

ANGUS COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 20 JANUARY 2009

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LEAMS) ANNUAL
REPORT FOR ANGUS - THE CLEANING OF STREETS AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT: This report advises the Committee on the outcome of the surveys carried out within Angus as part of LEAMS. The report highlights the findings from the surveys and provides recommendations from Keep Scotland Beautiful based on the findings of the report

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree:-

- (i) to note the report, and
- (ii) that within available resources, measures are taken to meet the recommendations made by KSB in the report for improving cleaning standards (paragraph 5)

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 LEAMS, the Local Environmental Audit and Management System, is a programme managed by Keep Scotland Beautiful aimed at measuring and improving the cleanliness standards throughout Scotland. Now in its fourth year, all 32 Local Authorities in Scotland are involved in the programme.

2.2 LEAMS was originally introduced to help Local Authorities meet their obligations under Best Value. This is done in the following ways:

- Provides base-line information
- Provides self monitoring to assess continuous improvement
- Provides independent audits of the monitoring process by partner authorities
- Provides annual validation by independent body (Keep Scotland Beautiful)
- Makes information on cleansing standards available in the public domain
- Allows for comparison of results between partner authorities
- Allows for distribution of best practice between authorities

2.3 From April 2004, the LEAMS system has been a Statutory Performance Indicator for local authorities. Audit Scotland have reported on the cleanliness standards of each local authority since 2004/05.

2.4 Local authorities have a responsibility to meet the standards set out in The Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2006 produced under provisions made in Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

3. THE LEAMS PROCESS

3.1 The LEAMS process is structured so that all authorities carry out exactly the same monitoring programme to allow for full comparison between the results obtained. Each authority carries out bi-monthly surveys within their own area. These surveys

cover a random sample of 2% of the streets and other public open spaces within their area. The following criteria was assessed during each of the surveys:

- Cleanliness grade
- Litter Bins (Count of Bins and Count of Overflowing Bins)
- Types of litter
- Sources of litter
- Adverse environmental quality indicators

3.2 Every six months each authority carries out a 2% sample survey within one of the partner authorities. This process allows for independent audits to be carried out and allows an exchange of information and best practice to take place.

3.3 An annual validation survey is also carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful, again looking at a 2% sample survey within each of the partner authorities. This provides the external independent evaluation recommended under Best Value.

3.4 There are four grades of cleanliness which are defined as follows:-

Grade A No litter or refuse

Grade B Predominantly free of litter and refuse

Grade C Widespread distribution of litter and refuse with minor accumulations

Grade D Heavily littered with significant accumulations

3.5 The Code of Practice requires that the local authority area is divided into a number of zones according to land usage and volume of traffic. Currently Angus features 7 zones and include:- Zone 1 town centres and major shopping area; Zone 2 is high density residential, industrial and recreational, Zone 3 low density residential, industrial and recreational, Zone 4 rural/semi rural; Zone 5 amenity beaches, Zone 6 Strategic roads and Zone 7 Rural roads.

4. SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

4.1 The method of litter measurement in the survey is the Cleanliness Index (CI). This is used widely by local authorities to monitor their performance and set themselves targets for improving services. The CI provides an indication of the standards of cleanliness experienced in an area. Total counts of Grades A B C and D transects achieved throughout the survey are used to calculate a CI between 0 and 100. An area with a CI of 0 would consist of all heavily littered (grade D) transects, whereas a CI of 100 would represent an area completely free of litter or refuse (all grade A transects) Given that a CI of 100 would be difficult to achieve, it is important to set a score which indicates an 'acceptable' result. The methodology used is a numerical calculation based on a notional result of grade B in every transect surveyed. This means that a score of 67 is the acceptable or minimum standard.

4.2 The following table shows how the CI of the different zones varied within Angus for each of the seven LEAMS surveys conducted during the period April 2007 to February 2008. The table shows that although zone 1 areas recorded the lowest overall CI of all zones surveyed, all seven individual surveys in this zone were found

to meet or exceed the minimum standard. Throughout all zones and surveys no CI below the minimum standard was recorded.

