

<b>Report on</b>	Cleaner Neighbourhoods Survey/Report 2017/18
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on the results of the annual Cleaner Neighbourhoods Survey/Report.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) is an independent charity that works with the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) local Councils and businesses to assist in improving our local environmental quality and increasing the cleanliness of our towns and countryside.
2.2	The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report for 2017/18 was published by KNIB on 27 <sup>th</sup> March. This report is based on a number of sources: the litter and cleanliness data comes from a survey of 1,097 individual transects covering approximately 55km (or 34 miles) of streets and parks across all 11 Council areas, while fixed penalty records, spend on street cleansing data and information on enforcement and education activities was collected directly from individual local authorities
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	One of the key finding findings of the report is that for Northern Ireland, as a whole, when it comes to litter, rural areas have the highest amount of litter across the country, with up to 13 times the amount of litter found in our town and city centres.
3.2	Across all Council areas, 39% of rural transects failed the accepted standard for litter, compared to 13% for secondary retail areas and only 3% for primary retail zones. This may be due to scarce resources increasingly being focused on areas with a higher footfall, or Councils being careful not to put their staff in harm's way on country roads. Subsequently, the proportion of litter coming from motorists overall has increased from 26% to 30%, as 95% of the litter in rural areas comes from passing vehicles.
3.3	However the percentage of transects completely free of litter has seen a leap from 5% to 12%, the highest it has been since the litter reports began in 2010. Furthermore, the report also states that the average number of surveyed transects across all land uses that failed has remained steady from last year at 15%, while those suffering from dog fouling has also stayed the same at 6%.

3.4	Levels of engagement and education have also increased proportionately throughout the year, with over 111,000 people getting involved with civic pride initiatives through the Live Here Love Here campaign and 273 schools earning the right to fly the coveted Green Flag, the pinnacle of the Eco-Schools programme.
3.5	The number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued by Council Enforcement Officers has dropped however, down 13% on last year's figures.
3.6	<p>The key findings for Mid Ulster District Council; which reflect well on the operational and educational work carried out by Environmental Services staff, are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Ulster had the lowest percentage of transects which fell below the required standard for litter (7% compared to N Ireland average of 15%)</li> <li>• Mid Ulster District Council achieved the joint best litter LEAMS survey score (76 compared to N Ireland average of 70) despite issuing the lowest number of fixed penalty notices (12 compared to N Ireland average of 287)</li> <li>• Mid Ulster has the highest number (and percentage) of schools that have achieved a Green Flag under the Eco Schools Programme</li> </ul>
3.7	The report concludes with a number of recommendations for combating the littering problem, which tie in with the publication of recent EU Waste Directive Amendments.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: The report identifies that rural areas are disproportionately affected with 39% of rural transects surveyed with unacceptable levels of litter.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report and results of the annual survey.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	KNIB Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report 2017/18