

Committee(s)	Dated:
Port Health and Environment Services	23 May 2016
Subject: NI195 Survey Results	Public
Report of: Director of the Built Environment	For Information

Summary

This report details the result of the NI195 surveys conducted for the City of London Cleansing Service by Keep Britain Tidy from June 2015 to March 2016. It highlights the work done by the Cleansing Service to achieve the best scores in over a decade, well beyond the local and national benchmarks. Additionally it notes the areas where improvement is still possible.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

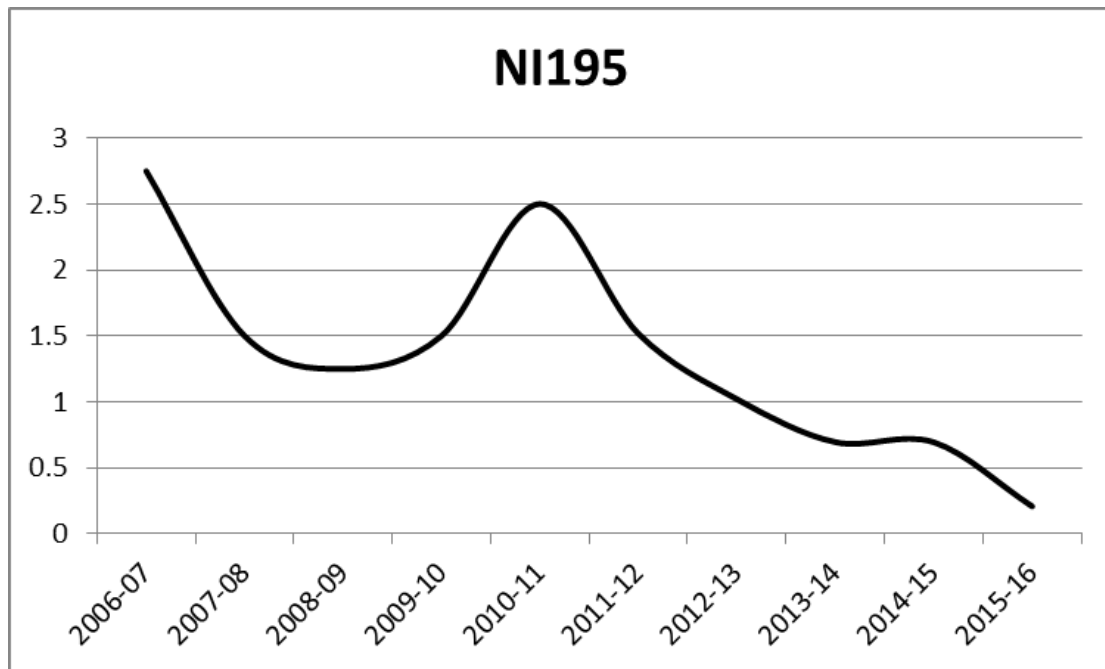
Background

1. Since 2006 the City of London Cleansing Service has commissioned detailed independent surveying of the street scene environment in order to gauge the quality of the service provided and highlight any areas of concern that require improvement. The surveying is carried out by qualified surveyors from Keep Britain Tidy (KBT). These surveys have proved invaluable in measuring the impact of changes to the service or specific campaigns and projects.
2. The surveying consists of three tranches of inspections carried out over the year in March, June and October. Each tranche consists of 300 transect inspections, where a randomly selected 50m stretch of highway and carriageway are graded according to the presence of litter, detritus, fly posting and graffiti. These are carried out using Defra's National Indicator 195 methodology in accordance with the schedule set out in Appendix 1.

Current Position

3. The overall results of the 2015/16 NI195 surveys are the best that the City has achieved since 2006 as detailed in the table and chart below.

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
NI195	2.75%	1.5%	1.25%	1.5%	2.5%	1.52%	1.02%	0.70%	0.70%	0.21%



Benchmarking data from inspections carried out by KBT in other boroughs across London and nationwide is available from 2014/15 and can be seen in the table below broken down by individual category. The City significantly outperforms both of these benchmarks in all categories.