Survey	Zone					Overall
	1	2	3	4	7	
April 2007	67	71	77	72	92	76
June 2007	67	67	83	87	87	79
August 2007	67	67	68	73	67	68
October 2007	67	67	70	73	83	71
December 2007	67	74	81	73	93	78
February 2008	67	73	74	71	73	72
Validation	79	67	76	67	73	74
Overall	69	70	75	73	81	74

- 4.3 Overall the Angus Council area achieved a Cleanliness Index (CI) of 74 which is 7 index points above the minimum cleanliness standard required by the survey methodology. This is an improvement from previous year (06/07 – 72), (05/06 – 72), (04/05 – 69).
- 4.4 Some 338 transects within the Angus Council area were surveyed.
- 4.5 23% of the transects surveyed were a Grade A and 76% were a grade B. Only 1% of transects were observed to be of a grade C standard and none of the transects were of a grade D standard.
- 4.6 The most common source of litter was that dropped by pedestrians. This source of litter was recorded in 74% of the transects surveyed.
- 4.7 Business waste appearing as litter was recorded in 5% of transects.
- 4.8 Domestic waste appearing as litter was observed in 4% of transects while construction and other sources of litter were each found in less than 1% of transects.
- 4.9 Smoking related litter was the most common type of litter found, affecting 60% of transects surveyed. This was followed by confectionary related litter, recorded in 38% of transects surveyed.
- 4.10 Drinks related litter was observed in 22% of transects, while 4% of transects contained fast food related litter.
- 4.11 Detritus (grit & sand) was the most commonly found adverse environmental quality indicator (AEQI) throughout Angus. This was recorded in 37% of all transects surveyed
- 4.12 Weed growth was the next most commonly observed AEQI, recorded in 25% of transects, while dog fouling was recorded in 6% of transects surveyed.

- 4.13 Graffiti and fly-posting were found in very small numbers throughout Angus, affecting 1% and less than 1% of transects respectively.
- 4.14 A total of 9 litterbins were recorded throughout the survey year, with none of these found to be overflowing.

A full version of the LEAMS report as prepared by KSB is available in the Members' Lounge.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM REPORT AND DEPARTMENTAL COMMENT

- 5.1 The following is an overview of the recommendations made in the report by Keep Scotland Beautiful. Some can be dealt with in the short term within the resources available. However some will require further investigation and others require joint working with other agencies such as the Police, SEPA, Education Services, etc.:-
- 5.2 Detritus and weed growth were found to be among the highest indicators found throughout Angus. More effective use of either manual or mechanical cleaning (or both) will not only deal with the smaller items of litter but should also remove detritus and weed growth. *The report makes mention of the use of different types of mechanical sweeping equipment and while such exist in Angus the report suggests more effective use of such on pavements (back of kerb and areas of confined access).*
- 5.3 The report identifies high levels of pedestrian/individual litter during the survey and recommends a review in the use of the enforcement powers available to the Council including provisions for the introduction of street and litter control notices, litter control areas and the use of powers to have land owners remove and eliminate waste on land. *These enforcement provisions are available to deal with private land and commercial operations and businesses, including large scale shopping areas which can be a source of litter and wind-blown refuse. (examples such as supermarket car parks, factories, open air markets, recreational or entertainment events and construction sites) while there have been certain isolated incidents in Angus there are no on-going problem areas.*
- 5.4 Additionally the report recommends some high profile campaign is devised to get the anti litter message across to the public. The report suggests specific media to convey the message at a local level and to include campaigns to target youth litter and smoking litter. *While some further work has to be done in such campaigns, the Council has already piloted a campaign to deal with lunch time litter in Forfar and in particular secondary school pupils. Additionally a dog fouling campaign was trialled last summer in Arbroath. The objective of these pilots was to roll these out to other areas of Angus as resources permit.*
- 5.5 There is a recommendation to deal with provisions in Law for the proper use of domestic and commercial refuse receptacles. Presumably to prevent spillage and animal scavenging etc. *This has already been partly achieved by the Council in a review of bin collection ([Report 983/06](#)) and the outlawing of side waste (sacks etc) and overloading of bins.*
- 5.6 The report recommends that staff receive further training to ensure consistent application and assessment of the standards and the effective use of enforcement powers. *Training has been undertaken for those staff directly involved with enforcement and carrying out the surveys, but there is an acceptance that this needs to be expanded to include operational staff whose duty it is to maintain streets and open spaces to standard.*

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly as a result of this report. Improvements in standards as recommended in the report should be achievable through a review of methods of work and operational procedures. The Best Value Review currently underway in waste management may well address some of the issues in the LEAMS 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 is not required.

8. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

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

- Resources are used effectively.
- The importance and benefits to society of the environment is recognised.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report

10. CONSULTATION

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.

E S Lawson
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
09/12/2008