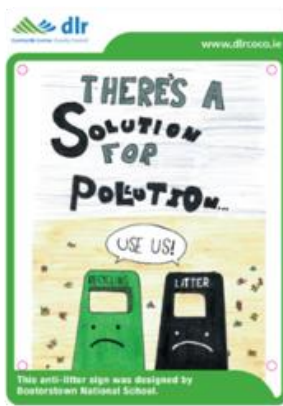
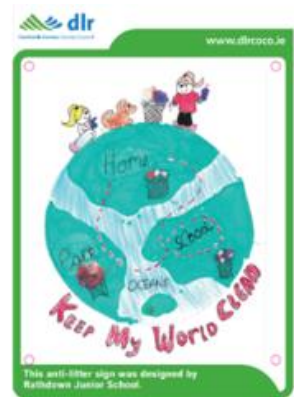
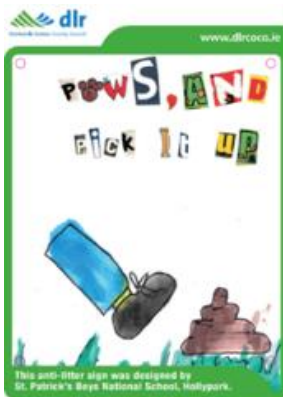


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Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2026



1. INTRODUCTION

The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council area is populated by approximately 233,860 people and covers a land area of approximately 12,731 hectares. The Council currently employs over 50 cleaning staff and has a fleet of 39 vehicles to keep the roads, paths, gullies and beaches throughout the county in a clean state. However, the residents, businesses and visitors to the county also have an important role to play in keeping the county litter-free.

The Litter Management Plan 2024-2026 replaces the existing Litter Management Plan 2021-2023. This plan outlines targets and objectives for tackling the problem of litter pollution and sets out to achieve quantifiable improvements in the prevention of litter, with the following objectives:

- Prevent and control litter pollution in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council area
- Eliminate litter black spots
- On-going development of our education and awareness programmes in association with schools and communities
- Support any initiatives, new legislation and actions that arise from the recently published Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.
- Ensure rigorous enforcement mechanisms of the Act and Bye-Laws are effective



Gum Litter Task Force Launch 2023

2. LITTER AND THE LAW

The Litter Pollution Act was introduced on the 1st July 1997. Under Section 10 of the Act each local authority is required to adopt a Litter Management Plan (LMP) within its functional area. The principal objective of this LMP is to provide information on litter prevention and control activities and the setting of appropriate objectives and targets for the three-year period covered by the LMP.

2.1 DEFINITION OF LITTER

Litter is defined in the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 as *'a substance or object, whether or not intended as waste that, when deposited in a place other than a litter receptacle or other place lawfully designated for the deposit, is or is likely to become unsightly, deleterious, nauseous or unsanitary, whether by itself or with any other such substance or object, and regardless of its size or volume or the extent of the deposit'*. The Council recognises that litter is a significant environmental problem and acknowledges that the key operational and enforcement responses to the litter problem must come from the Council. The Council, by its own activities, recognises the importance of limiting the creation of litter. Litter is a visible form of pollution and creates an overall negative impression. Through enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act, education and promotion of anti-litter initiatives, it is hoped to minimise the problem of litter.

2.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Litter Pollution Act, 1997 requires all local authorities to take practicable measures for the prevention of the creation of litter in its functional area. Local authorities have a responsibility for the collection and disposal of litter, promotion of awareness of the polluting effects of litter and encouraging participation by persons in preventing and overcoming the effects of litter. DLR over the period of this Litter Management Plan will support National initiatives, legislation and proposals that will emerge from the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.

2.3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUSINESSES AND THE PUBLIC

The Litter Pollution Act, 1997 places legal responsibilities on businesses and members of the public to control litter. It is an offence under the Litter Pollution Act to carry out the following:

- Deposit any substance or object so as to create litter in a public place or in any place that is visible from a public place;
- Deposit anything that is commercial, household, industrial or municipal waste in any place for collection by or on behalf of a local authority or by another person, or load, transport, unload or otherwise handle or
- process anything or carry on a business, trade or activity in such circumstances as to create litter or lead to litter in any public place or any place that is visible to any extent from a public place;
- Place household and other municipal waste into or near a litter receptacle;
- Move or interfere with a litter receptacle that has been provided by a local authority unless the movement or interference is authorised by the local authority;

- Place advertising leaflets on car windscreens;
- Illegal dumping;
- Fail to remove dog waste;
- Fail to clean up litter within 100 metres of all commercial premises;
- Put up posters/signs without written permission.

2.4 LITTER AND FINES

The local authorities and An Garda Síochána have the power to take enforcement action for litter offences. Leaving or throwing litter in a public place is an offence which can be subject to an “on-the spot” fine of €150 and a maximum fine of €4,000 through the Courts. A person convicted of a litter offence may be required by the Court to pay the Council’s costs and expenses in investigating the offence and in bringing the prosecution to Court.