	Litter	Detritus	Fly posting	Graffiti
2015/16 – City of London	0.44%	0.11%	0%	0.28%
2014/15 – City of London	2.39%	0.11%	0.06%	0.22%
2014/15 – London Benchmark	11.6%	10.14%	0.85%	2.79%
2014/15 – National Benchmark	6.47%	17.7%	0.27%	1.52%

4. The low score for detritus are particularly encouraging as this indicates the quality of deep cleansing that the City regularly receives. The scores for flyposting and graffiti indicate that the practice of providing all sweepers with the equipment to remove incidents of flyposting and low level graffiti is also working well.
5. In addition to the four main indicators above that comprise the National Indicator 195, the surveys cover a range of bespoke categories requested by the Cleansing Service. Form these indicators KBT have rated the weed growth, leaf fall and waste place out all as good. The condition and cleansing of bins is satisfactory, with the exception of a couple of sites. The main area for concern is staining (including chewing gum), particularly at bus stops and around litter bins. This was also noted in last year's report and, whilst not improving, has not worsened, even with the removal of the dedicated chewing gum service.
6. The excellent results achieved in these surveys, along with the various proactive approaches to dealing with the issues specific to the city (such as our No Small Problem campaigns and our anti-social behaviour crews) formed a large part of the evidence for our successful applications for both the Chartered Institute of Wastes Management National Clean Britain Award and the Keep Britain Tidy Local Authority of the Year Award over the last year.

Proposals

7. The surveying has been commissioned for 2016/17 as part of a three year fixed priced reduction agreed last year. The Cleansing Service will continue to seek ways to improve the service in order to target the areas of concern noted and maintain the excellent results expected of a world class financial centre.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. The results of the surveying match with the strategic aim of the Corporate Plan to provide modern, efficient and high quality local services, including policing, within the Square Mile for workers, residents and visitors, and the key priority policy 2 of improving the value for money of our services within the constraints of reduced resources. They also agree with the City Together aim of being the heart of a World Class City which protects, promotes and enhances our environment.

Implications

9. There are no financial or other implications.

Conclusion

10. The overall levels of cleansing remain extremely good, especially in the context of the service based review savings that were made over the last year. The Cleansing Service must continue to focus on ways of improving the service and targeting the issues with staining.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: NI195 Litter Grading from Defra Cleanliness National Indicator (NI195) Manual

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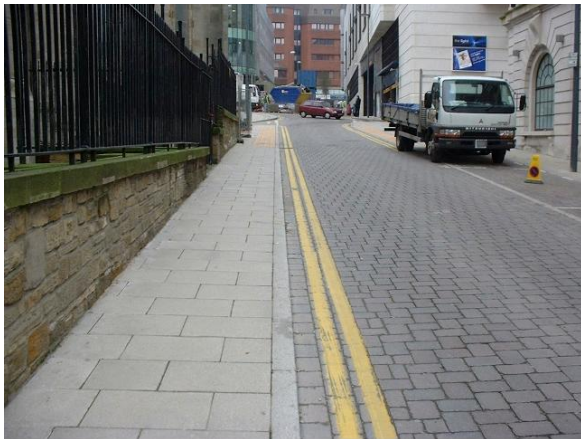
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Appendix 1: NI195 Litter Grading from Defra Cleanliness National Indicator (NI195) Manual

There is no statutory definition of litter. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (s.87) states that litter is 'anything that is dropped, thrown, left or deposited that causes defacement, in a public place'. This accords with the popular interpretation that 'litter is waste in the wrong place'. However, local authority cleansing officers and their contractors have developed a common understanding of the term and the definition used for NI195 (and for the LEQSE) is based on this industry norm.

Under Section 98(5A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, certain discarded smoking-related materials (cigarette ends, etc.), and discarded chewing gum and the results of other products designed for chewing, are specifically stated to be items of litter. However, whilst both are litter when they are dropped (i.e. the dropper could be prosecuted under Section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for leaving litter), the standards in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse do not apply to trodden-in chewing gum. Duty bodies are not required to employ special cleansing methods to remove compacted gum or gum staining over and above normal cleansing regimes.

Litter may also include putrescible or clinical wastes, or faeces such as dog, bird and other animal faeces. Note - This definition is aligned with the opinion of most members of the public who regard faeces - especially dog faeces - as comprising litter. For the purposes of NI195, recent leaf and blossom falls are excluded from the definition of litter.



GRADE A - no litter or refuse



GRADE B - predominantly free of litter and refuse except for some small items



GRADE C - widespread distribution of litter and refuse, with minor accumulations



GRADE D - heavily littered, with significant accumulations