



Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

Time and Date

10.00 am on Thursday, 3rd March 2022

Place

Diamond Room 1 and 2 - Council House, Coventry

Please note that in line with current Government and City Council guidelines in relation to Covid, there will be reduced public access to the meeting to manage numbers attending safely. If you wish to attend in person, please contact the Governance Services Officer indicated at the end of the agenda.

1. **Apologies and Substitutions**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)
 - a) To agree the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 December 2021
 - b) Matters arising
4. **Safe Housing and Accommodation for Vulnerable Women** (Pages 7 - 12)

Briefing Note of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing and the Director of Adult Services and Housing
5. **Recommendations from the Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group**
(Pages 13 - 18)

Briefing Note of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) Fly Tipping Task and Finish Group
6. **Work Programme 2021/2022** (Pages 19 - 22)

Report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator
7. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved**

Julie Newman, Director of Law and Governance, Council House, Coventry

Wednesday, 23 February 2022

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Suzanne Bennett, Governance Services, Email: suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk

Membership:

Councillors R Auluck, R Bailey, L Bigham (Chair), M Heaven, A Hopkins, J Mutton, S Nazir, R Thay and S Walsh

By invitation:

Councillor AS Khan – Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

Councillor P Akhtar – Deputy Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

Councillor D Welsh – Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities

Councillor P Hetherton – Cabinet Member for City Services

Councillor G Lloyd – Deputy Cabinet Member for City Services

Public Access

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Suzanne Bennett

Governance Services

Email: suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)
held at 9.30 am on Wednesday, 15 December 2021

Present:

Members: Councillor L Bigham (Chair)

Councillor R Auluck
Councillor M Heaven
Councillor A Hopkins
Councillor J Mutton
Councillor S Nazir
Councillor D Welsh

Other Members: Councillor D Welsh, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing

Employees (by Service Area):

Law and Governance: V Castree, G Holmes

Streetscene and Regulatory Service: C Eggington

Apologies:- Councillors R Bailey and S Walsh

Public Business

18. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

19. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 December, 2021 were agreed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

20. Consultation on Supplementary Planning Documents - i) Affordable Housing; ii) Energy; iii) Open Space

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing introduced the item. The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note, together with a presentation at the

meeting, which provided information on the consultation about the Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD).

The Scrutiny Board noted that any feedback provided would be considered as part of the consultation process.

The presentation included;

- An explanation of an SPD – that it articulates and amplifies policies within the Local Plan; Cannot exceed the requirements in the Local Plan; had been drafted in conjunction with relevant departments within the Council; required a period of public consultation before adoption and that it would become material consideration in planning decisions
- The consultation launched 30 November and had been extended to 7 weeks duration due to festive break
- Responses would be considered, alterations made as required and Cabinet paper submitted in the new year

Supplementary Planning Documents – Affordable Housing

Issues covered in the presentation included

- A definition of Affordable Housing provided by National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- The SPD included an indicative housing mix to maximise large property provision
- The SPD maximises value of commuted sum where on-site provision is impossible
- The SPD establishes CCC as an alternative purchaser of Affordable Housing
- A Template 106 agreement had been provided

The Scrutiny Board asked questions and received responses on a number of issues, including:-

- The definition of affordable housing.
- Opportunities to increase levels of social housing, as opposed to affordable housing.
- Members were informed Shelter were promoting nationally the challenge of affordable housing.
- There was a push to try and secure a high proportion of social housing in areas of the City where there is currently less.
- Concerns were raised that developers did not complete the levels of affordable housing as per the agreed section 106 application, often citing viability issues. If this happened, developers were required to provide evidence regarding viability. There was now a monitoring officer in planning who reviewed the outcomes of developments compared to the agreed 106 agreements. It was noted that in one local authority area, it was insisted that the affordable housing was built first to ensure that it was built.
- Delivering affordable housing requires a one Coventry approach and other teams across the Council are involved. The Cabinet Member informed the Scrutiny Board that a Housing Strategy would be developed to demonstrate this.
- It was discussed that the policy would include the 'pepper potting' of social housing throughout areas to avoid 'ghettoisation'. Equality Impact assessments

and Health Inequality assessments included the impact of including affordable/ social housing in developments including the impact of doing nothing.

- There had been lots of work to improve the mix of housing being developed to meet Coventry's needs, which included social and affordable housing, larger family homes and suitable accommodation for older people.
- Section 106 agreements were the result of negotiation so there was scope to amend agreements as appropriate – for example, to accept a lower amount of social housing where family homes would be provided as opposed to flats and apartments.
- An explanation as to how the SPD enhances the existing policy was given.

