



Highways England and Mid Devon District Council Joint Partnership Approach to Tackling Litter



Introduction

Highways England is committed to playing its part in keeping our roads free from litter and will develop and enhance partnership arrangements with Local Authorities and build on existing collaborative working relationships to allow a joined up approach to be taken on tackling litter on All Purpose Trunk Roads (APTRs). This approach supports and strengthens the vision as outlined in the previously published [Litter Strategy of 2014](#) .

Partnership Commencement Date:

General Principles and Responsibility for Litter Clearing:

Litter clearing duties were assigned under the [Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 89](#) as follows:

- ‘Special roads’ are the responsibility of Highways England – this effectively includes motorways and a very small number of APTRs.
- APTRs, unless selected as special roads, are the responsibility of the local authority.

Background

We all want to live and work in a country we can take pride in, but litter is a problem that blights both our rural and urban landscape, with our roads being no exception. Not only is litter unsightly, it can be hazardous to other road users and road workers during the clearing process, while also being environmentally and economically costly. The act of littering is therefore an anti-social behaviour, which together we need to work hard at eradicating.

The cost of litter collection activities for both Highways England and Local Authorities presents a financial burden on the taxpayer. As well as being unsightly and costly, particularly when litter collecting activities take funding away from other important maintenance activities, litter creates a safety hazard to road users and to those involved in litter clearing activities.

Joint Partnership Working Arrangements:

To improve coordination of litter clearing operations and to minimise disruption on the network, Highways England will work with Local Authorities and District, Borough or City Councils who have no specific highways or traffic management functions to:-

- Build strong relationships with our partners and stakeholders through regular engagement
- Agree a litter clearance schedule between parties as to what activities are planned
- Share and clearly communicate dates for planned road/lane closures and traffic management as soon as practical, so that routine maintenance, litter clearing, sweeping and cleaning activities can be undertaken simultaneously
- Agree on, and implement, litter clearing initiatives
- Disseminate regular updates via a programme of works

Highways England will develop its partnerships with Local Authorities including District, Borough and City Councils who have no specific highways or traffic management functions through building strong relationships with key operational personnel and working collaboratively together through regular engagement. Partnership arrangements are set out in the attached Litter Strategy Partnership Agreement in Appendix 1.

The Essence of this Agreement

Highways England and Mid Devon District Council share a common objective in relation to litter collection and the need for a partnership approach and effective communications is vital to secure effective co-ordination. There are mutual benefits to both organisations to work jointly together to ensure that disruptions to the travelling public are minimised and the sustained objective is to continue to build on the positive, day-to-day close relationships between Highways England, the local authorities, and where necessary others, to provide a seamless service to our mutual customer, the travelling public.

The partnership agreements provide the vehicle to deliver our stated intentions and to adopt them as underlying principles; they provide the basis for voluntary arrangements to be developed between Highways England and Mid Devon District Council.

Implementation and Review

All parties to these agreements are urged to implement the protocols and procedures contained within this document in accordance with arrangements set out in Appendix 1.

This partnership agreement will be updated regularly and all significant changes will be agreed by all parties but as a minimum shall be reviewed annually.

Limitations and Constraints

This partnership agreement does not constitute a legally binding document or commitment between any parties and any other agreements made between Highways England and Mid Devon District Council remain unaffected by the Partnership Agreements.

This statement of intent is made in good faith and Highways England and Mid Devon District Council will use their best endeavours to meet the aims and objectives set out above.

LITTER STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Between
Kier Services Highways,
Mid Devon District Council
And
Highways England

Square brackets denote area specific text items to be completed by the Service Provider/ Local Authority and also denote contract specific differences allowing this single template to be used for various contract types. All of the text in red should be removed, completed, replaced or amended to suit local circumstances as appropriate.

1. Introduction

- a) Kier Services Highways is contracted under the Managing Agent Contractor (MAC) by Highways England.
At present, only motorways and selected APTRs are the responsibility of Highways England and the Kier Services Highways is required to carry out litter clearing, sweeping and cleaning activities.
- b) Mid Devon District Council is the Local Authority through which the highway passes and which is legally required to ensure that the land, so far as is practicable, is kept clear of litter and refuse. This involves accountability for keeping clean the majority of APTRs across the Strategic Road Network within the geographic area of Mid Devon District Council.
- c) Highways England, Kier Services Highways and Mid Devon District Council are committed to proactively exploring and identifying ways to create a cleaner Strategic Road Network in order to minimise the impact litter has on both the natural and built environment, and, where appropriate, to building collaborative relationships to jointly achieve this goal.
- d) Highways England, Kier Services Highways and Mid Devon District Council recognise and respect each other's roles and responsibilities.

2. Purpose of the Litter Strategy Partnership Agreement

Highways England, Kier Services Highways and Mid Devon District Council will seek to build and enhance their relationship, consulting and co-operating where it is of mutual benefit, in order to support and complement each other's contribution to a cleaner environment and Strategic Road Network, including exploring ideas and opportunities of mutual benefit.

Kier Services Highways will endeavour to create opportunities to share

resources with Mid Devon District Council including traffic management and the use of Impact Protection Vehicles (IPVs), to perform litter clearing, sweeping and cleaning activities.

Confidentiality

All information, discussions and documents shall remain confidential between Highways England, Kier Services Highways and Mid Devon District Council and both parties will take proper and all reasonable measures to ensure the confidentiality of such information that is agreed and deemed appropriate.

3. Working Together

Highways England, Kier Services Highways and Mid Devon District Council will hold regular executive level liaison meetings to develop and monitor a work programme that delivers litter clearing, sweeping and cleaning activities.

The three parties share a number of common objectives and so the need for effective communication is vital to secure successful co-ordination. Communication methods will be defined on an area specific basis. The three organisations will work together to ensure any disruption to customers caused by litter clearing, sweeping and cleaning are minimised.

4. Review of Litter Strategy Partnership Agreement

This Litter Strategy Partnership Agreement will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

Signed on behalf of Highways England

_____ Date _____
Emma Bazeley, Highways England

Signed on behalf of Kier Services Highways

Howard Jones
_____ Date 08.02.17 _____
Howard Jones, Operations Manager

Signed on behalf of Mid Devon District Council

_____ Date _____
Local Authority Operations Manager