



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Environment Portfolio meeting
Subject:	Update on tackling graffiti
Date of meeting:	30 September 2024
Report by:	Colette Hill, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods
Wards affected:	All

1. Purpose To update the Cabinet member for Environment on the progress of the work undertaken since 2022 to tackle graffiti in the city.

2. Background

- 2.1. Whilst there are provisions for removal of graffiti from council property, the administration has also provided funding to support the removal of graffiti from private property - recognising the detrimental effect it can have on the look and feel of the City.
- 2.2. Graffiti on the highway and highway infrastructure is removed by COLAS who provide the service on behalf of the council.
- 2.3. Graffiti on other council owned property is removed by the Green & Clean team or by specialist providers (e.g. for ancient monuments).
- 2.4. All council staff can report graffiti, but this work is co-ordinated by the Community Warden and Environmental Enforcement (safe, clean and tidy - SCT) team. These teams also investigate and report graffiti for removal. They also remove certain types of graffiti where this can be done using graffiti wipes.
- 2.5. Graffiti on private property can be removed by the Green & Clean team with the permission of the landowner. There are often delays between the graffiti being reported and permission being given by the landowner - this can be down to a few factors - including processes of organisations or managing agents.
- 2.6. The CCTV team monitor issues as they are seen although perpetrators are often viewed wearing masks making it difficult to identify individuals. The team will escalate to Police using Police radio link if they observe graffiti in progress.



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

3. Progress

3.1. The SCT team has recorded 236 incidents of graffiti for the period 01/01/2024 - 31/08/2024.

3.2. Of the 236 reports that came into safe, clean and tidy, they came from the following sources:

- 149 Community Warden (patrol)
- 58 Members of the public to Community Warden
- 10 Councillors
- 4 From member of the public to city helpdesk
- 10 Other PCC employees
- 5 Other non-PCC employees

3.3. The most reports of graffiti were in the Charles Dickens ward.

Charles Dickens	72
Fratton	40
Eastney & Craneswater	27
St Jude	20
St Thomas	16
Cosham	15
Central Southsea	12
Nelson	10
Baffins	7
Copnor	5
Hilsea	4
Milton	4
Drayton & Farlington	2
Paulsgrove	2
Portsea	0
Total	236

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

- 3.4. The incidents are monitored, and 'hot spots' identified, for example Commercial Road, Bransbury Road, Fratton Road, Arundel Street and London Road all had more than 10 reports of graffiti during the 8-month period.
- 3.5. To address these hotspots, we have increased patrols, considered re-deployable cameras, carried out additional checks of CCTV and highlighted with team to target resources. Additionally, some of the hotspot areas are also areas where we are carrying out targeted ASB patrols in conjunction with the Police - with Office of Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) funding.
- 3.6. For these ASB patrols, mapping was conducted to analyse different offences/incidents linked to anti-social behaviour to highlight potential ASB hotspots for the Home Office Hotspot Response Programme. There are 25 hotspots in Hampshire, 19 of which are serious violence with ASB and 6 are just ASB.
- 3.7. Community wardens patrol these areas in Portsmouth alongside police and other professionals. Patrols are for 45 minutes on set days (2 - 3 times a week), during specific times, high visibility and always completed in pairs. Hotspot areas include Sultan Road, Fratton Road, London Road and Commercial Road.
- 3.8. Since January 2022 removed 299 incidences of graffiti. This includes a few repeat visits to sites.
- 3.9. Below shows action taken to remove graffiti in first 8 months of 2024:
 - **Completed by Community Wardens - 73**
Community Wardens can remove graffiti with wipes without needing to place demand on further services. This works for small graffiti marks such as tags on litter bins, signs, and telephone boxes. See appendix 1 for before and after photo examples
 - **Passed to Green and Clean - 66**
Green and clean remove the graffiti where it is on our housing estates, or we have permission from the landlord / landowner. See appendix 1 for before and after photo examples.
 - **Other non-PCC - 2**
Graffiti on places like clothes banks, train lines, electric boxes, Housing Association flats. PCC have removed the graffiti - sometimes we unable to do it due to its location (at height).
 - **Passed to Colas - 23**
Graffiti on road signs and street furniture.
 - **Other PCC - 25**



THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Graffiti on parks or monuments where it cannot be removed easily. Generally removed by specialist contractor depending on the type of monument.

3.10. Safe, Clean and Tidy have delegated powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for graffiti and fly posting under section 43 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. For the FPN to be issued, the person committing the offence needs to be identified. Due to the challenge of identifying individuals no FPNs for graffiti have been issued for the same period.

4. Next Steps

4.1. Graffiti will continue to be a priority for the SCT team and colleagues.

4.2. An Environmental Tasking Co-ordinating group (ETCG) has been set up to include directorate representatives and partners. The group will meet monthly to consider hotspots and problem issues and agree actions to try and resolve the issues.

4.3. An article is scheduled for the Winter edition of flagship to feedback on action taken, and how residents can report issues affecting their street - including graffiti.

.....
Signed by James Hill, Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services Director)

Appendices: Appendix 1 - Before and after photos - examples of work completed

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
16/03/2023 - Climate Change and Environment portfolio Meetings Item 10 - Graffiti Progress	Graffiti progress report.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)