Supplementary Planning Documents – Energy

Issues covered in the presentation included that the SPD

- Establishes the aspirations of the Council for energy efficient development
- Encourages and supports best practice
- Details the requirements for Energy Statements and provides a template
- Re-asserts and updates Heatline information

The Scrutiny Board asked questions and received responses on a number of issues, including:-

- The level of power within the SPD to compel developers to include specific energy saving initiatives.
- The interlink between national government policy and the SPD documents.

Supplementary Planning Documents – Open Space

Issues covered in the presentation included that the SPD

- Sets the volume and typology of Open Space required based on size of development
- Sets standards for the Open Space being provided
- Ensures City Centre developments contribute to Open Space (be that accessible green space or high-quality public realm)
- Provides a Section 106 template

The Scrutiny Board asked questions and received responses on a number of issues, including:-

- What was considered to be a wellbeing space. A wellbeing space could be a variety of things depending on the location of the development including pocket parks, rooftop gardens or balconies.
- There push to encourage open space innovation for developments in the City Centre.
- Public realm open spaces could provide a internal psychological lift.
- Open space in applications was reviewed to ensure it was of high quality and in a suitable location.
- Whether a gendered approach to planning had been considered.

RESOLVED that the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4):-

- 1) Note the presentation as attached at Appendix 1**

- 2) **Note the draft Supplementary Planning Documents attached at Appendix 2,3 and 4 and agree with their contents in principle**
- 3) **Request that their comments on the draft documents as outlined above be considered as part of the consultation responses:**
- 4) **Request that the consultation link be sent to Members of the Scrutiny Board and the Planning Committee**

21. **Work Programme and Outstanding Issues**

The Scrutiny Board considered and noted the Work Programme for 2021/22.

22. **Any Other Items of Urgent Public Business**

There were no other items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 10.45am)



Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

Date: 3rd March 2022

Subject: Safe Housing and Accommodation for Vulnerable Women

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To update the Board on the City's response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and how we work on an operational basis around housing and victims of domestic abuse.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) are recommended to:
- 1) Consider the Council's response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 in relation to accommodation to vulnerable women.
 - 2) Identify any further recommendations to the appropriate Cabinet Member.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 Preventing harm from Domestic Abuse is a priority within Coventry and is a key measure within the One Coventry Corporate Plan. Coventry's Domestic Abuse Strategy 2018 – 2025 outlines the city's approach to addressing domestic abuse, including honour-based abuse and forced marriage.
- 3.2 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act provides, for the first time, a statutory definition of domestic abuse and delivers a number of significant changes to improve the protection of victims within the community and the criminal justice system.
- 3.3 The Act has a number of implications for the local authority, including the requirement of a new statutory board, implementation of a statutory definition of domestic abuse, a duty to produce regular needs assessments and strategies, delivery of specific minimum types of support for victims within safe accommodation, the prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homelessness applications and a requirement to annually report to the Secretary of State.
- 3.4 The COVID pandemic has had a significant impact on domestic abuse victimisation. Control measures put in place to limit infection have also reduced the time and space for victims to seek help, has been used as a tool for further abusive behaviours and placed a number of additional pressures on families and individuals. Other measures – such as legislation to protect people from being

evicted from their homes under the Coronavirus Act 2020 and changes to court proceedings which has lengthened the wait for civil and criminal hearings – have meant that different parts of the local system have experienced differing trends of victimisation and demand.

3.5 Overall, levels of reported domestic abuse continued to increase since the first lockdown in March 2020 with police reporting a further YTD 22% increase in reported domestic abuse. Commissioned services and Children’s Services all reflect higher levels of demand and an increase in the level of case complexity and risk.

3.6 In summary, key aspects of the Act includes:

- I. Creation of a statutory definition of domestic abuse. This adopts a broad definition of domestic abuse which includes a range of forms of abusive behaviour between two people, both aged 16 and above, who have a “personal connection”.
- II. Creation of new orders including Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPN) and Orders (DAPO).
- III. Placing the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme – ‘Claire’s Law’ - onto a statutory footing to improve consistency of the scheme across the country and increase the number of applications.
- IV. Provision of added protective measures for victims in court hearings,
- V. Creation of new offences. Non-fatal strangulation and suffocation and threats to disclose private sexual photographs and films will become criminal offences.
- VI. Changes to existing homelessness legislation (Housing Act 1996) to make victims a priority regardless of any vulnerability.
- VII. Creation of lifetime tenancies for victims.
- VIII. Creation of a register for serial and serious perpetrators that would be managed through Multi agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA),
- IX. A requirement on local authorities to conduct regular needs assessments and publish a strategy for victims in safe accommodation.
- X. A requirement on local authorities to provide a range of support for victims in safe accommodation including counselling, therapeutic support for children, support to resolve immigration issues.
- XI. A requirement for local authorities to appoint and coordinate a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to oversee the needs assessment, strategy and local action.
- XII. Provision of anyone subject to immigration control who is a victim of domestic abuse with a route to apply for limited leave to remain for at least six months to allow for immigration proceedings to be considered.

