

London Councils' Transport & Environment Committee

Draft Response to Defra Consultation on Littering Penalties

Item no: 15

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Summary

Defra published its Litter Strategy April 2017. This report sets out the actions with relevance to local authorities from the Litter Strategy. One of these actions is for the government to consult on increasing litter penalties. This report includes the drafted response to that consultation.

Recommendations

- Review and agree the drafted consultation response at Appendix A.
- Provide a steer as to the level of penalties London Councils should support in its response (question 3).

Introduction

1. Defra published its Litter Strategy on 10 April 2017. It sets out a series of actions for stakeholders over the next five years. Cllr Clyde Loakes was TEC's representative on the stakeholder working group which supported the development of the strategy.
2. The actions with particular relevance to local authorities are listed below, for information:
 - a. Support and encourage councils as land managers to achieve the highest standards of local environmental quality;
 - b. Explore voluntary and regulatory measures to improve recycling and reuse of packaging;
 - c. Develop a voluntary Code for anti-litter messaging on packaging;
 - d. Review the case for increasing litter penalties;
 - e. Ensure the right enforcement tools are available for local authorities to tackle fly-tipping;
 - f. Publish improved guidance to promote responsible and proportionate enforcement;
 - g. Raise councils' and magistrates' awareness of the range of sanctions available for littering and flytipping offences, including alternatives to fixed penalties;
 - h. Reallocate responsibility for managing relevant cleaning activities from any local authority not fulfilling its statutory duties on the strategic road network;
 - i. Produce guidance on 'binrastructure';
 - j. Encourage councils to take a whole-business approach to tackling litter;
 - k. Launch a Litter Innovation Fund.
3. Alongside the published strategy, Defra is consulting on increasing penalties for littering. This was a 2015 manifesto commitment by the Conservative party.
4. London Councils has drafted a consultation response which is included at Appendix A. Members are asked to review and discuss the response, and in particular give their views on the level of penalties London Councils should support, at question 3.
5. The deadline for the consultation is 18 June. Officials at Defra have informed us they will put the final analysis of the consultation responses to the incoming government.

Recommendations

- Review and agree the drafted consultation response at Appendix A.
- Provide a steer as to the level of penalties London Councils should support in its response (question 3).

Financial Implications

6. There are no financial implications to London Councils arising from this report.

Legal Implications

7. There are no legal implications to London Councils arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

8. There are no equalities implications to London Councils arising from this report.