



Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

Time and Date

10.00 am on Thursday, 9 February, 2023

Place

Committee Room 3, Council House, Coventry

-
1. **Apologies and Substitutions**
 2. **Declarations of Interest**
 3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 10)
 - a) To agree the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 December, 2022
 - b) Matters arising
 4. **Empty Dwellings** (Pages 11 - 24)

Briefing Note of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services
 5. **Update on the Recommendations from the Fly-Tipping Task and Finish Group** (Pages 25 - 46)

Briefing Note of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services
 6. **Waste Services Update** (Pages 47 - 62)

Briefing Note of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services
 7. **Outstanding Issues and Work Programme 2022/23** (Pages 63 - 66)

Report of the Chief Legal Officer
 8. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved**

Julie Newman, Chief Legal Officer, Council House, Coventry

Wednesday, 1 February 2023

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

Membership: Councillors S Agboola, R Bailey, L Bigham (Chair), J Gardiner, G Hayre, M Heaven, A Hopkins, R Singh, R Thay

By invitation Councillors P Akhtar, P Hetherton, A S Khan, G Lloyd, D Welsh

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Suzanne Bennett,

Email: suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)
held at 10.00 am on Thursday, 8 December 2022

Present:

Members: Councillor L Bigham (Chair)
Councillor S Agboola
Councillor R Bailey
Councillor J Gardiner
Councillor M Heaven
Councillor A Hopkins
Councillor R Singh
Councillor R Thay

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

Employees (by Directorate):

Adult Services and Housing: P Fahy (Director), J Crawshaw

Law and Governance: S Bennett, V Castree

Streetscene and Regulatory Services: A Walster (Director), D Blackburn, D Butler, A Chowns, M Yates

Apologies: Councillors G Hayre, G Lloyd

Public Business

20. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

21. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October, 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record.

In response to a question regarding ensuring that action is taken following consideration by the Scrutiny Board, it was noted that all Recommendations made were captured on a Recommendations Tracker report and that often, items were added to the Work Programme to enable the Scrutiny Board to receive a progress update report after a period of time.

22. **Housing and Homelessness Services Update**

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note of the Director of Adults Services and Housing which provided a detailed update on the progress of the Housing and Homelessness Service, together with the key initiatives that have been implemented during the previous 12 months.

The Briefing Note indicated that the Council approved its Housing and Homelessness Strategy (2019-2024) in March 2019 which is the core Strategy that drives the service forward. The Strategy has four key areas of focus:

- Preventing homelessness
- Supporting homeless households
- Support for people and communities
- Improving existing homes
- Housing development

The Strategy Action plan is currently being refreshed to demonstrate progress against actions and to ensure it reflects the current housing priorities in the city. The Housing and Homelessness Service has undergone a significant transformation over the previous three and a half years with a number of initiatives/projects being worked on which have:

- Reduced the financial burden on the Authority whilst providing better quality temporary accommodation options.
- Increased the number of households where homelessness is prevented or relieved and therefore decreasing the number of households in temporary accommodation.
- Increased the number of properties available to households in exceptional housing need that are either at social/affordable rents or at the Local Housing Allowance rates if in the private rented sector.

A table in the Briefing Note set out in detail a number of projects/improvements that have been implemented over the previous 2 years and the progress that these have achieved.

The Briefing Note also detailed work undertaken with Registered Providers and other organisations/landlords in the City to ensure that there are appropriate levels of accommodation built in the City to meet the needs of residents.

The service has seen an increase in the number of families presenting as homeless throughout 2022 and anticipate this will continue into and through 2023. It is also anticipated that there will be an increase in the number of single people presenting as homeless and an increase in rough sleepers. These increases are largely driven by the following factors;

- With the likelihood of a recession and the cost-of-living issues it is anticipated that more households will struggle financially to meet their housing costs, whether this is rented or mortgage payments.

- Other factors include a buoyant private rented sector and an increase in Domestic Abuse presentations
- During previous financial downturns there has been an adverse impact on young people living at home who are evicted by their parents/guardians due to pressures on the family.
- The service has a number of actions in place to support the mitigation of these risks as identified earlier in the report based on prevention, effective temporary accommodation where required, and move on.

