

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	13th AUGUST 2020	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – SERVICE DELIVERY	OPEN
MEMBERS’ CONTACT POINT:	ADRIAN LOWERY, 5764, adrian.lowery@southderbyshire.gov .uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SURVEY 2020	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS09

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee notes the content of the Local Environmental Quality Survey report.
- 1.2 That the Committee approves an additional survey to take place in September/October 2020.
- 1.3 That the Committee agrees future performance information from the Local Environmental Quality Surveys is included within the Corporate Plan Performance Reports.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To inform the Committee of the outcome from the initial Local Environmental Quality Survey undertaken by Keep Britain Tidy.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Keep Britain Tidy was appointed to undertake a Local Environmental Quality Survey for South Derbyshire. The survey took place in January 2020, with the report completed at the end of March 2020.
- 3.2 The surveys were based on the old National Indicator NI195, used by the Audit Commission to compare Local Environmental Quality as part its Comprehensive Performance Assessment of local authorities under the government’s Best Value regime. 298 sites were surveyed, covering ten land use types based on the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse.
- 3.3 Survey sites are a 50m section of the street or area, referred to as a transect, with all public property within that site being considered.

- 3.4 The survey in South Derbyshire assessed the four key elements Litter, Detritus, Graffiti and Flyposting. Weeds and Dog fouling were additional elements surveyed at the request of the Council.
- 3.5 To assess the standards on each site, each indicator was assigned a grade. The grading system follows the same principles as the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse which identifies four grades of cleanliness: A, B, C and D. This survey uses these plus an additional three intermediate grades, giving a total of seven grades as detailed in the table below. The intermediate grades are not individually defined; put simply, if cleansing at any given site is not at an A standard, but is performing better than a B standard, it would be identified as a B+.

Grade	Description
A	None of the issues present
B+	Not formally defined
B	Predominantly free with some minor instances of the issue
B-	Not formally defined
C	Widespread with some accumulations of the issue
C-	Not formally defined
D	Heavily affected by the issue

- 3.6 According to the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, any grade below a B grade is classed as being below an acceptable standard of LEQ.
- 3.7 The grades have been processed and presented in an NI195-style format. This is a percentage of sites which are below an acceptable standard, i.e. below a B grade. In keeping with the old NI195 monitoring methodology, any site receiving a B- grade is given a half-weighting, so only half of all sites graded B- will count towards the score, whereas all sites graded C, C- or D receive 'full' weighting. This allows for the fact that sites which are given a B- grade are only just below an acceptable standard and are not as bad as a C grade.
- 3.8 The split of Land Uses surveyed in South Derbyshire are shown in the table below. It is important to consider these sample sizes when reviewing the breakdown of NI195-style scores by Land Use. A number of Land Uses have small samples (below 30) which can mean a particular element can look like it has a significant issue in South Derbyshire but due to the sample size it may only affect a few survey sites.

Land Use Type	Definition	Number
Main Retail and Commercial	Consists of the main town and city retail and commercial centres. Urban tourist 'hot spots' which are wholly or partially separated from a main town or city retail and commercial centre are also included in this land use. Main Retail and Commercial areas contain a choice of outlets in a range of different retail and commercial sectors (such as fashion clothing, financial services, restaurants, bars and entertainment), and will include national and international brand names. Normally, there is also a range of public facilities, including libraries, museums, law courts and places of worship.	0
Other Retail	Covers retail and commercial areas which are	11

