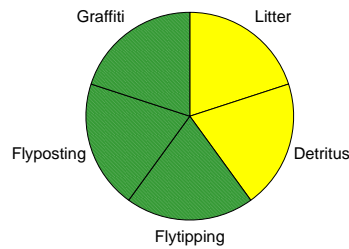


### Overall Environmental Standards in St Helens Council



■ Good ■ Satisfactory ■ Unsatisfactory ■ Poor

The chart above shows overall standards of five headline environmental issues, surveyed during the 2006/2007 year.

In essence, the chart gives a “snap shot” of how well an area is performing on the environmental issues which are often of greatest concern to the public where they live.

The five environmental issues covered in the chart above are:

- Litter - Items of litter that have generally been discarded by members of the public;
- Detritus – Generally small items of granular or organic material (grit, old leaf/blossom fall, sand etc.), which, where found, can make an area appear “grubby” and uncared for;
- Fly-tipping – Illegally dumped waste ranging in size from a black bin liner to multiple lorry loads of dumped building rubble;
- Fly-posting – Posters, stickers and notices that are illegally displayed on public and private property – from posters advertising a car boot sale to those advertising a record release; and
- Graffiti – Illegal or unauthorized defacing of public or private property, from juvenile scrawls to large murals.

The key is split into four colours and describes the overall average standard found throughout the council area. A brief description of the four standards, from ‘Good’ to ‘Poor’, is given below:

‘Good’ – **There is an absence, or an insignificant level,** of the relevant environmental issue and therefore most people would not consider there to be a problem; however, isolated incidences of low standards may still be present.

‘Satisfactory’ – **There are low levels** of the relevant environmental issue, which are unlikely to be noticed or to cause offence. Therefore, most of the time, most people would not consider there to be a problem; however, incidences of low standards may still be present.

‘Unsatisfactory’ – Most **people would consider that there is a problem** with the relevant environmental issue. Some may feel standards are poor enough to complain. It is also likely that low standards will be present in a greater number of places.

‘Poor’ – Most **people would consider that there is a significant problem** with the relevant environmental issue. Low standards will be found regularly and there are likely to be widespread complaints.

For more in-depth information on the survey findings, definitions and the gauge chart please [click here](#).

## St. Helens Council – Gauge Chart

The 'Gauge Chart', which follows, provides a far greater level of detail to the previous chart.

It summarises the local environmental quality standards that were found within the Council area across an extended list of 32 environmental issues that are important to most people's quality of life. Some of these issues can also impact on the Council's ability to deliver environmental services, such as the sweeping of its streets.

### Presentation of survey results

The 'Gauge Chart' uses the same colour code as the previous chart, with standards falling into one of four categories:

Good	- dark green
Satisfactory	- light green
Unsatisfactory	- yellow
Poor	- red

However, in this chart, each of the four categories are subdivided into four coloured blocks to illustrate where a particular issue falls within the broader classifications of Good, Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory or Poor.

For example, if a particular environmental issue has four dark green blocks this means it is graded at the highest end of 'Good'. However, if it has just one dark green block it is at the lower end of 'Good'. If the chart shows just one or two yellow blocks in the 'Unsatisfactory' category, this could mean that there is scope to improve standards relatively easily by better targeting of existing resources thereby taking it out of 'Unsatisfactory' and into 'Satisfactory'.

Similarly, where cleansing standards in relation to litter or detritus are just one light green block into the 'Satisfactory' category, this could illustrate that standards could easily slip to being 'Unsatisfactory' in the absence of proper management of that issue.

### The environmental issues

The 32 environmental issues covered in the 'Gauge Chart' fall into seven groups and are described below:

**Cleansing** – This reports on the levels of litter, detritus (old leaf and blossom fall, grit etc.) and recent leaf and blossom fall found across a council area.

**Cleansing Related** – This reports on a range of cleansing related issues, the level of weed growth, the levels of graffiti, fly-tipping and fly posting and how well contained domestic and commercial waste (black sacks, wheeled bins etc.) placed out for collection were found to be.

**Highways** – Here, the survey looked at three factors that can make it difficult to clean an area – levels of obstruction, the physical condition of the highway (paved areas, road channels and carriageways) and levels of traffic. The word 'upstand' in relation to paved area obstruction means a raised edge against which effective sweeping or brushing can take place – its absence, for example, can impact on a council's ability to clean its streets.

**Street Furniture** – This reports on the condition of signs, benches etc, where they are found on the street.

**Litter Bins** – This reports on how clean and in what condition they were found, along with their level of fill – this is to say the amount of litter found in them.

**Bus Stops** – This reports on their general quality across a of range issues, including the levels of litter, staining, graffiti and fly-posting that where found.

**Landscaping** – This reports on the general condition of landscaped areas across the council area and the levels of litter found in them.

To view the Gauge Chart please [click here](#)

### Notes:

In some cases the Council, particularly if it is a District Council, may not be responsible for maintaining some elements, such as highways and bus stops.

Extended LEQSE 2006/07 - St Helens Council  
 Gauge Chart of Environmental Indices for All Areas

<b>Cleansing Standards</b>		
	Litter	4 yellow bars
	Detritus	4 yellow bars
5 green bars	Leaf Fall	
<b>Cleansing Related</b>		
3 green bars	Weed Growth	
	Staining	4 yellow bars
5 green bars	Flytipping	
	Waste Placed Out	
5 green bars	Flyposting	
3 green bars	Graffiti	
<b>Highway Infrastructure</b>		
3 green bars	Paved Areas Obstruction	
	Paved Obstruction No Upstand	4 yellow bars, 3 red bars
3 green bars	Channel Obstruction	
	Paved Areas Condition	3 yellow bars
	Channel Condition	3 yellow bars
	Carriageway Condition	2 yellow bars
	Road Marking Condition	3 yellow bars
3 green bars	Vehicle Flows	
5 green bars	Pedestrian Flows	
<b>Street Furniture</b>		
	Posts & Poles	1 yellow bar
	Public Signs	2 yellow bars
	Other Street Furniture	1 yellow bar
	Buildings & Boundary Structures	2 yellow bars
<b>Litter Bins</b>		
	Cleanliness	1 yellow bar
	Condition	1 yellow bar
5 green bars	Degree of Fill	
<b>Bus Stops Etc.</b>		
	Litter	3 yellow bars
	Condition	2 yellow bars
	Staining	4 yellow bars, 3 red bars
5 green bars	Flyposting	
1 green bar	Graffiti	
<b>Landscaping</b>		
	Litter	4 yellow bars, 2 red bars
	Maintenance	4 yellow bars



\* Caution, small sample size, there may be limitations on data