

North Northamptonshire Council

Street Cleansing Policy

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Introduction

North Northamptonshire Council's Street Cleansing Policy aims to ensure that street cleaning services are provided in an effective and efficient manner in order to maximise recycling and reduce the amount of waste disposed of.

Objectives

The intention of this policy document is to ensure there are clearly defined policies and standards in relation to the delivery of the street cleansing service in North Northamptonshire to avoid uncertainty for residents, customers, Elected Members and Officers of the Council.

Legislative Requirements

The Council is defined as a 'Principal Litter Authority' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and places a duty on the Council to ensure that its land (or land for which they are responsible) is, so far as is practicable, kept clear of litter and refuse.

These policies have been implemented to ensure we meet the requirements under the Environmental Protection 1990 and the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.

1.0 Routine Cleansing Activities

The Council has a range of street cleansing resources deployed across the council area to remove litter and detritus from the public highway. These include large and small mechanical sweepers and operatives for manual cleansing work. They are deployed across the area on the basis of need – typically, more resources and more frequent cleansing in town centre and urban areas, less in residential and rural areas. Cleansing schedules are designed to meet the standards set out in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.

2.0 Cleansing of Major Roads

North Northamptonshire is responsible for keeping high speed roads (but not motorways) clear of litter and refuse in accordance with Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse. This operation is tightly regulated to avoid incidents and is carried out according to a cleansing schedule determined by need and the ability to work safely. On trunk roads (e.g. A14) we will work with the road operator, Highways England, to ensure a clean and tidy environment.

3.0 Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is removed from pavements as part of the routine cleansing activities. It will not be removed from grass verges / park areas. Complaints of dog fouling will only be removed if there is a significant level of fouling along a stretch of pavement, otherwise it will be cleared as part of the routine activities.

4.0 Litter Bins

Litter bins are provided and emptied by North Northamptonshire Council in locations near or next to the public highway or on land owned by the Council.

4.1 Requests for new litter bins

Requests for new litter bins will be assessed using the criteria in Appendix 1. This is to ensure bins are located in areas of greatest need and effectiveness.

The Council will not install litter bins on private land or areas falling under the responsibility of other public bodies including schools, colleges, bus stations and railways land.

4.2 Emptying and maintenance of existing litter bins

Only bins purchased and installed by North Northamptonshire Council will be maintained and emptied.

Bins will be emptied on a frequency to prevent them overflowing. This will be based on their location and related to intensity of use. The frequency can vary seasonally or

if special events are taking place. Monitoring and complaints will be used to re-assess the frequency of emptying if required.

All bins will be maintained to a standard that is fit for purpose and will not present a hazard to the general public. If a bin is damaged or stolen, it will be replaced only if it meets the criteria (appendix 1) for new bins.

4.3 Replacement of existing litter bins

Existing litter bins will be replaced if they are no longer safe and are being used sufficiently enough to warrant replacing. Any bins that have a history of vandalism or misuse will not be replaced.

If a bin is removed permanently the ground will be made good and any bolts / fittings removed.

4.4 Emptying of litter bins on private land

The Council does not normally empty litter bins on private land, however on occasions may undertake to do so if the bin can be incorporated into existing rounds and the owner of the bin pays for the service. The cost will depend on the location and frequency of emptying.

4.5 Recycling on the Go (Dual purpose litter and recycling bins)

The Council will consider the use of dual purpose litter and recycling bins when installing new or replacement bins. These will only be in areas of significant footfall to warrant the bin and may be removed if they are being regularly contaminated.

5.0 Dog Bins

North Northamptonshire does not provide dog waste bins as bagged dog waste can be placed in an ordinary litter bins or taken home for disposal in the residual waste bin. However, some dog bins remain in place from previous arrangements and will be emptied where the Council is responsible for them. When the bin is past its useful life it may be replaced by a litter bin if there is a need for a bin in that location.

6.0 Removal of Fly-tipping

The Council is responsible for the removal of fly-tipped waste located on adopted highways and other land areas managed by the council. Removal of fly-tipping located on private land is the responsibility of the land-owner.

Removal of fly-tipping will normally take place within three working days of report. Where hazardous waste has been fly-tipped, specialist removal may be required which may affect removal timescales.