2.5 BYE-LAWS

The Council has in place the following Bye-Laws:

“Bye-Laws for the Prevention and Control of Litter, 2009”

These Bye-Laws, inter alia, impose an obligation on the occupiers of business premises to maintain the area in the vicinity of their premises free of litter and to provide litter and cigarette receptacles if requested by the Council. A fine of €75 is applicable for breaches of the Bye-Laws.

“Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2019”

These Bye-Laws impose obligations on the public and on waste collectors and seek to manage the manner of the segregation, storage and presentation of waste and waste containers.



2022 Tidy District Competition Winners

3. LITTER GENERATORS

In order to tackle litter pollution in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown local authority area, the Council uses several methods to evaluate the existing litter problems in the county. Particular attention is paid to:

- Surveys in the County area and National Litter Pollution Monitoring Surveys
- Complaints registered and Council agenda items; and
- Submissions/complaints from representative groups.

The following are the main generators of litter in the Council's area.

3.1 PASSING PEDESTRIANS

Passing pedestrians continue to comprise the largest single causative factor of litter pollution in the Council's area. Passing pedestrians contribute to levels of litter pollution in public places and certain sections are targeted for littering activities such as footpaths, gullies and parks. The composition of this type of litter tends to be packaging-related and relates to people eating, drinking and smoking on the street or litter dropped by passing vehicles. Cigarette butts represent the highest number of litter items reported.

3.2 PASSING MOTORISTS

Passing motorists represent a large causative factor of litter pollution. Litter dropped by passing vehicles poses a significant problem in the Council's area. Litter on approach roads is a major problem and severely detracts from the appearance of an area. Local authorities are responsible for keeping public places, including public roads, clear of litter, as far as is practicably possible.

3.3 RETAIL OUTLETS

Retail outlets are large contributors to litter pollution. Under Section 9 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, as amended, and under the Council's Bye-Laws for the Prevention and Control of Litter, 2009, the Council is required to ensure that retailers provide receptacles for litter and cigarette butts arising from their premises. Packaging-related litter is particularly linked to retail outlets. The Council acts in co-ordination with retailers in order to identify ways to tackle the extent of this litter problem including abandoned trolleys.

3.4 PUBLIC HOUSES/BOOKMAKERS

Under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, as amended, and under the Council's Bye-Laws for the Prevention and Control of Litter, 2009, occupiers of a public place (not being a public road or a building or other structure) shall keep the place free of litter. Cigarette-related litter is a large component of litter pollution outside public houses and bookmakers. Section 16 of the Act gives local authorities powers to require the taking of special measures regarding litter by certain operations.

3.5 MAJOR EVENTS / OPEN AIR EVENTS

Major events/open-air events generate considerable quantities of litter. Under Section 18 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, the Council requires the promoters and organisers of major events/open-air events to implement litter control measures at the venue and in the surrounding area. Promoters and organisers are required to implement these controls before, during and after an event. The Council identifies major events such as the Marley Park concerts etc. Promoters of major events are required to contact the local authority in advance of the event to secure the appropriate licenses/permissions and for all opportunities to be utilised to prevent and control the spread of litter. The Council requires the promoter/organiser to produce a Waste Management Plan in agreement with Waste Management Services indicating the arrangements by the promoters on how they will collect and dispose of their waste. The Council can provide cleansing for events, if requested, at the expense of organisers and subject to resource availability. A number of other public events take place in the Council's functional area including markets, regattas etc.

3.6 BUS-STOPS/TRAIN STATIONS

Bus-stops and train stations are less significant causes of litter pollution but littering at these areas requires measures to be implemented. The Council identifies the most frequently used bus stops and provides litter-bins at these locations and outside train stations. The Council's Bye-Laws for the Prevention and Control of Litter, 2009, also apply to bus termini, bus shelters, and rail and Luas stations.

3.7 TAKE-AWAY/FAST FOOD OUTLETS

Take-away/fast food outlets are a major source of litter pollution and have increased significantly over the past few years. Under Section 16 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, the Council requires the operators of take-away/food outlets or other outlets selling produce to provide suitable litter-bins in the vicinity of their outlets. Litter arising from the operation of their outlets must be cleaned up within a 100-metre radius of their outlet. Environmental Enforcement Wardens regularly inspect fast food outlets to ensure these requirements are being met and their premises are litter-free. Enforcement of the EUROPEAN UNION (PACKAGING) REGULATIONS 2014 is also used to combat this problem.

3.8 SCHOOLS

The Council recognises the importance of educational measures aimed specifically at young people through the school educational system. The Environmental Enforcement Wardens, Environmental Awareness Officers and other Council staff visit primary schools and secondary schools throughout the year with the aim of heightening awareness amongst schoolchildren of the harmful effects of litter. Schoolchildren are given advice on waste prevention, recycling and environmental awareness. The Council organises educational workshops in schools that focus on the negative impacts of litter in a positive and proactive way and aim to encourage a community-orientated response to tackle litter. The Council can provide litter-pickers, bags and gloves to schools to assist with clean-ups as well as supporting and promoting the WEEE Ireland free battery-recycling programme.