The Scrutiny Board made comments asked questions and sought assurances on a number of issues including:-

- The operation of the new IT system
- How the service is benchmarked
- Operation of the new contracts
- The work undertaken by the Partnership Forum
- New housing projects taking place in Wyken ward (It was noted that Wyken ward Councillors will be kept informed of developments in this matter)
- The Homefinder Allocations Scheme including pressures, particularly in relation to larger homes; bandings and how these operate; transparency in relation to how housing is allocated; and the 12 month review of the Scheme
- Maintenance of properties including those brought by the Council for housing provision; inspection of properties to ensure they are fit for purpose, including checks regarding damp and mould; and how complaints regarding this are dealt with. (In light of recent national events, it was noted that officers would be undertaking refresher training in this regard in the New Year)
- Enforcement undertaken in relation to properties, including via the HIMO licensing scheme
- Information regarding rough sleepers in the City, including information from the annual rough sleeper count and wellbeing and mental health support offered
- Work being undertaken in relation to empty properties in the City and powers available to Local Authorities to deal with this. It was noted that empty properties would be considered in detail by the Scrutiny Board later in the Municipal Year as part of their Work Programme
- How the One Coventry approach is applied to the Housing and Homelessness service as a whole
- Information in relation to an increase in Domestic Abuse presentations
- Advice available for residents who are struggling to pay their mortgages
- The new strategy of converting garages in certain areas into houses and the rationale behind this
- Issues associated with under occupancy of properties

The Scrutiny Board acknowledged all of the excellent hard work being undertaken in relation to this work and asked that their appreciation be forwarded to the Team.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the contents of the Briefing Note will be noted and welcomed**
- 2) That the Scrutiny Board be provided with information in relation to the increase in Domestic Abuse presentations**
- 3) That officers be requested to review the Council's website to ensure that there is clarity of information for residents with mortgages who are at risk of defaulting and being homeless.**
- 4) That the 12 month review of the implementation of the Homefinder Allocations Scheme be added to the Scrutiny Board's Work Programme**

23. Greenspaces

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services which provided a detailed indication of the levels of usage and steps taken to encourage usage of greenspaces and parks in the City.

The Briefing Note indicated that there is now increasing tangible evidence which demonstrates how the city's greenspaces including all of the parks, recreation grounds, playing fields, children's playgrounds, ornamental gardens, golf courses, and woodlands directly contribute to people's health and wellbeing. In addition to the health benefits, they help create thriving communities providing significant opportunities to develop and enhance the social, recreational, environmental, educational and economic wellbeing of our community.

The City Council adopted its second Green Space Strategy in 2019. The Strategy initially identified 747 individual areas of greenspace covering an area of 2002 hectares. It was recognised that many of these sites were small and offered little amenity value. The Strategy therefore focussed on individual sites greater than 0.1 hectares of which there are 650 individual sites covering 635 hectares. These varied greatly in size with the largest including Coombe Park covering 202 hectares and the War Memorial Park which approximately 48.5 hectares.

Two thirds of green space across the city, some 430 sites have no restrictions on public access with almost all the remainder having at least some limited public access. The sites with restricted access typically included sports clubs, allotments and school grounds. The Briefing Note indicated that it is important to recognise that greenspace can take many forms including less obvious forms such as cemeteries which also provide opportunities for quiet recreation.

Consultation in developing the Green Space Strategy found that the main reasons given for visiting parks and open spaces was for the fresh air, to walk and jog and to enjoy peace, quietness and relaxation. It also included seeking and being close to nature and wildlife and providing somewhere for children to play including dedicated play areas. A number of barriers were also cited. These included perceptions of antisocial behaviour, and generally not feeling safe; dog fouling, poor quality or lack of facilities and some concerns around clashes with cycling and vehicles in parks.