4 Impact on the local authority

4.1 The Act introduces several new duties and a range of implications for local authorities; below is a summary of the implications in relation to (i) safe accommodation strategic planning, (ii) safe accommodation provision and support for victims, and (iii) prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homelessness applications.

4.2 Overall, the clarification of the definition of domestic abuse and added protection for victims intended by the Act are expected to increase reporting and demand on services. The inclusion of statutory prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homelessness applications and provision of temporary leave to remain of migrants reporting domestic abuse is also expected to increase demand on homelessness, migrant and domestic abuse services.

4.3 The Act required local authorities to conduct a needs assessment which has been completed and published in Oct 2021 with addendums to the current strategy –

[click here](#)-responding to the Act and extending the current strategy to 2025. An action plan has further been developed responding to the needs assessment and requirements of the ACT.

4.4 Local authorities are required to establish a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as a statutory board of the Council. The purpose of this new statutory board is to provide advice to the local authority in relation to domestic abuse - as a minimum to provide advice on its duties to:

- assess the need for domestic abuse support in its area
- prepare and publish a strategy to provide support
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy
- consider the local authority's annual report to the new national Domestic Abuse Commissioner

4.5 Coventry's Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board has been meeting since May 2021 and has a broad range of representative partners. The Act sets out statutory membership and must include people representing local authorities, victims and their children, domestic abuse charities or voluntary organisations, health care providers and the police or other criminal justice agencies. The Board is chaired by Councillor P Akhtar, Deputy Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities.

5 Relevant Safe Accommodation

5.1 The Act requires local authorities to provide safe accommodation for victims – dedicated specialist accommodation which meets specific domestic abuse quality standards – and a range of specialist support for victims in safe accommodation. 'Sanctuary schemes', whereby victims are helped to remain in their own home by providing extra domestic security and support, are included within the definition of safe accommodation as is some temporary accommodation provided by the Local Authority.

5.2 Services to support victims of domestic abuse were procured in 2019 and awarded to:

- Coventry Haven (in partnership with Panahghar and Relate): for community-based support to victims and children; and for a perpetrator service. This contract includes 'sanctuary scheme' provision.
- Valley House: for accommodation-based support to victims

5.3 There are currently 102 units of specialist domestic abuse accommodation in Coventry (67 commissioned by the City Council and 35 charitably funded) and commissioned capacity for 200 victims to access sanctuary scheme provision. This provides capacity to support approximately 250 - 300 victims per annum. The table overleaf outlines the different Safe Accommodation scheme available within the city:

Type of Safe Accommodation	Capacity	Description
Specialist accommodation	54 units	Mainstream CCC contracted provision
Specialist accommodation	13 units	Provision extended to 30/09/22 using the DA grant
'Sanctuary scheme' provision	200 victims	Mainstream CCC contracted provision from Coventry Haven
Specialist accommodation	35 units	Non-commissioned specialist accommodation provided by 2 different VSC organisations

6 Safe Accommodation Provision and support for victims

- 6.1 Safe accommodation is an important protective measure for victims of domestic abuse, including their children. The accepted minimum standard of specialist domestic abuse accommodation provision requires European countries to have a minimum of one family space of specialist accommodation per 10,000 head of population. There are currently 102 units of accommodation in Coventry, equivalent to one space per 3,400 head of population so is higher than the recommended minimum standard. The number of units of accommodation commissioned by the City Council is considerably higher than most areas in the region.
- 6.2 While the Act does not specify how much safe accommodation should be provided, it does require the local authority to assess the level of need annually. The Act also requires all victims in safe accommodation to have access to:
- advocacy support – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers);
 - domestic abuse prevention advice – support to assist victims to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online) and to prevent re-victimisation;
 - specialist support for victims with protected characteristics and/or complex needs, for example, interpreters, faith services, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support, and immigration advice.
 - children's support – including play therapy and child advocacy;
 - housing-related support – providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home and advice on how to live safely and independently; and
 - counselling and therapy for both adults and children.
- 6.3 The Act amends immigration rules and allows victims to apply to be given leave to remain for at least 6 months, during which time permanent status can be determined. Anyone granted leave to remain by virtue of the provision in the Domestic Abuse Act will have recourse to public funds and access to specialist accommodation and support services.
- 6.4 Guidance provided by Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities advocates the provision of the Whole Housing Approach (WHA), which aims to improve the housing options and outcomes for people experiencing domestic abuse so that they can achieve stable housing, live safely and overcome the abuse and its harmful impacts. The WHA advocates increasing tenancy sustainment options so that people experiencing domestic abuse can remain safely in their home when it is their choice to do so or do not lose their tenancy status if they relocate.

