



To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board 4 Date: 19th September 2017

Subject: Fly tipping in Coventry

1 Purpose of the Note

1.1 Members requested details of the progress that is being made to tackle fly-tipping in the city.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

- 1) Note the actions and programmes in place to tackle fly tipping.
- 2) Make recommendations as appropriate to the Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities).

3 Information/Background

3.1 Fly tipping in Coventry has increased in the last 12 months; Appendix 1 compares the number of fly tipping episodes in the years 2016/17 and 2017/18. This needs to be set against a rising trend nationally and locally; Appendix 2 compares Coventry's total fly tipping episodes with those of our near neighbours and as a factor of population size.

3.2 The increase in fly tipping and our response was exacerbated by a number of factors:

3.2.1 **Change in legislation and the cost of waste disposal.** The cost of waste disposal has risen in recent years and there is a temptation to avoid paying for correct disposal. In particular, the legislation around the disposal of refrigerators was 'tightened' and made more onerous and as a result scrap metal collectors are reluctant to take this type of waste and will want payment. This one factor resulted in an additional 'white goods' being fly tipped; this represents 12% of the total.

3.2.2 **Savings made on waste collection, street cleansing and enforcement.** In the past few years savings of £2.5 M were made on waste collections, street cleansing and enforcement, the effects of these savings are still being absorbed by the relevant services. It is a well-known fact that cluttered streets increase the likelihood of fly tipping. The degree to which the saving programmes have increased fly tipping in the city is difficult to quantify against a back drop of increased fly tipping nationally. Although austerity programmes to save money here and elsewhere in the country will almost certainly have had an effect.

3.2.3 In February 2016 the service which previously covered environmental crime, was amalgamated with other services that enforced noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour; the total number of officers working in these combined areas was reduced by 10. Furthermore, the service now operates 7 days per week from 9am to 3am the following day; whilst this gives greater flexibility, resilience and is easier for residents to report issues to, it does mean that remaining resources are spread more thinly. A further smaller restructure was made in February 2018 to better align the service to tackle fly tipping.

3.2.4 It should also be recognised the Street Enforcement Team is a multi-disciplinary service which responds to a wide variety of issues and not just fly tipping. Appendix 3 details the

issues managed by this team and Appendix 4 gives an indication of the total work that falls to this team and increases to the individual officer's case load. In the year to date the total amount of work completed by the team, compared to previous 12 months increased from 12,706 cases to 13,785, an 8.5% increase.

4 Measures to address the increase in fly tipping

4.1 It was mentioned in 3.2.3 that a further smaller restructure of the Street Enforcement Team was made in February 2018 to better align the service to tackle fly tipping. The restructure was designed to create elements of the service that could a) respond rapidly to collect evidence and catalogue fly tipping incidents, and b) allow other elements of the service to more effectively case manage incidents. Already the changes are paying dividends and the amount of enforcement actions have increased. The table below shows the increase in enforcement actions:

	18.08.16 – 17.08.17	18.08.17 – 17.08.18
Notices served for waste offences	244	368
Prosecutions for waste offences	20	32

4.2 The Street Enforcement Team along with colleagues in Street Pride and Waste Services will continue to map all instances of fly tipping to better determine where the problem is occurring and attempt to understand why this may be the case. In 2018 the Clean Streets Programme was introduced by the Cabinet Member for City Services. This programme is designed to deal with parts of the city where there is poor compliance with the Council's waste collection rules; the programme is designed to educate local residents, but enforcement is used where poor compliance continues.

4.3 Over half of the City's fly tipping occurs in three wards. The Street Enforcement Team together with the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team will continue to work on projects such as 'hot streets'. We have successfully used this early intervention and education initiative with residents in these specific areas. Again the recent restructure will facilitate better management of the hot streets programme.

4.4 We have continued the programme of introducing new surveillance equipment which, will be deployed at areas that we know are frequently fly tipped on. Such deployment often leads to a reduction in tipping but also it is hoped that the repeat offenders will be identified and ultimately formal action would be taken.

4.5 We have started to engage residents who routinely report issues with the aim of recruiting them as Street Champions. This will assist the Council with the reporting of incidents, using social media and promoting good practice. This programme started in June

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Appendix One: The number of incidents of fly-tipping

2016 – 2017	totals
Number of fly tipping incidents	3342
2017- 2018	totals
Number of fly tipping incidents	4704
2018 – 2019 (to date – quarter 1))	totals
Number of fly tipping incidents	1669

Appendix Two: Fly tipping in the sub-region

Total number of incidents this period by authority			
Authority	2017/18	Population 2011 census	Fly tipping per head of population
Leicester City Council	8512	329,839	0.026
Tamworth Borough Council	1379	76,813	0.018
Walsall MBC	4367	269,323	0.016
North Warwickshire Borough Council	972	62,014	0.016
Birmingham City Council	15993	1,074,300	0.015
Coventry City Council	4704	316,960*	0.015
Sandwell MBC	4695	308,063	0.015
Rugby Borough Council	1068	100,075	0.011
Wolverhampton MBC	2362	249,470	0.009
Warwick District Council	1014	137,648	0.007
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	714	125,252	0.006
Solihull MBC	858	206,700	0.004
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	328	120,500	0.003

*Coventry's population is currently estimated as 362,000

Appendix Three: Full suite of services managed by the Street Enforcement Team

- **Public Space Protection Orders**
 - Dog Control: Dog fouling, dogs on leads, dogs on lead by direction, dogs prohibited and maximum dogs permitted.
 - City Centre: Busking, begging, charity subscription collections (Chuggers), unauthorised collections, unauthorised street trading, skateboarding and cycling.
- **Environmental Crime:**
 - Littering
 - Fly posting on buildings and street furniture,
 - Fly tipping on public and private land,
 - Refuse and rubbish accumulations in gardens and private land,
 - Waste carriers. Ensuring their legitimacy i.e. scrap men and 'tatters',
 - Waste duty of care (businesses). All businesses are required to have contracts to deal with their waste
 - Empty homes and the resultant problems
- **General nuisance and public health issues:**
 - Noise nuisance
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Nuisance feeding of birds
 - Drainage complaints (businesses only)

- Abandoned vehicles
- Nuisance Car Sales on the highway,
- Vehicle repairs on the highway
- Obstructions on pavements
- Odour nuisances from domestic properties
- Bonfires
- Light nuisance from domestic premises
- Illegal Traveller and Gypsy illegal encampments,
- Invasive plants

Appendix 4: Workload for the Street Enforcement Team