and Commercial	<p>primarily located outside main city and town retail and commercial centres (but excludes out-of-town or edge-of-town 'retail park/retail shed' developments, which are included with industry, warehousing and science parks).</p> <p>Other Retail and Commercial areas usually contain a range of facilities that mainly meet the needs of local residents. Most premises contain individual private businesses, sometimes branches of regional chains (such as bakers), and occasionally national brand names. They can also be home to civic facilities, areas of office and hotel development, and areas of mixed retail, office, hotel and entertainment uses.</p>	
High Obstruction Housing	<p>Housing areas where the proportion of dwellings with purpose-built off-street parking facilities is less than or equal to 50%. Can also include occasional small retail premises, offices, manufacturing, and warehousing sites.</p> <p>Includes various housing types, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - terraced housing - alleyways behind and between housing areas where there is direct access to properties - flats and maisonettes with only limited off-street parking - semi-detached and short terraced dwellings with limited or no purpose made off-street vehicle parking, or parking provision which is not large enough for the use of modern vehicles. 	29
Medium Obstruction Housing	<p>Housing areas where more than 50% of dwellings have purpose-made off-street parking/garaging facilities for up to two modern-day family cars.</p> <p>This land use includes housing types such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - private housing, often where passageways at the side of houses are too narrow for most current-day cars - council housing originally built with no off-street parking, where limited off-street parking has since been provided for some properties - modern developments with limited off-street parking - modern developments of flats with parking underneath - terraced housing with garage facilities or rear access parking for up to two cars. 	93
Low Obstruction Housing	<p>Housing areas where more than 50% of properties have purpose-made off-road garaging/parking within the property boundary for three or more cars. In these areas, there is generally a low risk of obstruction to mechanical channel sweeping operations.</p> <p>The space available should be capable of accommodating all the parking requirements of residents (including, where applicable, boats and caravans, etc.) and most of the demand from</p>	75

	visitors to the premises. This category includes maisonettes and flats, as long as the parking is contained within the property boundary. In low obstruction housing areas, it is likely that there will be few or no vehicles parked on-street, and significant on-street parking is the exception rather than the rule.	
Main Roads	Main Roads are all 'A' roads. However, if a main road is situated within Main Retail and Commercial, Other Retail and Commercial, or High Obstruction Housing area, then that transect should be recorded as that land use and not as a Main Road, due to the potential obstruction caused.	12
Rural Roads	This class comprises of all highways that are located outside built-up areas and are not included in the Main Roads or Other Highways land use classes, whether 'rural' in character or not.	56
Industry and Warehousing	Includes industrial and warehousing developments, out-of-town retail parks (including food and non-food developments), and science parks (containing offices, laboratories and manufacturing processes). The following sub-types would be classified as 'industry, warehousing, retail sheds and science parks' sites: classic estates primarily dedicated to heavy industry and warehousing, retail sheds and areas with large retail units, hospitals, business/science parks and campus (such as university or college properties).	1
Other Highways	Formal lay-bys, informal lay-bys, stub roads, underpasses, footbridges, un-metalled bridleways, metalled bridleways, narrow routes and alleyways, cycle ways and 'other' - this includes any other highway which is not listed above.	10
Recreation Areas	Is a combination of public open space and watersides. 'Public open space' includes parks, recreation areas, grassed areas, picnic sites, and paved areas (which are not classed as either main or other retail or commercial locations). Officially signed and/or marked public footpaths and deconsecrated cemeteries should also be included in this land use category. 'Watersides' includes all publicly accessible areas adjacent to ponds, lakes, reservoirs, canals, rivers and estuaries.	11
Grand Total		298

- 3.9 South Derbyshire achieved excellent scores for low levels of Graffiti and Flyposting and Dog Fouling with 1% or less failure for these elements. The level of litter was also positive with less than 4% of survey sites failing. Other Highways and Main Roads had the highest number of failing sites at 20% and 16.67% respectively. Detritus was the worst performing element of the survey at 13.65%. The Keep Britain surveyor indicated that for an authority which has rural areas this not unusual.
- 3.10 The surveyors noted that some Rural Roads had been affected by recent flooding bringing slit and mud onto the road exacerbating the problem.

Litter

- 3.11 Out of the 298 sites surveyed, 24 had no litter at all on them and received an A grade, with 135 survey sites having a very small amount and receiving a B+ grade and a further 121 receiving a B grade. This equates to 96% of sites being at or above an acceptable standard for litter. Only 19 survey sites were graded below a B grade. Of these, 14 survey sites were B- just below a B grade and four were a C grade. There were no C- or D grades on any of the survey sites.
- 3.12 Although generally Litter was shown to be at low levels, one common Litter item found was beer cans.
- 3.13 On the A516 surveyors noted a lot of Litter on the roadside as well as a problem with Detritus. Lay-bys had a lot of litter in them. In lay-bys litter bins can become hotspots for the dumping of Litter and Fly-tipping.