6.5 The Government provided Coventry City Council with a grant of £849,930 in 2021/22 to “fulfil the functions of the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation”. Gaps in provision created by the new duties were initially addressed by investing a proportion of the new duties grant. Initial investment included:

Increasing capacity of safe accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing the funding of 13 units of accommodation previous funded by a DLUHC grant to 30 September 2022. This will maintain the number of commissioned units at 67 until 2022/23 Enhancement of the existing sanctuary schemes support by one FTE worker
Support move-on from specialist accommodation	Introducing ‘flexible funding’, a designated funding pot that domestic abuse support workers can access quickly and easily to enable victim/survivors to achieve safe and stable housing. This is in line with the WHA
Improve specialist support for victims and children in safe accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing additional counselling and therapy for children and adults affected by domestic abuse by commissioning CYP and Family Support workers and Space2Thrive with C&W Mind Increased access for children to the WISH project Providing additional specialist support for victims with insecure immigration status.

6.6 To account for the time to complete the needs assessment and to cushion any impact of lower resources being received beyond 2021/22 (dependent upon the new burden assessment), spend from the grant was committed for the period up to end of September 2022. Funding for 2022/23 has now been confirmed with a grant of £852, 283 being provided.

6.7 Following the completion of the needs’ assessment, strategy and the recent confirmation of future funding from the Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review, a longer-term investment plan will be developed to ensure the duties of the Act are met. Full evaluation of services to measure delivery of quality outcomes will be part of the commissioning process.

7 Prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homelessness applications

7.1 The Act amends existing homelessness legislation (the Housing Act 1996) by extending priority need to all eligible victims who are homeless as a result of being a victim of domestic abuse. This change removes the requirement for victims of domestic abuse to demonstrate vulnerability in order to attain priority need and clarifies the remit of people affected by this change with the new statutory definition of domestic abuse.

7.2 Previously single (and childless) victims who are made homeless as a result of domestic abuse and who did not have priority need for other reasons had an assessment of whether they were vulnerable due to domestic abuse. If a victim was not considered vulnerable, local authorities would have continued to try and relieve their homelessness, however, would not have had a duty to secure emergency

accommodation. Under the new legislation, single (and childless) victims who are made homeless due to domestic abuse will receive automatic priority need without any assessment of whether or not they are vulnerable. This change has seen an increase in the number of single people being placed into temporary accommodation within the city and since October 2021 a continued increase in homeless approaches due to domestic abuse.

- 7.3 The overall ambition of the Domestic Abuse Act is to increase the confidence of victims to seek support in the knowledge that agencies will meet their needs and it is anticipated that this will increase the number of victims presenting as homeless and increase the demand for temporary and move on accommodation.
- 7.4 The local authority has been provided with an additional £32,020 within the Homeless Prevention Grant for 2022- 2023 to meet the cost of increased numbers of single victims of DA being accommodated in TA.
- 7.5 In response to the requirements of the DA Act and also the needs assessment, a Safe and Supported Accommodation working group has been established comprising of the Local Authority Housing and Homeless Team, specialist DA providers, DWP, West Midlands Fire Service and Citizen Housing to ensure that the Whole Housing Approach meets the needs of all victims of domestic abuse including those in relevant safe accommodation, their access to support services and also the transition to sustained permanent tenancies.

8 Potential Risks

- 8.1 The demand on current domestic abuse provision has continually increased over the last few years and the DA Act requirements will increase that demand further. The changes to the prioritisation of domestic abuse victims within homeless applications, whilst very welcomed, has identified a gap the provision of accommodation for single people and those with complex needs. This gap is being reviewed within the working group to identify ways of addressing the issues.

Jayne Ross - Domestic Abuse Programme Delivery Manager, Public Health, CCC
Rachel Chapman - Consultant, Public Health, CCC
Jim Crawshaw - Head of Housing & Homelessness, CCC



Briefing note

To: **Communities and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Board (4)**

3rd March 2022

Subject: **Recommendations from the Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group**

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) of the recommendations identified by the Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group and to seek support to make recommendations to the appropriate Cabinet Member.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) are recommended to make the following recommendations to the appropriate Cabinet Member:

Enforcement

- 1) All fly-tipping incidents with evidence should be investigated with officers using the full force of their powers to prosecute.
- 2) Coventry City Council CCTV footage to be reviewed in a timely fashion to proactively identify fly-tippers. Where appropriate, publicise these incidents via social media to identify and deter.
- 3) Run a campaign which outlines the consequences and fines for fly-tipping.
- 4) Council Departments that deal with waste should be 'formally' consulted by the Planning Department on waste storage in new commercial or residential planning and licensing applications for change of use or new builds, and appropriate robust conditions be inserted in any permissions and be robustly enforced.