3.9 BOTTLE-BANKS

The Council currently provides bottle-banks at 35 locations throughout the county. These banks accept recyclable waste and are located in prime sites including supermarkets and car parks. These bottle-banks are serviced by contractors and kept in a clean condition by Council staff.

Several bottle-banks have suffered from significant dumping and litter problems, resulting in additional cleaning costs and discomfort for users and neighbourhoods and have required additional monitoring by both the Cleansing Section and the Environmental Enforcement Wardens.

3.10 UNKEMPT PRIVATE PROPERTY & DERELICT SITES

It is the responsibility of the Council to deal with unkempt private property areas and derelict sites. The Council may issue warning notices or fines to property owners. The Council maintains a register of all derelict sites and dangerous structures. Litter that can be seen from a public place on derelict sites/private property will be dealt with in accordance with the Litter Pollution Acts. Storage of waste on such properties is dealt with under the Waste Management Acts. The Derelict Sites Section of the Council may be contacted at 01 205 4762.



Graffiti Removal in the County – before...



...and after

3.11 OFFICIAL HALTING SITES/ ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENTS

The Council has a number of designated official halting sites throughout the county. The Council provides litter bins at official halting sites. Housing crews from the Council regularly patrol official halting sites and illegal encampments to ensure compliance and to maintain the upkeep of these areas.

3.12 CAR PARKS

There are a number of car parks, particularly in town centre areas, that are cleaned on a regular basis. The other car parks throughout the county are inspected regularly and cleaned when required.

3.13 LANEWAYS

It is recognised that laneways are a particular problem with regard to littering, dumping and graffiti. The Council will continue to monitor these areas on a regular basis and provide additional cleaning where required.



dlr Environmental Enforcement Wardens attend the Tidy Districts Awards 2022



Scally the Dog Campaign 2022



National Food Waste Campaign, Recycling Week 2022

4. LITTER MONITORING

4.1 NATIONAL LITTER POLLUTION MONITORING

The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System is an innovative method developed by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and Tobin Consulting Engineers to enable local authorities to manage litter pollution in a systematic and structured manner. The information gathered provides essential data to facilitate decision-making in relation to litter management at local, regional and national level. Using a specially-designed GIS application, each local authority's functional area is mapped and then surveyed annually using Litter Pollution Surveys and Litter Quantification Surveys. A total of 236 surveys are undertaken throughout the county. The areas surveyed are town centres, suburban areas, beaches, national and non-national routes and rural roads. The data produced by the system allows local authorities to gauge the extent and severity of litter pollution in their functional areas and the types, most likely sources and causes of litter. The results in Table A below detail the level of litter pollution in the Council's area from 2020 to 2022.

Table A

Litter Pollution Index	2020	2021	2022
LPI 1 Unpolluted	27.5%	14.2%	13.1%
LPI 2 Slightly polluted	45.5%	59.2%	55.8%
LPI 3 Moderately polluted	24.2%	20.4%	26.2%
LPI 4 Significantly polluted	2.4%	6.2%	4.4%
LPI 5 Grossly polluted	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%

The survey results also identify the composition of litter pollution prevailing in the Council's area. The Litter Quantification Surveys identify nine broad categories of litter as identified in Table B below. This table illustrates that the main component of litter in the Council's area is cigarette-related.

Table B

Litter Composition	2020	2021	2022
Cigarette-Related Litter	45.00%	48.20%	54.08%
Packaging Litter	24.60%	17.80%	16.25%
Paper Litter	11.50%	10.80%	8.71%
Food Litter	6.30%	7.90%	4.08%
Sweet Related Litter (sweet wrappers, etc.)	6.80%	7.70%	11.84%
Miscellaneous Litter Items	1.60%	6.20%	2.93%
Plastic Litter	0.50%	0.30%	0.95%
Deleterious Litter (nappies, dog fouling, syringes, etc.)	3.50%	0.90%	1.16%
Large Items	0.20%	0.20%	0.00%

In addition to the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System, Irish Businesses Against Litter (IBAL), in conjunction with An Taisce, carry out annual litter surveys in towns and urban areas. In the recent 2023 Coastal Survey, Dún Laoghaire Harbour and Killiney Beach were both recorded as 'Clean to European Norms.'

5. OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

As stated in the Introduction, the dlr Litter Management Plan sets out five main objectives for 2024 - 2026. These objectives are as follows:

- Prevent and control litter pollution in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council area
- Eliminate litter black spots
- On-going development of our education and awareness programmes in association with schools and communities
- Support any initiatives, new legislation and actions that arise from the recently published Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy
- Ensure rigorous enforcement mechanisms of the Act and Bye-Laws are effective

5.1 PREVENT & CONTROL LITTER POLLUTION IN THE DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL AREA

5.1.1 OVERVIEW

The main objective of the Litter Management Plan is to raise the profile of initiatives aimed at litter prevention and control. The Council is committed to ensuring improvement and prevention of litter pollution. The Council recognises the existence and extent of litter in the county and that litter does not simply occur - it is caused by the actions of the general public and certain businesses. The Council also recognises that, regardless of the efforts concerned in raising public awareness of the litter problem, there will always be a requirement to implement litter prevention and control measures. The prevention and control of litter is a priority for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the Council will continue to assist the community in its efforts to keep areas litter free.

