

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL - STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING GRAFFITI REMOVAL

(1) Introduction - What is Graffiti?

Graffiti is an illegal, anti-social activity which creates a negative impression for an area and contributes to fear of crime within the community. The legal definition within the Anti Social Behaviour Act is "Graffiti includes painting, writing, soiling, marking or other defacing by whatever means".

Offensive graffiti is illegal, unauthorised marking of premises or installations may contain some or all of the following elements:

- (a) Obscene language;
- (b) Language of a politically/racially/religiously insulting or inciting nature;
- (c) A statement denoting hatred intolerance or violence;
- (d) An image which is graphically explicit and obscene or otherwise offensive; and
- (e) An image which is visually offensive or textually offensive by reason of the message which it conveys.

(2) Applications of the Policy

Epping Forest District Council will only remove graffiti from their property

(3) How to Report Graffiti Incidents

The Crime Reduction Unit of Epping Forest District Council may be contacted on Tel No: 01992 564272 or via the on line reporting form on the Epping Forest District Council Website

(4) Legal Requirements

Draft Document

There is no legal requirement for the Council to remove graffiti but the Council is determined it will exercise its discretion for the well-being of the Community to commit resources to this service.

(5) Service Levels

The District Council will endeavour to remove all graffiti on its own land and buildings. It also undertakes to remove all graffiti from highway signage and other signs in public areas.

The Council will not remove from private property. In such circumstances the Council will undertake to provide information on Companies who will provide a professional removal service to those owners if required.

The Council after consultation with the Epping Forest Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership Hate Crime Operational Group will remove what it considers to be obscene, racial and sexual graffiti wherever it occurs and will exercise its discretion to remove this even if it occurs on private premises or land.

(6) Response Times

Graffiti is planned to be removed within two weeks of being reported to the Crime Reduction Unit of Epping Forest District Council.

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