Domestic Waste

- 5) Side waste deposited next to wheelie bins to be collected by the refuse collection crews. This is more efficient than street cleansing crews having to re-visit these same streets to remove this waste at a later date.
- 6) Consider areas of the city with high density populations and introduce more regular bin collections or, additional collections at certain times of the year, potentially instead of a brown waste collection.
- 7) The 'Bringing the tip to you' model is used in more disadvantaged areas with low car ownership once or twice a year. To use this as an opportunity to engage with communities about ways to dispose of their waste correctly throughout the remainder of the year.

- 8) The Bulky Waste Collection Service is subsidised on a longer-term basis and the minimum charge for 5 items for a bulky waste collection be reduced to a lower number so that the scheme is more flexible and practical for users.
- 9) Publicise more widely that the removal of refrigeration equipment can be done through the bulky waste contract and that due to the environmental disposal requirements, scrap merchants will no longer take refrigeration equipment from the roadside.
- 10) Write to Coventry's MPs to ask that they raise in Parliament that legislation around the sale of second-hand refrigeration products is aligned to new sales with regards to the disposal of old equipment.
- 11) Consider increasing the funding for Street Pride to provide more frequent street cleansing with suitable equipment, particularly in hotspot areas of the city. Seek reassurance that street cleansing is coordinated so that it takes place after a waste collection round.
- 12) Look at reducing the wait for a replacement wheelie bin to discourage fly-tipping.
- 13) Ensure all areas of the city are assessed to enable better use of plastic bag collections in streets where there is no suitable storage for wheelie bins, or there are logistical reasons which make moving the bins difficult i.e., steep gardens with steps.
- 14) A trial is undertaken at the tip, whereby one or two weekdays are allocated for drop-in visits only, to see if this has an impact and reduces levels of fly-tipping the city. Proof of residency in the city would still be required to enter the tip.

Communication, Education and Technology

- 15) Support the development of or purchase a fully-fledged App with underlying accurate mapping software, which can be used to report not only fly-tipping but other issues including over-flowing public litter bins. Any new system should link with other information systems across the council to enable relevant teams, elected members and the wider public to have real time access to information on missed bin collections.
- 16) Support the work of the GIS Development Group who are developing up to date and accurate GIS mapping data which will remove the ambiguities around land ownership and its maintenance.
- 17) Refresh the stickers applied to wheelie bins detailing how to report missed bin collections, what to put in each bin to reduce incidents of bin contamination and promote assisted collections.
- 18) Use new technology to better organise and promote the 'assisted bin lift' for residents who are physically unable to move their wheelie bins to the curb side.
- 19) Permanent funding is identified to create a sustainable waste education service which can:
 - a) Continuously deliver waste disposal advice in those streets in the city where waste problems occur, particularly where there are new or transient communities

- b) Provide greater recognition and support for voluntary and community litter picking groups,
- c) Deliver responsible citizen waste/litter education in schools

Commercial Waste

- 20) Prohibit the depositing of charity clothes banks on public land.
 - 21) That the Street Enforcement Team write to businesses to remind them that they need to have a commercial waste contract (legal duty of care).
 - 22) Officers complete a 'due diligence' check on businesses and the major waste collection contractors operating in the city to ensure that they are appropriately recycling waste.
 - 23) Coventry should adopt a zero tolerance of commercial waste bins being stored permanently on streets.
 - 24) Promote Coventry City Council's flexible commercial waste collection contracts so that they help businesses to deal with the seasonal changes.
 - 25) Recommend to supermarkets that the £1 charge for shopping trolleys be reintroduced to encourage their return, and greater publicity of the supermarket trolley app 'trolley wise' where a company will call and collect the trolley on behalf of the supermarkets.
- 2.2 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) are recommended that:
- 26) Housing Enforcement report back to the Board on how effective the new HMO licensing conditions have been in reducing waste issues from HMOs and shared houses.
 - 27) Details of the enforcement process be shared with all Elected Members via a seminar outlining the fly-tipping prosecution process and how this is managed within the legal enforcement framework.
 - 28) To receive an update from the GIS Development Group in six months.