5.1.2 CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT (CRM)

All correspondence/complaints received by the Council are entered on the CRM system. This ensures that they are recorded and dealt with within a reasonable timeframe. CRM provides information and statistics for the Council and helps to identify black spots.

5.1.3 ACTIONS

Carry out Litter Pollution and Litter Quantification Surveys in conjunction with the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System.

The Council will continue to complete Litter Pollution Surveys and Litter Quantification Surveys throughout the county. The surveys will be carried out on an ongoing basis at a frequency of approximately 200 Litter Pollution Surveys and 36 Litter Quantification Surveys per annum. Cigarette-related litter and packaging litter are the main components of litter pollution within the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown region.

Raise public awareness and monitor the level of chewing gum litter through the Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign.

The Council participates in the National Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) as part of a joint initiative with the industry and the Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications. This initiative aims to achieve a long-term sustainable solution to the irresponsible disposal of chewing gum litter. The National Gum Litter Campaign uses national and local media advertising to remind the general public to bin their gum responsibly. The Council will continue to work with the Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications in relation to this annual campaign.

Establish best practice in street sweeping arrangements.

Street-sweeping is an operational function of Dún Laoghaire -Rathdown County Council. Considerable resources are being used to reduce the amount of street litter present throughout the County

Continue to tackle Cigarette-related litter

All new Solar-Powered Compactor bins ordered by the Council are fitted with built-in cigarette trays as standard. The Council will include the issue of cigarette-related litter in its annual awareness campaign.

Work to reduce incidents of Dog Fouling.

The Council will support residents' associations in erecting 'No Dog Fouling' signs in their areas. The Green Dog Walkers scheme is a nonconfrontational and positive community-based scheme that encourages responsible dog ownership. The programme is available to individuals and community groups who may wish to promote the scheme. "Dog Waste bins" are provided in areas that are identified as high-volume dog walking areas, such as at coastal areas and in certain parks. Where there are no bins, it is expected that dog walkers will use their own household waste system to deposit dog waste. It is not considered that the introduction of a different type of bin for dog waste would improve the service.

Encourage reuse of Plastic Bottles

The Council has installed some water fountains in public parks. During the period of this plan, the Council will explore the possibility of further potable water fountains in public parks and other suitable locations to reduce the numbers of plastic water bottles deposited in parks and in public recreational areas, especially along popular jogging or exercise routes, and to promote an awareness of the need to eliminate plastic bottle litter.

The Deposit Return Scheme, a Circular Economy Initiative, is due to be introduced throughout the Country in February 2024. It is anticipated that this scheme will significantly reduce plastic drinks bottle and aluminum can litter across the Country. The Council will encourage the public to participate in the scheme and return their plastic bottles and aluminum cans to return point retailers and reverse vending machines throughout the County.

Encourage a reduction in single-use Coffee Cups

The Council will align with any emerging national policy/initiatives arising from the Draft National Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy to reduce the litter problem caused by non-disposable coffee cups.

Monitor Advertising Signage, Hoardings and Election/Public Meeting Posters

Under Section 19 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, where any structure or other land, door, gate, window, tree, pole or post is in or is visible from a public place, it is forbidden to erect posters/signs without the written permission from the owner of the structure. Due to the number of organisations erecting signage throughout the county, the Council has implemented guidelines to control the erection of advertising signs whereby event organisers must make a written application to the Council at least two weeks in advance of a major event. Signs must not be erected seven days prior to the event and must be removed within two days of the end of the event. Where groups operate within the guidelines, no action is taken under the Litter Pollution Act.

The Council will continue to monitor hoardings to ensure they are maintained in accordance with the conditions of the hoarding license. The Council's Traffic Section has introduced a license scheme for sandwich boards to control the placing of these advertising structures on public footpaths.

In the event of elections, the Council has implemented guidelines for the erection of election posters. Candidates are forwarded guidelines indicating where they are permitted to erect posters and certain criteria on the erection of posters including height restrictions etc. Legislation regarding the timescale for their removal after the polling date is also clarified. The same guidelines apply to signage erected in relation to Public Meetings.

5.2. ELIMINATE LITTER BLACK SPOTS**5.2.1 OVERVIEW**

Black spots are a highly visible source of litter pollution. They create an overall negative image and impact on the environment. Illegal dumping has always been a problem within the county and the Council prioritises the measures it takes by tackling the worst-affected litter black spot areas first. These areas include known areas that continue to pose problems.

5.2.2 ACTIONS

To continue to investigate and pursue all reported incidents of illegal dumping.