Where evidence of who deposited the fly-tipping or where the waste originated is found then will be collected prior to removal and disposal of the waste. These incidents will be investigated and offenders may be issued with a fixed penalty notice or prosecuted. CCTV cameras may be used at fly-tipping “hotspots” and any evidence collected used in any investigations.

7.0 Leaf-fall / Tree Blossom

At certain times of the year our cleansing schedules will be adjusted to respond to issues or leaf-fall / tree blossom on the highway.

Areas for clearance will be prioritised depending on amount of footfall, with resources concentrated on areas around town centres, shopping areas, schools and health facilities.

8.0 Needles / syringes

Needles / syringes will be removed from the highway and Council owned land within 1 working day of being reported. Where these have been found out of normal working hours they should be reported to the Council's out of hours service.

9.0 Removal of dead animals

Dead animals will be removed from the highway when reported to the Council where it is safe to practically to do and there is a safety risk.

10.0 Fly-posting

Fly-posting will be removed from Council owned buildings and land and railings adjacent to high speed roads within 5 working days. Posters will be kept for 5 days and if not claimed in that time period will be disposed of.

11.0 Graffiti

Graffiti will be removed from buildings and land for which the Council is responsible for under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Non-offensive graffiti will be removed within 3-5 working days.

Offensive graffiti will be removed within 1 working day.

The Council will assist in the removal of graffiti on private land in some cases subject to a charge, the completion of a disclaimer and where it can safety undertake the work.

12.0 Support for community litter picks

The Council will support communities and local groups undertaking litter picks in their locality with the provision of sacks, litter pickers, hi-vis vests and collection of waste.

No large fly-tips or hazardous waste should be collected by groups undertaking community litter picks. The location and type of waste fly tipped should be reported to the Council to arrange collection.

The group undertaking the litter pick is responsible for ensuring the necessary risk assessment is in place.

13.0 Abandoned vehicles

Abandoned vehicles should be reported to the ELVIS partnership on

Email: elvis.recovery@northants.police.uk

Telephone E.L.V.I.S on 08456 121 999

The vehicle will then be assessed to see whether it has been abandoned taking into account The Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978. The following will be taken into account when assessing whether it has been abandoned:

1. Does it look vandalised and/or fire damaged?
2. Does it look unused and in poor condition?
3. Has it been there for over a week?
4. Is there a valid tax disc?
5. Are the wheels or petrol cap missing?
6. Have parts been removed or damaged? (e.g. broken windows or flat tyres)
7. Has it been parked or abandoned in an isolated or unusual location?
8. Is it a known area for abandoned vehicles?
9. Have you seen anybody use it or act suspiciously around it?
10. It is full of rubbish/hazardous material/ combustibles?

Appendix 1: Bin Installation Scoring System

Each request for a new bin should be assessed using the scoring system below.

Category	Options	Score
Street Cleaning Zone	Zone 1 – High intensity of use, such as busy public areas	10
	Zone 2 – Medium intensity of use, such as mixed use and high density residential areas	5
	Zone 3 – Low intensity of use, such as low density residential housing	1
	Zone 4 – Rural roads and areas with special circumstances, such as health and safety issues	0
Proximity to existing bins	>100 metres to any bins	10
	<100 metres to 1 bin	5
	<100 metres to more than 1 bin	0
Proximity to facilities	<100 metres to educational establishment	5
	<50 metres to take away outlets	10
	<50 metres to shops	5
	<100 metres to sports facilities	2
	<50 metres to bus stops	2
	<100 metres to outdoor market/car boot sales	1
	<100 metres to other public facilities such as community centre, church, public hall	2
Established Dog Walking Route/Area	Route or area used by multiple dog owners daily (>20 dog owners)	10
	Routes are area used by a limited number of dog owners daily (10-20 dog owners)	5
	Route or area used infrequently by dog owners (<10 dog owners daily)	0
Number of requests for de-littering received within 6 months	0	0
	1-2	2
	3-5	5
	6-10	10
	Over 11	12
Number of requests for a bin received within a six month period (from different sources)	1	0
	2-10	10
	11-50	15
	51 or over	20

The overall score should be compared to the thresholds shown in the table below, to determine the success of the request.

Score	Outcome
0-40	Unsuccessful
41 or over	Successful