3 Background and Methodology

- 3.1 At their meeting on 8th July, following a meeting on Fly-Tipping in Coventry, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board agreed to establish a task and finish group to:
 - Explore with officers the reasons why fly-tipping occurs
 - Determine what further measures can be taken to improve the situation
- 3.2 Due to the levels of concern from Members about fly-tipping, an invite to participate in the task and finish group was widened beyond the membership of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) with Cllrs N Akhtar, Auluck, Bailey, Bigham (Chair), Heaven, Hopkins, J Mutton and Nazir participating in the group.
- 3.3 The task and finish group met seven times between September 2021 and December 2021, covering issues of Domestic Waste, Commercial Waste, Enforcement & Landownership, and Community & Education.
- 3.4 At each meeting Members were provided with information about specific issues and challenges associated with, and causing fly-tipping across the city, and then considered possible solutions to those issues.

- 3.5 Officers from Environmental Services, Waste & Fleet Management, ICT & Digital contributed to the presentations and discussions with Members.
- 3.6 Members were provided with a RAG rating for each of the suggested solutions on cost, ease of implementation and impact, to enable them to agree which recommendations they wanted to identify for the Cabinet Members.
- 3.7 Some potential solutions were discarded by the task and finish groups as they were considered to be difficult to implement or would have a minimal impact on fly-tipping, such as stopping charities from carrying out doorstep bag collections, as it was agreed that it would be difficult to enforce and could potentially affect the income of charities and also those residents not able to travel to charity shops.
- 3.8 The Task and Finish Group also identified recommendations for items for the scrutiny board's work programme as well as suggesting that all Members are briefed on the enforcement process to increase understanding of a complex legal process.

4 Summary of Discussion and Identification of Recommendations

4.1 Enforcement

- 4.2 Members were briefed on the powers and limitations to the powers held by Council officers and supported taking a zero-tolerance approach by using all of the powers available, backed up by publicity campaigns to send a clear message that fly-tipping is not acceptable. Members were shown examples of name and shame campaigns run by other local authorities.
- 4.3 The task and finish group agreed that information about the use of enforcement would be useful for all Members and recommended an all-members seminar on the subject.

4.4 Domestic Waste

- 4.5 Members heard that the areas in the city where there are higher levels of fly-tipping are also those areas which are more densely populated, higher levels of disadvantage and lower levels of car ownership. Over half of the fly-tipping incidents in 2020-21 were reported in Foleshill and Hillfields (see Appendix A)
- 4.6 The main source of fly-tipping in the city was from domestic waste. In 2020-21 Household Waste accounted for 93% of all fly-tipping incidents. This included black bags not put in wheelie bins which is referred to as side waste. Side waste accounted for 28% of all fly-tipping. These bags are not collected as part of the refuse collection service. If these bags were taken as part of the refuse collection, it would have a significant positive impact on fly-tipping, (see Appendix A)
- 4.7 Maintaining a subsidised bulky waste collection and reviewing the pricing structure was supported to try and reduce the incidence of domestic waste being fly-tipped.

4.8 Communication, Education and Technology

- 4.9 Members discussed the extent that ignorance of the correct way to dispose of waste contributed to fly-tipping and agreed that on-going education was needed, especially in areas where there is a high turn-over of residents and agreed that there should be a permanent waste education team to support this process, as well as those community groups who litter pick in their local areas. The education programme would back up and support the zero-tolerance approach of enforcement by publicising the consequences and prosecutions arising from fly-tipping.