The Council will continue to combat the problem of fly-tipping and illegal dumping of litter. Reporting of illegal dumping is encouraged and the public can report litter offences to Council staff and Environmental Enforcement Wardens. Any information provided is followed up by the Council and is investigated as appropriate. Fines are issued where possible. The Council may require householders and business operators to indicate how and where they dispose of their waste.

The Council will continue its ongoing work with PURE (Protecting Uplands & Rural Environments) which is an environmental project established to combat the increase in illegal dumping/fly-tipping that occurs in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands.

To target known "black spots" on a regular basis.

The Council will continue to identify and tackle litter black spots. The Council currently utilises the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System to assist in monitoring key areas that are prone to dumping. The Council prioritises the measures it takes by tackling the worst-affected litter black spots first.

To develop a Code of Practice for the use of CCTV, in line with the National Code of Practice.

A National Code of Practice for the use of CCTV for the purposes of Waste Enforcement is currently being developed by the LGMA and a National Working Group. Once adopted, the Council will develop a local code of practice within this framework for the use of CCTV at litter black spots and bottle banks, for the purposes of targeting litter offenders and reducing instances of littering and illegal dumping in these areas.

Develop and implement schedules to systematically inspect commercial and residential areas throughout the county.

Inspections are carried out at commercial and residential areas throughout the county and, where appropriate, non-statutory warnings are issued to the owners of residential and business properties. Prior to Halloween, tyre and pallet businesses are targeted to ensure they are keeping proper control of these items.

5.3. DEVELOP EDUCATION & AWARENESS PROGRAMMES IN ASSOCIATION WITH SCHOOLS/COMMUNITIES

5.3.1 OVERVIEW

The Council agrees that everyone has a key role to play in eradicating the problem of litter pollution. Solving the problem requires the involvement and co-operation of a wide range of people. The Council recognises the need to heighten public awareness of environmental matters and the need to work with residents, businesses and community groups to encourage participation in existing anti-litter initiatives. The Council employs an Environmental Awareness Officer, a Green Business Officer and six Environmental Enforcement Wardens who promote awareness and participation among businesses, community groups and schools in the county.

Each year, under the Litter Management Plan, the Council implements anti-litter campaigns to promote both national activities at local level and Council-led initiatives. The Council promotes its anti-litter campaigns by means of liaising with over 200 residents' associations, Tidy Towns groups, estate management groups, schools and local press and by displaying anti-litter posters in the community and anti-litter information on the Council's website, www.dlrcoco.ie The Council also includes regular information on anti-

litter campaigns in the dlr Times, the Council's free newspaper, and hosts annual environmental awareness events.

5.3.2 ACTIONS – SCHOOLS

Promote the Green Schools Programme

The Environmental Enforcement Wardens and the Environmental Awareness Officer visit schools throughout the year to raise awareness on the harmful effects of littering and graffiti to ensure that the educational benefits and awareness achieved at primary and secondary level are retained and developed in the long-term. Support is given to schools and teachers through educational material such as posters, information booklets and newsletters on litter awareness as well as cleanup supplies for community cleanups.

Provide Environmental Education Workshops

Under the Anti-Litter and Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme, the Council funds anti-litter workshops for schools and communities in the county. These workshops emphasise the important anti-litter message.

Host the Recycled Christmas Decoration Competition

The Council organises an annual Recycled Christmas decoration competition with primary schools in the county. This competition encourages children to reuse items to make decorations for Christmas. This competition educates children about the importance of reducing litter and waste through reusing and recycling.

Host the Anti-Litter/Dog Fouling Poster Competition

The Anti-Litter/Dog Fouling Poster Competition is open to all primary schools within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Winning posters are used by the Environmental Awareness and Litter Section to raise awareness regarding anti-litter and dog fouling throughout the county. These posters and slogans remind all of the importance of keeping litter and dog fouling off the streets and keeping our county clean.

5.3.3 ACTIONS – COMMUNITY & BUSINESS

Work with and support Residents' Associations and Tidy Towns Groups

The Environmental Awareness Officer attend Residents' Associations and Tidy Towns information evenings to provide advice and to encourage them to take part in clean-ups and to more actively look after their local environments. Regular newsletters are also circulated to groups about environmental issues such as litter, bonfires, illegal waste collectors, etc.

Provide Graffiti prevention and removal supports

The Council supports community groups in tackling graffiti in their localities. This support takes the form of financial assistance for paint to cover over graffiti and for the purchase of shrubs and climbers that can be planted to fend off graffiti offenders in the long- term.

The Council also has an annual budget for graffiti removal, which is carried out by a contractor in locations specified by the Council. Further to this the Council supplies graffiti-removal kits to community groups who are willing to tackle the problem themselves. Where graffiti is on private property the Council will request the property owner to remove the graffiti.

Organise the Tidy Districts Competition

The Council organises the annual Tidy Districts Competition. The aim of the competition is to encourage participants to become aware of and be responsible for their local environment and to contribute in a positive way to the appearance of their locality by keeping it well presented and litter-free. The Council aims to acknowledge communities that are striving to improve their local area year-on-year and to promote the development of more sustainable communities.

