

# Chichester District Council

Cabinet

7 June 2022

## Graffiti & Fly Poster Removal

### 1. Contacts

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### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Cabinet approves the allocation of £30,000 from reserves to tackle a recent increase in graffiti and fly posting across the district. A targeted removal campaign will be delivered over a twelve-month period. Officers will capture information, collaborate with partners and return to Cabinet with recommendations for future management of graffiti.**

### 3. Background

- 3.1 Under the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse the council is responsible for keeping highways and public areas clean. This includes the removal of litter, detritus and fly tipped waste. The Code does not require the removal of graffiti and flyposting. Instead, it recommends local agencies work together on an agreed approach.
- 3.2 Until recently CCS has managed a contract for the removal of graffiti and fly posters from any building or asset across the district. The contract covered attendance by the contractor two days a week and any reported incidents would be cleared during these visits. The contract value was split 50/50 with WSCC Highways.
- 3.3 In 2020 WSCC Highways had to review their expenditure due to budget pressures. The graffiti contractor was unable to demonstrate work completed for WSCC so value for money could not be ascertained. WSCC offered a significantly reduced 'pay as you go' solution but this was not considered financially viable to CCS due to the admin burden associated with handling reports, organising clearance and invoicing WSCC. It would also have left CCS unable to fulfil its contractual obligations. Instead, the contract was reduced in scope to cover one day a week and removal from CDC assets only.
- 3.4 In 2021 the Street Cleaning team at CCS and the Community Wardens started to clear graffiti and fly posters from CDC assets but it soon became apparent that graffiti was accumulating on other buildings and assets. There has also been a noticeable

increase in the amount of 'tagging' occurring across the district. Officers believe this trend needs addressing to maintain Chichester's reputation as a clean and attractive place in which to live and work.

#### **4 Outcomes to be Achieved**

- 4.1 A targeted effort to reduce graffiti and fly posting across the district. Research has shown swift removal enhances the perception of safety in an area and can promote good behaviour. Areas with high levels of graffiti, which is considered a signal crime, may also see higher levels of anti-social behaviour fly-tipping and crime in general.
- 4.2 Information about graffiti and fly poster removal will be captured to enable analysis, identifying hot spots, common themes and repeat offenders. This information will be shared with the police and other agencies to promote a renewed collaborative approach.
- 4.3 Officers will report back to Cabinet on the effectiveness of the project and recommend measures to manage graffiti and fly posting moving forward.

#### **5 Proposal**

- 5.1 That £30k be allocated from reserves to enable a focussed effort on graffiti and fly poster removal for a twelve-month period.
- 5.2 In line with the Council's procurement policy Officers will invite three quotes from contractors for removal work and reporting, including before and after images.
- 5.3 Reports of all work completed will be captured to enable analysis by officers and collaboration with others. Recommendations for future management will be presented to Cabinet within a year.

#### **6 Alternatives Considered**

- 6.1 Continuing to clear graffiti and fly posters from council assets only has been considered. However, this will result in an increase in graffiti and fly posting on other buildings and structures across the district, which may promote other forms of crime and antisocial behaviour.

#### **7 Resource and Legal Implications**

- 7.1 £30k from reserves is required to enable the twelve-month project to proceed. It is currently anticipated that this project may qualify for funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) application - see Council agenda 17 May 2022. CDC reserves would only be utilised if the scheme cannot be funded via UKSPF. Funding of the service will be considered after the initial 12-month period.
- 7.2 Officers from CCS and the Communities and Customer Services divisions will continue to work together on this area and seek to engage other agencies where possible.

## 8 Consultation

- 8.1 SLT and the council's Communities and Customer Services and Place teams have been consulted as part of this project.

## 9 Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1 Failure to keep the area clear of graffiti and fly posters will present a poor image of the district and could lead to other forms of antisocial behaviour and crime.

## 10 Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?		
	Yes	No
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	✓	
<b>Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation</b>		✓
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact</b>		✓
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help</b>		✓
<b>General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)</b>		✓
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		✓
<b>Other (None)</b>		

## 11 Appendices

None

## 12 Background Papers

None