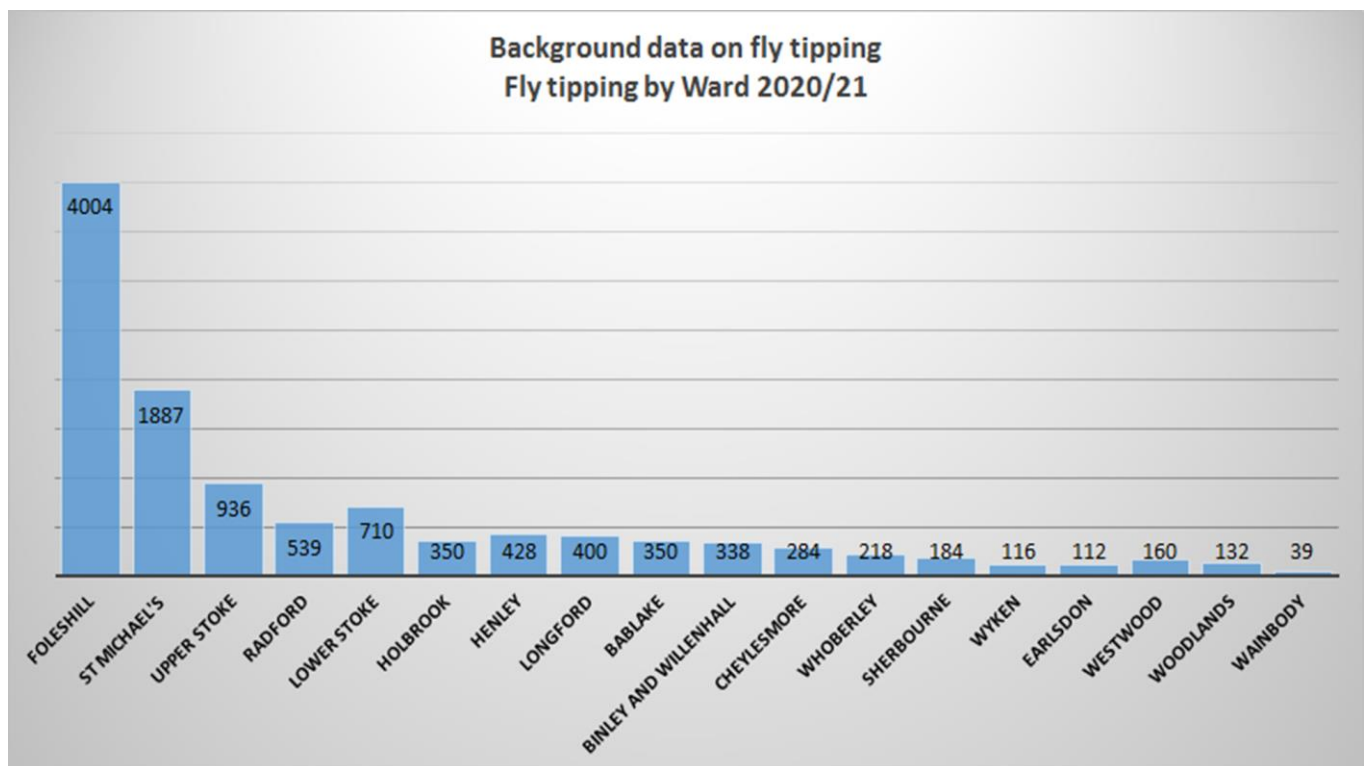
- 4.10 Members heard that currently there wasn't a fully up to date, accurate mapping of landownership across the city, which was essential to be able to get fly-tipping cleared. Members also discussed how it could be made easier to report fly-tipping for members of the public, and that information about missed bin collections was not routinely shared with other services in the Council.
- 4.11 Members agreed that accurate and up to date information was essential for officers, partners and residents to be able to address the issues.
- 4.12 **Commercial Waste**
- 4.13 The task and finish group heard that issues with waste management in Homes in Multiple Occupation (HiMO's) and private rented accommodation were covered as part of the licensing schemes and could be monitored and enforced through that process. The task and finish group suggested that this could be subject to further scrutiny by adding it as an item to the Communities and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Board (4) work programme.
- 4.14 Where commercial businesses were not disposing of, or storing their waste appropriately, the task and finish group were informed of the various powers the Council had, through planning, street enforcement as well as the education and information for businesses from the commercial waste team. The task and finish group agreed that these powers should be used to their fullest extent.
- 4.15 Where the activities of external organisations contributed to fly-tipping, such as clothes banks or discarded shopping trollies, Members supported action to reduce fly-tipping in this aspect.

5 Health Inequalities Impact

- 5.1 The highest levels of fly-tipping are in those areas of the city which have the highest levels of disadvantage and health inequalities.
- 5.2 Improving the environment of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, helps improve residents' sense of well-being as well as reducing the direct health impacts of unclean streets and open spaces. The recommendations also seek to provide communities with low car ownership easier access to legally dispose of their waste.
- 5.3 The recommendations proposed by the task and finish group will contribute to the Marmot Principles by creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities.

Vicky Castree, Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Craig Hickin, Head of Environmental Services
Gennie Holmes, Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Appendix A



Incidents by type 2020 - 21	Total	
Animal Carcass Incidents	2	0.02%
Green Incidents	89	0.83%
Vehicle Parts Incidents	56	0.52%
White Goods Incidents	1004	9.37%
Other Electrical Incidents	275	2.57%
Tyres Incidents	42	0.39%
Asbestos Incidents	1	0.01%
Clinical Incidents	15	0.14%
Construction / Demol / Excavation Incidents	203	1.90%
Black Bags - Commercial Incidents	0	0.00%
Black Bags - Household Incidents	3026	28.25%
Chemical Drums, Oil, Fuel Incidents	18	0.17%
Other Household Waste Incidents	5903	55.11%
Other Commercial Waste Incidents	77	0.72%
Total Incidents	10711	

“Other Household Waste” would include furniture and any other items obviously from a household that isn’t a black bag.