These awards help to heighten awareness and pride in the local environment, and which results in a noticeable improvement in tidiness and a reduction of litter throughout the county. The inclusion of several categories within the competition ensures that each entry can have a realistic expectation of some measure of success, which keeps morale high among participating groups throughout the county.

Support the Tidy Towns Competition.

The National Tidy Towns Competition is organised each year by The Department of Rural and Community Development. The underlying principle is to encourage the local community and Residents' groups to take direct responsibility for the improvement of their local area. The Council works actively with Tidy Towns Committees and other local groups to publicise and increase awareness of the competition and to encourage increased participation in the competition.

There are currently seven Tidy Towns groups in the county and the level of participation and commitment from local groups has been exceptional and very encouraging for the County as a whole. The work carried out by local volunteers who give their spare time freely for the good of their localities is invaluable in supporting the local communities and the Council to maintain their areas to a high standard of cleanliness.

Support local Clean-Up Campaigns

The Council supports local clean-up campaigns on a continual basis. While the general experience is that the public is keen to help, it is necessary to encourage public support and participation, and this requires considerable advanced preparation. Good communication with and co-operation from residents' associations and other groups is essential for a successful clean-up campaign. The Council assists local clean-up campaigns by providing gloves, litter-pickers, and bags to residents' associations, Tidy Towns groups, schools and any other group or individual who carry out a clean-up in their area. The Council can also arrange to have bags of litter collected after the clean-up has taken place. The Council will meet with residents/community groups to identify areas where action is needed and provide practical assistance to improve their area.

Participate in the National Spring-Clean

April is National Spring-Clean month and it is Ireland’s biggest anti-litter campaign. The main objectives of the National Spring-Clean are to:

- heighten awareness of litter and waste issues
- encourage clean-ups throughout the month of April
- promote sustained, practical involvement in the environment all year round

Everyone who registers gets a free clean-up kit containing all the information needed to organise a successful clean-up. This includes health and safety instructions, tips on gaining media coverage, writing press releases, advice on how to make your event more interesting, along with posters, competitions and games.

The Council supports this important event every year. Local groups involved in clean-ups are provided with bags, gloves and litter-pickers from the Council. Arrangements are made for the removal of all waste collected. National Spring-Clean represents a partnership approach to tackling Ireland’s litter problem. Schools, local authorities, youth groups, residents’ associations and businesses can all help to combat litter and spread the anti-litter message throughout Ireland through the support of this campaign.

Promote Green Business

The Council supports an environmental awareness programme for businesses. The Council is available to offer advice and discuss options on how business impacts on the environment and actions that can be taken to reduce these impacts. For example, some businesses currently provide receptacles for the free return of batteries and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) for recycling in support of the Council’s Anti-dumping initiatives and others provide Free Public Tap Water Stations to reduce Single-Use Plastic drinking bottles.

5.4 ENSURE RIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS OF THE ACT AND BYE-LAWS ARE EFFECTIVE

5.4.1 OVERVIEW

The Litter Pollution Act, 1997, introduced litter enforcement mechanisms to enable Councils to combat the problems of litter pollution. The Act gave new powers to local authorities to tackle the problem of litter and since its introduction significant improvements have occurred through enforcement action. The Act has led to greater powers for Environmental Enforcement Wardens and Gardaí in the issuing of fines for various offences. It is agreed that awareness and enforcement are key factors in eradicating the problem of litter in the Council’s area. To achieve this, the Council requires the involvement and co-operation of businesses, residents and local community groups. Enforcement plays an important role in the overall implementation of the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997. The Council has an Environmental Enforcement Unit in place which investigates incidents of illegal dumping and handles enforcement proceedings being

taken against identified offenders. The Litter Management Plan takes into account the County Development Plan and the Waste Management Plan.

5.4.2 ACTIONS

Provide an Environmental Enforcement Unit

The Environmental Enforcement Unit supports and complements the role of the Environmental Enforcement Wardens. The Unit, which now forms part of the Infrastructure and Climate Change Department of the Council, monitors and enforces compliance with the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, as well as investigating and resolving air and noise pollution complaints. The Unit's work programme is conducted under the principles of R.M.C.E.I. (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) and areas of activity include P.R.I. (producer responsibility initiatives) compliance verification covering tyres and waste tyres, waste packaging, end-of-life vehicles, batteries and waste electrical and electronic equipment. The Unit works with An Garda Síochána, the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Social Protection to conduct multi-agency roadside checkpoints and mobile patrols in order to combat illegal waste operators.

Issue Fines and Initiate Prosecutions

There is a need to change public attitudes towards littering. Litter is deemed as anti-social and unacceptable behaviour. Leaving or depositing litter in a public place is an offence and offenders may be subject to an on-the-spot fine of €150 or a maximum fine of €4,000 in Court. The Environmental Enforcement Wardens will continue to enforce litter legislation by the issuing of on the-spot fines and increasing the number of prosecutions in Court.

