

7th October 2003

DIRTY LONDON NEEDS CAPITAL WIPE-UP

In its response to the London Assembly's Environment Committee investigation on protecting the city environment, Northgate called for a city-wide campaign to promote community well-being by tackling the causes of anti-social behaviour and cracking down on environmental nuisance.

Northgate's response recommends a range of actions including:

- an education campaign designed to influence both organisational and individual behaviour to make it clear that there is zero tolerance of environmental nuisance such as graffiti, fly-posting, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling and litter;
- extended producer and corporate responsibility in tackling these issues, combined with collaboration with the voluntary sector;
- fair and proportionate enforcement with proper safeguards built into the administration of on the spot fines.

Speaking today, Dave Meaden, Managing Director of Northgate public sector, said:

"Environmental nuisance does not respect local authority boundaries. London needs a city-wide approach to enforcing community well-being and environmental quality. If there is no strategic approach, people living in London's poorer boroughs with lower levels of resources may suffer disadvantage.

"Too often Londoner's lives are made a misery because of inaction. We need fair but firm enforcement. On the spot fines are an additional means of dealing effectively with minor offences where the facts are apparently indisputable and where there is a one-off breach. London boroughs need to put their capital heads together to regain public trust by building enlightened systems where the right to enjoy a good quality of life is balanced against individual and corporate responsibility."

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Notes to editors

1. Northgate is a technology company with a difference. It is committed to high quality public services and understands the public sector. That knowledge is core to its business. Its task is to enhance public sector value through intelligent use of people and information technology systems and to share in the economic and social benefits that this brings.
2. Northgate's clear citizen focus and collaborative approach has helped it to work with London boroughs such as Haringey, Hackney and Camden, with the Greater London Authority, Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police. It works with nearly a quarter of local authorities and all of the police authorities in the country.
3. Northgate assists local authorities and the police to promote community well-being by helping them provide citizens with accessible and responsive one-stop services and enforcement systems. It provides and manages enforcement systems for London's congestion charging scheme; is the national provider of penalty notice enforcement systems for vehicle procedures and is the country's leading provider of penalty notice systems for the police.