Agenda Item 6

Communities and Neighbourhoods Work Programme 2021-22

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Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

Last updated 21/2/22

8th July 2021
Local Development Scheme Fly-tipping – Establishment of a Task and Finish Group
23rd September 2021
Postponed
4th November 2021
Housing and Homelessness Services Update i) Impact of Covid-19 ii) Supply of affordable accommodation
2nd December 2021
Flood risk management and drainage update report Update on Housing Licensing Schemes and Enforcement
Wednesday 15th December 2021
Supplementary Planning Documents i) Open Spaces ii) Affordable Housing iii) Energy
3rd March 2022 (moved from 3rd February)
Safe and Supported Accommodation – Response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group Report
31st March 2022
-
Possible items for future meetings
Housing Development Infrastructure Residents Parking Scheme Traffic Lights in the City Electric Vehicle Charging City Centre Parking Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group Report Hot Streets Pilot Review
2022/2023
Water Courses – management, infrastructure, and investment Waste Collection Services Pavements and Pathways – Progress Report Impact of VLR on utilities under highways and footpaths Article 4 Direction - consultation

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
8th July 2021	Local Development Scheme		David Butler Cllr Welsh
	Fly-tipping – Establishment of a Task and Finish Group	To include a further progress report following the meeting on 19 March 2021 – including use of wording on signage	Craig Hickin Cllr AS Khan
23rd September 2021	Postponed		
4th November 2021	Housing and Homelessness Services Update i) Impact of Covid-19 ii) Supply of affordable accommodation	To invite main social housing providers in to discuss plans for what is going to be developed and delivered over next 12-18 months. How it meets city's needs in terms of supply. To consider what impact Covid has had on housing – in terms of ASB, evictions and what can be done to support residents	Jim Crawshaw Cllr Welsh Housing Providers
2nd December 2021	Flood risk management and drainage update report	An annual update on the flood risk management programme	Cllr Hetherton Neal Thomas
	Update on Housing Licensing Schemes and Enforcement	To look in more detail on the implementation and enforcement of the HMO licensing scheme	Cllr Welsh/ Davina Blackburn/ Adrian Chowns
Wednesday 15th December 2021	Supplementary Planning Documents i) Open Spaces ii) Affordable Housing iii) Energy	For SB4 to contribute to the consultation	Cllr Welsh David Butler
3rd March 2022 (moved from 3rd February)	Safe and Supported Accommodation – Response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021	To look at housing support for vulnerable women in the City with multiple complex needs.	Cllr Welsh Jim Crawshaw Rachel Chapman

Communities and Neighbourhoods Work Programme 2021-22

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group Report	To consider the recommendations from the T&F group on Fly-tipping	Cllr Hetherton, Cllr AS Khan Craig Hickin, Martin McHugh
31st March 2022	-		
Possible items for future meetings	Housing Development Infrastructure	To look at proposals for planned housing developments and infrastructure. Specifically, to look at the timetabling of these developments and associated roads and infrastructure which will be required to support population growth and movement. To seek assurances that infrastructure will be in place before homes are occupied.	Cllr Welsh Andrew Walster/ David Butler
	Residents Parking Scheme	A report considering the changes suggested to meet the income target set in the MTFS. To look at the potential repercussions of introducing changes where there are none currently.	Cllr Hetherton Paul Bowman
	Traffic Lights in the City	To receive an update on the traffic light replacement programme, with a particular focus on the use of sensors to improve traffic flow. Including pedestrian priority on lights.	Cllr Hetherton Ben Gray
	Electric Vehicle Charging	A review of the installation and usage of electric vehicle charging points across the city, including for disability scooters.	Cllr O'Boyle/ Hetherton Colin Knight Shamala Evans
	City Centre Parking	To bring the Cabinet Report planned for Spring/Summer 2021 to SB4 to consider changes to city centre car parks	Cllr Hetherton Paul Bowman
	Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group Report	To consider the recommendations from the T&F group on Fly-tipping	Cllr Hetherton, Cllr AS Khan Craig Hickin, Martin McHugh
	Hot Streets Pilot Review	To consider the impact of the Hot Streets pilot.	Cllr Hetherton Craig Hickin

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
2022/2023	Water Courses – management, infrastructure, and investment	An item on Water Courses within the city, including investment in infrastructure in the City, with appropriate organisations, including Severn Trent Water and the Canal Trust, to be invited	Colin Knight/ Neal Thomas Cllr Hetherton
	Waste Collection Services	To look at issues around waste collection including Christmas collections plans	Andrew Walster Cllr Hetherton
	Pavements and Pathways – Progress Report	Using the Cabinet Report with additional detail on how the locations were identified.	Cllr Hetherton Neil Cowper
	Impact of VLR on utilities under highways and footpaths	Members requested a report on how the installation of the VLR track would take account of utilities including fibre beneath the highways and footpaths. To be considered once a route had been confirmed	Rachel Goodyer Nicola Small Cllr Hetherton
	Article 4 Direction - consultation	The Board to consider the article 4 direction as part of the consultation process	David Butler Cllr Welsh