In 2022, the Council issued 524 fines for littering and waste offences. A total of 67 prosecutions were initiated for non-payment of Litter and Bye-Law fines. A person convicted of a litter offence may also be required to pay the local authority's costs and expenses in investigating the offence and bringing the prosecution to Court. The Council will endeavour to utilise fines and prosecutions to their full extent and to provide an enhanced street cleaning service to prevent areas being spoilt by litter.

In the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area the majority of litter fines are issued for offences under Section 3 (1) of the Act - Litter in Public Places. The remaining litter fines are issued for the following litter offences:

- Section 6 - Failure to keep area litter-free; and
- Section 19 - Illegal signs erected on poles/structures.

Enforce the Council's Bye-Laws

The Council has in place the following Bye-Laws in relation to Litter

- Bye-Laws for the Prevention and Control of Litter
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2019

The enforcement of these Bye-Laws will further reduce littering arising from the refuse collection services and business premises.

Environmental Enforcement Wardens

Environmental Enforcement Wardens play a vital role in enforcement of litter legislation. Their duties include dealing with littering/dumping and the issuing of on-the-spot fines. Wardens carry out active street patrols and arrange for the removal of abandoned cars. The Wardens currently liaise with members of the public and community groups in relation to litter and litter offences. The Wardens actively encourage anti-litter activity and deal with litter complaints.

The Council currently employs six Environmental Enforcement Wardens, who actively enforce litter legislation within the local authority. The Council will continue to provide regular training and refresher courses to its Wardens including courtroom skills related to prosecutions, litter legislation and training programmes to ensure Wardens maintain a high-profile presence within the Council’s functional area. All personnel engaged in litter-reduction services will be trained in litter control practices.

Enforcement by An Garda Síochána

The Council will continue to work closely with An Garda Síochána to pursue enforcement measures in relation to litter and abandoned cars.

Ongoing Surveillance and Litter Monitoring

A National Code of Practice for the use of CCTV for the purposes of Waste Enforcement is currently being developed by a National Working Group led by the LGMA. Once adopted, the Council will develop a local code of practice within this framework for the use of CCTV at litter black spots and bottle banks, for the purposes of targeting litter offenders and reducing instances of littering and illegal dumping in these areas.

Provide a Freephone number for the Public

Members of the public can report litter offences/complaints to Council staff and Environmental Enforcement Wardens by contacting the Freephone Litter Line on 1800 403 503, or by calling 01-2054700. Litter offences/complaints can also be reported via email - info@dlrcoco.ie - or through the 'Report It' function on the Council website, www.dlrcoco.ie. The Council also provides an after-hours emergency response service, which can be contacted on the following number: 01 677 88 44.



Primary Schools Anti-Litter and Anti-Dog Fouling Poster Competition 2022 displayed on our Compactor Bins

6. RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

6.1 RECYCLING CENTRES

Ballyogan Recycling Park was opened to the public in November 2004 and is the primary recycling centre for the county. Only household materials are accepted at Ballyogan Recycling Park which operates a vehicle-based charging system for some items. An extensive range of materials are accepted at the facility in addition to recyclable packaging including non-recyclable and bulky household waste, green waste, household electrical items, batteries, paints, strippers, thinners, cleaning agents, detergents, bleaches, weed-killer, insecticides, fertilisers, polishes, adhesives, old medicines, gas cylinders, fire extinguishers, gypsum, flat glass, motor oil and cooking oil.

There are two smaller recycling centres in the County - Shanganagh Recycling Centre in Shankill and Eden Park Recycling Centre in Glathule. Plastics, glass, paper, packaging, polystyrene, books, household batteries, bulbs, cans and textiles are accepted free of charge at both these facilities.



Bring Bank Recycling Facilities in dlr

6.2 BRING CENTRES

The Council currently provides 35 Bring Centres for glass, cans and textiles recycling. Part-funding for these sites is provided by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Householders are encouraged to bring their recyclables to these centres which are free of charge.

The increased activity at Bring Centres has brought with it an increase in the incidence of dumping and littering in some cases. Environmental Enforcement Wardens monitor Bring Centre sites to ensure a rapid response to illegal dumping.

The Council informs the public of the location of Bring Centres and makes them aware of the types of materials that can be deposited in them, ensures that their service contractors take due care when emptying the Bring Centres and that they clean the banks on a regular basis and regularly engages with communities to ensure that Bring Centres are emptied as required. A full list of Bring Centres is available on the Council's website, www.dlrcoco.ie

7. PROVISION OF CLEANSING SERVICES

7.1 STREET-CLEANSING

The Council employs over 50 staff and uses a total of 39 machines for street cleansing. The cleansing programme includes the following:

- Sweeping of roads, cycle lanes and footpaths
- Emptying and upkeep of litter bins
- Removal of waste matter from the roads, cycle lanes and footpaths
- Weed management on roads, cycle lanes and footpaths
- Gully cleaning and flood response
- Beach cleaning and maintenance
- Community clean-up collections
- Public realm clean-ups
- Dead carcass removals from public roads and footpaths
- Recycling Centre and Bottle Bank clean-ups

The Cleansing Section operates a cleaning rota on a seven-day week basis. There are cleansing staff on duty from 7.00am to 6.30pm each day. This arrangement ensures areas are kept clean on a continuous basis, especially at weekends.

