

Culture and Communities Committee

2.00pm, Tuesday, 20 March 2018

Graffiti Working Group

Item number	8.8
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All
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Executive Summary

This report presents a proposal to establish an Elected Member and Officer Graffiti Working Group, with recommendations for membership. It is proposed that the group would devise an action plan to reduce the amount of graffiti in the city.

Graffiti Working Group

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the establishment of a joint elected members Graffiti Working Group
- 1.2 To appoint the membership of the Working Group as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 To request regular updates on progress during the term of the working group.
- 1.4 To update the Transport and Environment Committee on the establishment and work of this group.

2. Background

- 2.1 Councillor Laidlaw submitted a motion to Council on [21 September 2017](#) on the establishment of a Graffiti Task Force. This was followed up with an amendment from Councillor Macinnes which was approved:
 - 2.1.1 To recognise that graffiti has become a serious problem across our city with multiple surfaces being vandalised with low-grade tags;
 - 2.1.2 To address the many instances of damage to council property, in particular litter and communal waste bins; lamp post and street furniture including bus stops, benches and bollards; and
 - 2.1.3 To agree to receive a report to the Culture and Communities Committee reviewing the current procedures for dealing with graffiti and examining options for spreading best practice in the city to deal with the issue.

3. Main report

- 3.1 Following discussion between Elected Members and officers, it is proposed to establish a member officer Working group to discuss the issues associated with Graffiti in the city, to review the current procedures for dealing with graffiti and to examine options for dealing with this issue.
- 3.2 The proposed membership of the Working Group should include Elected Members from both the Culture and Committees and Transport and Environment Committee, working with officers from Waste and Cleansing, Safer and Stronger Communities and Locality service areas.
- 3.3 Once finalised, the options for dealing with this issue will be developed into an action plan which will be presented to Committee for approval.
- 3.4 It is also proposed that, once established, the group will consider inviting external partners to attend meetings as and when appropriate.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 A Working Group is established.
- 4.2 An action plan is drafted with the aim of reducing the incidence of graffiti in Edinburgh and reducing the number of complaints that the Council receive about graffiti.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications in establishing a Working Group.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 There are no direct risks, policy, compliance or governance impacts resulting from this report.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities impact resulting from this report.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Graffiti is shown to cause a detrimental impact on the local environment and is a signal of associated crime and anti-social behaviour. This can be a barrier to the use of streets and open spaces.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Appropriate partnership organisations will be consulted with as part of the design of an action plan, and officer representation from these groups may be added to the group if required.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 None.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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11. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Working Group Proposed Membership and Draft Terms of Reference for consideration once formed

Graffiti Working Group

Proposed Membership:

- Four Coalition Members;
- Three Opposition Members; and
- Officers from the following service areas:
 - Waste and Cleansing
 - Safer and Stronger Communities
 - Locality Management

The Group may also wish to invite representative(s) from Police Scotland and other partners as appropriate.

Terms of reference:

Introduction

The Council recognises that graffiti has become a serious problem across the city, with multiple surfaces being vandalised with low-grade tags. In many instances the damage to Council property, in particular litter and communal waste bins; lamp posts and street furniture including bus stops, benches and bollards.

Remit

This Member Officer Working Group is proposed to review the current procedures in place for dealing with graffiti and to examine options for spreading best practice in the city to deal with the issue.

The group will devise an action plan aimed at reducing graffiti in the city. This plan will be presented to Committee for approval.

Timescale

An initial report on the issues and current procedures will be prepared for Culture and Communities Committee on 19 June 2018.

The detailed action plan will be developed over the next six months and will report to Culture and Communities Committee before the end of 2018.

Meeting Arrangements

The first meeting of this group will be in early April and the subsequent frequency of meetings will be agreed at this first meeting.