The Briefing Note outlined:-

- The significant increase in the use of the greenspaces in the City during the Covid-19 pandemic which placed a huge strain on the infrastructure of the parks and impacted on the wear and tear of infrastructure, including play equipment
- The likelihood that the current cost of living crisis will mean that parks will be extensively used in 2023 and will continue to suffer from increased levels of wear and tear for the indefinite future
- Maintenance of the parks and green open spaces. It was noted that the maintenance budget was reduced by £1m in 2016, which has led to a significant reduction in basic infrastructural maintenance
- Toilet provision in parks, including work undertaken with the Equalities and Diversity Team to provide modular toilet facilities accessible for people with severe and multiple disabilities where personal care can also be accommodated
- Catering facilities in parks
- Paths and access, including the cost of constructing and maintaining footpaths
- Seating provision, including a “memorial seat” sponsorship scheme
- Lighting, particularly along footpath networks
- Signage and information boards
- Biodiversity provided by greenspaces
- Staff presence in parks, including the work of the Parks Services’ Rangers Team, who play a vital role in the maintenance and management of many of the parks in the City, especially in terms of public engagement
- Dog control, including the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (12) issues for dog offences in parks and prosecutions (2) in the last 3 years

The Scrutiny Board made comments and asked questions on a number of issues including:-

- The use of Section 106 monies to improve greenspaces in new developments
- The valuable work undertaken by the Park Rangers
- The costs associated with providing CCTV in parks
- Dog littering prosecutions
- Notices erected under Section 6 of the West Midlands Country Council Act 1980 (which is now redundant) and which prohibit ball games on smaller pieces of land
- Work being undertaken on Sowe Valley footpaths
- Work undertaken to prevent anti-social behaviour in parks, including bull dog rallies
- Biodiversity being provided by the City’s greenspaces, including wild flower planting on the central reservations of the A45
- The valuable work being undertaken by the Friends of the Parks groups in the City
- Commercial activity, which provides 50% of the Parks budget, and grant funding

The Scrutiny Board placed on record their appreciation and support for the valuable work undertaken by the Park Ranger service, recognising the impact on engaging and involving the local community and volunteers in their parks and green spaces, which is particularly important for on-going sustainability in a time of limited resource.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the contents of the Briefing Note and the steps undertaken to improve access to parks and greenspaces be noted and welcomed**
- 2) That a letter be sent to the Park Ranger Team expressing the Scrutiny Board's thanks and appreciation for all of the work undertaken**
- 3) That information regarding the number of dog fouling prosecutions be circulated to the Scrutiny Board**

24. Householder Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Public Consultation

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services which sought the Scrutiny Board's representations to the draft Householder Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which is currently out for consultation. A copy of the draft SPD was appended to the report.

The draft SPD sets out guidance to applicants seeking to extend or alter their properties and comprehensively updates the current guidance that dates to 2013, promoting high quality design throughout.

There is a seven week consultation process, after which responses will be analysed and, where appropriate, the SPD amended accordingly before submission to Cabinet for final adoption. The Cabinet report will include a statement setting out the details of the consultation, a summary of the main issues raised and how they have been addressed.

The Scrutiny Board made a number of comments in relation to the draft SPD:-

- Drafting amendments in relation to Para 4.19 and Figure 8
- A suggestion to include reference to the acceptable use of a garden/outbuilding as a home office in Principle 7
- A suggestion to redraft Appendix 1 – Justification Statement to use plain English and/or to include a glossary of more “technical” terms

RESOLVED that:-

- 1) The draft Householder Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document be noted**
- 2) That the comments outlined above be considered as representations as part of the consultation process**

25. **Work Programme and Outstanding Issues - 2022/23**

The Scrutiny Board noted their Work Programme for 2022/23.

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

There were no other items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 1.00pm)

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To: Scrutiny Board 4 – Communities and Neighbourhoods

Date: 9th February 2023

Subject: Empty Dwellings

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 A briefing has been prepared for Members to update on progress in dealing with empty dwellings. The slides provided form the main part of this briefing.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) is requested to
- note the current position and the situation regarding funding constraints,
 - support the co-ordinated response to managing empty dwellings in the city, and,
 - include as a future agenda item to receive an update on progress and outcomes achieved in relation to long term empty dwellings.

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 The Council approved an Empty Dwellings Strategy in August 2021 with the main aim to reduce the number of long-term empty dwellings in Coventry to a practical minimum.
- 3.2 A long term empty dwelling is considered to be any property that has been empty for six months or more.
- 3.3 A number of actions have now been completed within the Strategy and this is an opportunity to update members on progress whilst providing a refresher on empty dwellings and the powers available to the Council to deal with them.