Mini sweepers

The mini-sweepers provide mechanical sweeping of narrow areas such as laneways, pavements and cycle lanes. These vehicles have proved invaluable in less accessible areas and on surfaces that are more difficult to sweep.

Street-sweeping

Street sweeping is carried out county wide and is performed to a strict sweeping schedule that is published on the Council website. The main villages, areas where large numbers of people congregate, arterial traffic routes, cycle lanes and residential areas ranked according to need are swept daily. Littering adjacent to schools and littering in the vicinity of fast food outlets are specific problem areas that receive special attention by the Council. When problem areas are brought to the attention of the Council, these areas are swept as soon as possible. The majority of housing estates are swept monthly.

During winter months the road sweeping schedule is temporarily suspended as heavy leaf fall areas are targeted. This period usually lasts from November to February. Additional staff are diverted to concentrate on these areas.

Gully Cleaning

The Cleansing Section clean and maintain in excess of 53,000 gullies within the county. Cleaning and maintenance are on-going tasks, particularly during storm events or during times of heavy rainfall when flooding is more common.

7.2 PROVISION OF LITTER BINS

The Council provides litter bins in all the major towns and streets in the county, including various parks and beaches. Businesses are encouraged to provide and service litter bins within the curtilage of their premises.

The Council is aware of the potential for litter bins to become litter generators if the following provisions are not put in place:

- frequent emptying of litter bins
- provision of required size/type of litter bin
- ensure location of litter bin is considered
- ensure the litter bins are readily identifiable to the public.
- Location and quantity of litter bins are reviewed annually.

The Cleansing Section works closely with the Environmental Enforcement Unit to address the issue of illegal dumping in street bins as well as in the public domain. This involves a number of measures, including the possible removal of litter bins from some areas.

It is the policy of the Cleansing Section not to situate street bins in housing estates as this tends to encourage the illegal disposal of household waste in the bins and can be prone to vandalism. The Cleansing Section receives requests for new bins regularly. These are considered at each street bin review on an annual basis. As of 2023, there are over 480 Smart Bins within the county. Going forward, in line with our Climate Change Policy, the council must focus on waste reduction measures and the consolidation and upgrade of existing bins as opposed to continuing to increase the stock of bins in operation. Cross departmental campaigns are run to promote better education regarding anti-littering and the Smart Bins can be used from an advertising perspective to promote such campaigns and awareness.

The Parks and Landscaping Service do not provide bins at open spaces - there are over 350 in the County - as these locations are not manned and diverting staff to collect/maintain bins is not feasible. Open spaces are in general used by local residents and it is a realistic expectation that residents bring litter home with them. Litter bins are provided in staffed Parks. Clubs who are using Council pitches or facilities will be reminded that as part of their lease agreements they are expected to ensure that any litter arising from their activities is removed by them.

7.3 STREET-CLEANSING TEAMS/ EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES

The Council provides an after-hours emergency response service which can be contacted by telephone on 01 677 88 44. This service is provided by Pageboy who, on receipt of a phone call, will contact the relevant County Council official. Cleansing provides an emergency service in certain circumstances such as in the event of a car crash or flooding of public roadways.

8. COSTING & RESOURCES

Funding for implementation of action in the Litter Management Plan is dependent on the following:

- provision in the Council’s Annual Budget
- on-the-spot fines
- fines and prosecutions
- Anti-Litter Grants from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
- Enforcement and Awareness Grants.

For 2023 the total expenditure on Litter Management, including environmental awareness costs, is €1,374,000. The Street Cleaning expenditure for the same period, including the cost of the provision of the Litter Bin Service, is €7,531,000.

9. REVIEW OF THE LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Litter Management Plan has been prepared for implementation between 2024 and 2026. The Council will continually review the effectiveness of this plan and examine suggestions from the Elected Members and the public on the actions in the plan, siting of street bins, street sweeping schedules and other relevant measures.

10. IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES

Litter is generated by all sectors of society; its continued reduction will only be achieved by encouraging the public, businesses and community groups to take responsibility for their own actions.

The objectives set out in this Litter Management Plan are the cornerstone of litter pollution control in the Council’s area. Many of the objectives and ensuing actions proposed require the support of businesses and community/residential groups and individuals in combating litter through joint initiatives. The Council will publish an Annual Litter Action Plan for each year of this plan indicating the measures taken by the Council to meet the objectives of this Plan.

The Council recognises that it is through the development of partnerships with representatives from various business, community/residential groups and organisations, combined with the support/participation of the Elected Members, Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and local authority staff that the Council will deliver a litter-free environment for all to enjoy.



dlr Environmental Awareness Anti-Litter and Anti-Dumping Campaigns