerted effort to clean up the whole of Scotland.

2.2 The campaign was re-established in 2007 when over 11,500 people took part. In 2008 participation in what has quickly established itself as a highlight of Scotland's environmental calendar, had almost doubled to 20,000 volunteers. Between them enough bags full of litter was gathered in the 2008 campaign as would have lined the Royal Mile in Edinburgh from Castle to Scottish Parliament 12 times over.

**3. HOW THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER GROUPS CAN GET INVOLVED**

3.1 Typical volunteer groups taking part include community councils, schools, student groups, youth groups, businesses, scouts and guides, environmental groups, council staff, churches and many others organisations and individuals.

3.2 To help get started KSB provide organisers on registration with a free clean up kit, which includes badges, protective KSB tabards, posters, black litter bags and clear bags for recyclables, competition details and other useful information about how to organise a clean up and have a safe and fun event.

3.3 To get involved all that organisations have to do is to find a location near to them that is in need of a litter clean, choose a date in April and register their event on line with KSB at [www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/springclean](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/springclean).

**4. LOCAL AUTHORITY INVOLVEMENT**

4.1 Cleaning up litter through voluntary action is largely dependent on the practical support of Scotland's local authorities. Councils can offer a variety of different

services within their own area and here in Angus the Environmental & Consumer Protection Service has previously assisted clean up groups as follows:-

- Assistance in identifying safe clean up sites
- Arrangements for the removal / disposal of collected litter
- Promoting the recycling of certain litter such as bottles and cans collected by volunteers
- Advice on health and safety and risk assessment of the event
- Promotion of the event
- Supply / loan of gloves and 'pickers'
- Local contact / help line

4.2 KSB recognise the importance of the assistance from local authorities and included within the free clean up kit is a list of the contact details and services provided by each local authority. Group organisers are encouraged to get in touch with their local council.

4.3 Councils can also help by promoting the campaign throughout the council services, community education, schools (especially Eco schools), the community wardens, ranger and countryside services.

4.4 Councils supporting the event could be in line for a KSB award determined by the participation level by head of population in the area of the local authority.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The cost of the Council's involvement in this campaign are likely to be minimal and can be accommodated within the anti litter budget of Environmental & Consumer Protection.

## **6. HUMAN RIGHTS**

6.1 There are no human rights implications arising as a result of this report.

## **7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The issues dealt with in this Report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken.

## **8. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT**

8.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Single Outcome Agreement for Angus.

- More citizens become involved in community life.
- The importance and benefits to society of the environment is recognised.

## **9. CONSULTATION**

9.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Neighbourhood Services, Head of Law and Administration and Head of Finance have been consulted on the contents of this report.

**Eric S Lowson**

**Director of Infrastructure Services**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

**E&CP/IW/GK**  
**02/02/2009**