
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 14
DATE OF MEETING:	29 TH JANUARY 2004	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PAUL EVANS (EXTN. 5764)	DOC: s:\cent_serv\committee reports\environmental & development\29-jan-04\cleansing comm jan 04.doc REF: PE
SUBJECT:	VOLUNTARY CODE OF BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE FOR THE FAST FOOD INDUSTRY & NEW BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR FOR STREET CLEANSING	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS 09

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Members of the Voluntary Code of Best Environmental Practice for the Fast Food Industry and the new Best Value Performance Indicator for Street Cleansing (BVPI 199).

2.0 Detail

Voluntary Code of Practice

- 2.1 The Government has published a draft Voluntary Code of Practice for consultation with a view to its introduction during the spring.
- 2.2 The main aim of the Voluntary Code is to reduce fast food litter, and waste that becomes litter, in the local environment.
- 2.3 The Code of Practice outlines recommendations for actions to be taken *by all businesses that sell any edible product which can be eaten immediately upon exiting the premise in which it is bought*. It includes operators selling food and drink for immediate consumption as their main or sole purpose, as well as those for which it is a secondary function.
- 2.4 The Code defines different Fast Food Operator categories ranging from *Primary Fast Food to Secondary Fast Food Outlets, ranging from large to small outlets*, and places differing requirements on the outlets to reduce litter. The requirements range from signed agreements to clear litter from the shop frontage, reviewing packaging use and displaying anti-litter posters to clearing litter up to 100 metres away from the shop, clearing litter from "hot spots" that are further away from the shop and the provision of litter bins.

- 2.5 The Code of Practice will require considerable support from local authorities in issues such as:
- Provision, servicing, maintenance, cleansing and emptying of litter bins.
 - Collation and use of litter management checklists and litter patrol documentation.
 - Use of legislation.
- 2.6 The main question of principle contained in the consultation document concerns the voluntary nature of the Code of Practice. Views are sought as to whether the Code of Practice should be voluntary or mandatory, or should the Government implement a reward for businesses participating in the Code of Practice?
- 2.7 The Council is invited to submit its views on the Code of Practice.
- 2.8 The success of the Code of Practice in reducing fast food litter in the environment needs to be measured, From April 2003, all Local Authorities are required to measure levels of litter and detritus (dust, mud, grit etc.) as specified in a new Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI 199).

BVPI 199

- 2.9 Councils are required to carry out 300 inspections every four months to measure levels of litter and detritus.
- 2.10 The inspections are spread between ten different types of land use ranging from Primary Retail and Commercial Areas to Rural Roads. The inspection regime also takes account of the Multiple Deprivation Index for Council Wards.
- 2.11 The purpose of the inspections is to measure the levels of litter and detritus in accordance with the following grades:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Grade A | no litter or detritus |
| Grade B | predominantly free of litter and detritus except for some small items |
| Grade C | widespread distribution of litter and detritus, with minor accumulations |
| Grade D | heavily littered, with significant accumulations |
- 2.12 BVPI 199 specifies the most robust, rigorous and demanding regime for measuring street cleanliness yet seen.
- 2.13 The national benchmark for BVPI 199 is based on the results of the 2001/02 Local Environmental Quality Survey of England. The overall percentage of inspections that fell below a Grade B in terms of grading assessments, for litter and detritus combined, for the ten BVPI land uses was 28%. The Government target is to reduce the level by 15% by 2005/06.
- 2.14 500 inspections have been carried out so far in South Derbyshire and the current percentage falling below the defined acceptable grading is 40%.
- 2.15 A Service Development Proposal has been submitted in the budget process to address the current shortfall and move towards the target for 2005/06.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The financial implications of the Fast Food Code of Practice, in terms of staff resources and partnership working with the outlets, are difficult to predict at this consultation stage.
- 3.2 The financial implications of BVPI 199, in terms of additional street cleansing resources to meet the Government's current benchmark and move towards the target in 2005/06, are in the region of £100,000 per year. A Service Development Proposal, detailing a plan for Members' consideration, has been submitted in the current budget process.

4.0 Community Implications

- 4.1 The provision and maintenance of a clean environment is a high priority for the community.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The proposed Code of Best Environmental Practice for the Fast Food Industry is a most welcome initiative. The options outlined, at this stage, are voluntary options for fast food operators. The condition of the public space will continue to be assessed and reviewed by the Government. If the Code of Practice is not successful in achieving its aim of reducing litter and waste in the local environment by voluntary means, the Government is committed to looking into other options, including legislation.
- 5.2 Whilst a successful Code of Practice will be helpful to Councils in meeting BVPI 199 targets, a significant increase in street cleansing resources will be required to meet the demanding standards now being set.