Detritus

- 3.14 Detritus was identified as the issue where South Derbyshire fared less well with 14% of survey sites failing for this issue. Three transects received A grades, 68 were B+ so were almost clear of any detritus and 160 sites were graded B. A further 42 sites received a B- grade, 15 sites were a C grade and two sites a C- grade with two more sites a D grade.
- 3.15 Rural Roads had the highest percentage of failing survey sites at 36.61%. This was due to farming activities bringing mud on to the roads and the surveyors noted that recent flooding had brought silt and soil onto the roads. Undertaking an additional survey later in the year would give a more balanced picture of the District.
- 3.16 In residential areas detritus was often caused by people driving on and off grass verges that are heavily saturated from the wet weather. Although Detritus was identified as an issue in the survey area, surveyors did note that a large proportion of residential areas were swept to a high standard.
- 3.17 Surveyors noted the survey area highlighted Detritus especially on Rural Roads in country areas and encroaching on pavements in residential areas as being areas that did not perform as well as others.

Graffiti and Flyposting

- 3.18 Graffiti and Flyposting are not a widespread issue in South Derbyshire with 1% or less of survey sites failing for these issues. For Graffiti, only Recreation Areas had any failures, three in total, all of which were graded C.
- 3.19 Flyposting only has 0.5% of failure to meet an acceptable standard for all areas, which is a positive result. Local experience and intelligence suggests that rural areas tend to have less problems with Flyposting. The only Land Uses where there were failures were High and Low Obstruction Housing.
- 3.20 The Fly posting identified was mostly remnants of cable ties, cable ties could be replaced with string which would be easier to remove and is not made from plastic. String is also potentially reusable.

National Comparison

- 3.21 In comparison with the last Local Environmental quality Survey for England, South Derbyshire performed well above the average for litter at 96% at an acceptable standard in comparison with 86% nationally. Despite the issues highlighted relating to detritus, South Derbyshire compares favourably with the national average with 86% of sites meeting an acceptable standard against 75% nationally. Graffiti is not an issue with 99% of sites at an acceptable standard in comparison with a national average of 97%. Flyposting scored the same as the national average at 99%.
- 3.22 There are no national comparisons for weeds and dog fouling as these are combined in the national survey with detritus and litter respectively.

Weeds

- 3.23 The surveyors identified that weeds are not a widespread issue in South Derbyshire. Overall, only 2.39% of sites failed for this issue. Five land uses had no failing grades. Main Roads had the greatest number of failing grades at 8.33%. Weeds can signify a lack of sweeping and can hinder cleansing operations.

Dog Fouling

- 3.24 For all areas Dog Fouling only failed on 0.83% of survey sites. The failing Land Uses were High Obstruction Housing (3.45%), Medium Obstruction Housing (1.08%) and Other Highways (5.00%). When grading Dog Fouling one instance equates to a B grade. There were 22 B graded survey sites, with one instance of Dog Fouling. Although surveyors did not see much actual Dog Fouling, they did notice lots of Dog Fouling notices both privately made and from the Council so concluded it must be an emotive issue in the area.
- 3.25 Dog fouling affected 25 survey sites and surveyors noted that there were several homemade anti-dog fouling posters, along with the Council's anti dog fouling campaigns. Surveyors noted a dog fouling hot spot on Oversetts Road which had several incidents of dog fouling both on the survey site and off the survey site.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of the Keep Britain Survey was £6,250 and was met from the Operational Services budget. An additional survey for 2020 would cost £5,700 and would be met from existing revenue budgets.

5.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 5.1 None

Legal Implications

- 5.2 None

Corporate Plan Implications

- 5.3 E1.2B - Improve the quality of the District through the Local Environmental Quality Survey, gives assurance that the cleansing regimes and resources deployed are delivering the Council's Service Standards.

- 5.4 Increasing the number of surveys will improve the data and remove seasonal impacts from the year end outturn.
- 5.5 The results of the survey will be used to provide additional focus to the work of the Street Cleansing Team. The Service had set a target to improve the survey scores so that over 90% of survey sites achieve a C+ score or above in future years, this target will be increased to over 95%, thereby improving the local environment.

Risk Impact

- 5.6 None

6.0 Community Impact

Consultation

- 6.1 None

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 6.2 None

Social Value Impact

- 6.3 None

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.4 None

7.0 Background Papers

CODE OF PRACTICE ON LITTER AND REFUSE

LITTER IN ENGLAND, THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SURVEY OF ENGLAND 2017/18

THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SURVEY OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE 2020