

Place Scrutiny

Litter and Cleansing update October 2025



Questions

- The estimated volume of litter across Monmouthshire
- The scale of Monmouthshire's road network
- Quantified the volume of litter collected by MCC (via current resource)
- Quantified the volume of litter collected by litter picking groups
- Confirmed the frequency of litter sweeping across major trunk and B-roads (and how requests for ad hoc support are accommodated)
- Present a series of scenarios estimating the volume of additional litter that **could** be collected, and the resources that would be required for each scenario (both physical and mechanical)
- Following on from this, provide a breakdown of the anticipated cost of procuring/providing said resource (e.g. an additional mechanical sweeper @ £XXK, an additional XX hours of physical litter collection at £XX)
- Provide detailed breakdown of any existing shared partnership work between town/community councils and MCC (what do community councils contribute financially, and what do they get in return)
- Any private sector partnership (are there any civic minded residents or businesses who contribute towards litter projects? If not, could they?)



Cleansing and Litter - legislation


- The management of litter and street cleansing operations are based upon The Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) which was issued Under Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990. It sets out the legal standards which every Duty Body has to achieve.
- In the majority of cases this will fall to us as the local authority; however it should be noted that transport terminals including bus and rail stations fall to the operator and motorways and certain trunk roads fall to the Secretary of State.
- The objective of the Code of Practice is “to provide practical guidance on the discharge of the duties under Section 89 by establishing reasonable and generally acceptable standards of cleanliness which those under the duty should be capable of meeting”.
- The code sets out guidance on response times for bringing areas back up to acceptable standard.




CoPLaR

Response times in cleaning various areas									
ZONE	TYPE OF LAND	Grade A Response time	Grade B Response time	Grade C Response time	Grade D Response time				
1	TOWN CENTRES & SHOPPING CENTRES	←	←	←	6 hrs ←	3 hrs ←	1 hr ←		
2	HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (flats / terraces)	←	12 hrs ←	6 hrs ←	3 hrs				
3	LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	←	2 wks ←	12 hrs ←	6 hrs				
4	ALL OTHER AREAS	←	2 wks ←	1 wk ←	60 hrs				
5a	BEACHES Amenity Beaches	←	←	1 May - 30 September					
5b	BEACHES Other Beaches	←	←	As Necessary					
6a	MOTORWAYS & STRATEGIC ROUTES Hard Surface Areas	←	←	4 wks ←	1 wk				
6b	MOTORWAYS & STRATEGIC ROUTES Grassed Areas	←	←	4 wks ←	1 wk				
7a	LOCAL ROADS Hard Surface Areas	←	←	2 wks ←	5 days				
7b	LOCAL ROADS Grassed Areas	←	←	2 wks ←	5 days				
8a	EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS Hard Surface Areas (term-time)	←	←	24 hrs ←	24 hrs				
8b	EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS Grassed Areas (term-time)	←	←	24 hrs ←	24 hrs				
9	OPERATIONAL RAILWAY LAND Within 100m Of Platform Ends	←	←	2 wks ←	5 days				
10	OPERATIONAL RAILWAY LAND Within Urban Areas Other Than In 9	←	←	6 months ←	3 months				
11a	CANAL TOWPATHS IN URBAN AREAS Paved Areas	←	←	2 wks ←	5 days				
11b	CANAL TOWPATHS IN URBAN AREAS Grassed Or Non-Paved Areas	←	←	4 wks ←	1 wk				
12	PUBLIC LAND ATTRACTING A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS	←	24 hrs ←	24 hrs ←	24 hrs				

Set A: litter and refuse in both relevant highway and hard surface setting




Grade A
No litter or refuse




Grade C
Widespread distribution of litter and/or refuse with minor accumulations

Set B: litter and refuse in a soft surface setting




Grade A
No litter or refuse




Grade B
Predominately free of litter and refuse apart from some small items


Set C: principles of detritus grading in a relevant highway setting




Grade C
Widespread distribution of litter and/or refuse with minor accumulations




Grade D
Heavily affected by litter and/or refuse with significant accumulations




Grade A
No detritus



Grade B
Predominantly free of detritus except for some light scattering



Grade C
Widespread distribution of detritus with minor accumulations



Grade D
Heavily affected by detritus with significant accumulations



The service

- Resourcing the service –
- Cleansing is split over 3 operational depots
- Each depot has a precinct sweeper, an EPA team, litter collection team (15 staff)
- 1 large sweeper 2025
- There are Town Teams paid for by Town Councils in Chepstow, Abergavenny, Magor Undy Caldicot.
- Discussions with Monmouth, Usk Raglan Little Mill are progressing
- Town Teams deliver services over and above the statutory duty and working schedules are jointly managed



Other support

6 x litter groups

419 x volunteer litter
champions

Probation Service

Wider grounds team:
Ops picking litter on mowing
rounds etc



Cost of dealing with litter

Cost Category	Binned Litter Annual Cost (£)	Ground Litter Annual Cost (£)
Frontline Staff	£ 265,757	£ 337,572
Fleet	£ 74,598	£ 384,122
Equipment	£ 7,899	£ 5,902
Public Bin and Ground Litter Infrastructure	£ 107,434	£ -
Overheads	£ 71,014	£ 77,923
Communication and Enforcement	Not included	Not included
Haulage	£ 1,691	£ 845
Disposal	£ 29,520	£ 14,510
Other Cost/Income	£ 10,990	£ 6,908
Total Annual Cost (£)	£ 568,904	£ 827,783

Approximately 1500 tonnes of road sweepings including litter, predominantly detritus

Approximately 500 tonnes of grounds and cleansing material including litter and fly-tipping (costs covered by waste management contract)



Scale of the issue

Table 3: Local Authority Performance against Efficiency Metrics

Metric	Monmouthshire	Average	Rank*
Total cost per tonne	£2,166	£2,090	9 th
Total cost per capita	£10	£14	16 th
Total cost per hectare	£11	£67	16 th
Total cost per bin	£1,541	£1,595	11 th

*Of the 20 local authorities who returned full datasets, where a score of 1 relates to higher costs.

Table 4: Local Authority Performance against Qualitative Effectiveness Metrics

Metric	Monmouthshire	Wales Average 22/23	Rank*
Street Cleanliness Assessment	98.5%	96% ⁵	3 rd

*Of the 20 local authorities who returned data sets

Year	Loose litter	Litter bin	Dog waste bins	Volunteers	Waste Collection	Other	Blanks	Total
2020-21	139	137	11	59	12	0	1	359
2021-22	136	68	11	46	17	2	3	283
2022-23	112	50	4	25	11	1	1	204
2023-24	129	48	1	54	4	2	1	239
2024-25	129	44	2	59	8	2	1	245
Total	645	347	29	243	52	7	7	

Average 129 69.4 5.8 48.6 10.4 1.4 1.4

1600km of County roads x 2
120km of trunk roads x 2
6 main towns
2.25m m2 of open space



The future – up for discussion

- EPR funding – additional sweeper capacity, additional litter operative
- Tidy Towns funding – additional Tidy Towns teams 25/26
- Pride in Place – additional funding 25-27
- Enforcement