4 Health Inequalities Impact

- 4.1 There are no direct health inequality impacts however as housing is considered to be a key determinant of health, by returning empty dwellings back into use the Council can improve the supply, quality and type of housing in the City.

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Empty Dwellings



Page 13



Adrian Chowns

Property Licensing and Housing Enforcement Manager

Introduction to Empty Dwellings

- Empty dwelling may be a flat, house or multi occupied building
- Become empty through a number of ways
 - Bereavement/ probate/ inheritance
 - Second home
 - Change in occupancy
 - Registered charity use
 - Owner in prison/ care or other temporary absence
 - Prohibited by law
 - Bankruptcy/ trustee / repossession
- Long Term = more than six months



Long Term Empty Dwellings in Coventry

- Wasted resource and blights on neighbourhoods
- Magnets for fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, vandalism and arson
- 31st August 2021 Cabinet approved Empty Dwellings Strategy 2021-26
- ***“Reduce the number of long term empty dwellings to a practical minimum”***



Empty Dwellings Strategy 2021-26

- Three main Objectives
 - Objective 1 – Promote a range of advice, assistance and support and develop new solutions;
 - Objective 2 – Use enforcement action to bring long term problematic empty dwellings back into use; and
 - Objective 3 – Better understand why dwellings are being left empty and where possible prevent dwellings from becoming empty for long periods of time.



Our approach

- Three phases leading up to formal action
 - Phase 1 - work with the owner to identify options and find a solution
 - No satisfactory progress - case will progress to Phase 2 (informal warning)
 - Subject to regular environmental crime and ASB - skip stage 2 and move to phase 3 (formal action) /o wner of a property is untraceable or demonstrates an unwillingness to work with the Council
- The Council will seek to recover all costs where possible
- Extent of enforcement determined by the resources available to fund both the revenue and capital elements
- Prior to enforcement look at all options available legally and within available resources to ensure not being subjected to unnecessary risk



Action Plan

- Action 1 - Secure approval of the revised Empty Dwellings Strategy 2021 – 2026
- Action 2 - Appoint a suitably experienced Empty Dwellings Officer
- Action 3 - Review and revise the advice and assistance available to owners
- Action 4 - Explore opportunities for projects
- Action 5 - Explore opportunities for partnership working
- Action 6 - Develop links with internal and external agencies i.e. lettings agents
- Action 7 - Development of service level agreement and policies and procedures



What have we done so far...



- Secured the approval of the revised Empty Dwellings Strategy
- Appointed Empty Dwellings Officer
- Developed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for joint working across internal service areas
- Revised the online reporting form to provide an effective and anonymous system
- Analysed 300+ cases to develop an empty dwellings property database
- Identified 32 priority cases – targeting 4 for potential insolvency action or enforced sale; 6 potential Compulsory Purchase Order action; 22 requiring proactive enforcement
- Targeted one long term problematic case with Demolition Order /CPO action

During 2022 brought 33 properties back into use



Enforcement Powers

- General enforcement powers
 - Untidy gardens
 - Pests
 - Nuisance
 - Targeted by using appropriate legislation
 - Service level agreement
 - Powers to carry out works in default
 - Build evidence base for targeted intervention
- Enforced Sale
 - Incur costs to register a charge
 - Recovery debt (charge)
 - Value vs charge
 - Enforce sale at auction
 - Work with new owner
 - Can also be used for Ctax debt



Enforcement Powers

- Compulsory Purchase Orders
 - Power of last resort and where there is a compelling case
 - Owners refuse to take action
 - Owner cannot be traced
 - Long term empty
 - Negotiations failed
 - Proven housing need
 - Time consuming
 - Redevelop site with partners

- Empty Dwelling Management Orders
 - Conditions
 - Failed negotiations
 - Wholly unoccupied for at least six months
 - No prospect of being reoccupied
 - Temporarily take over management
 - Works to bring property up to standard - cost effective to do so
 - Interim measure – 12 months
 - Limited control as owner has final consent
 - Final EDMO – no more than 7 years
 - Application to Tribunal



Useful contacts

- Report a problematic Empty Dwellings
housingenforcement@coventry.gov.uk

Recommendations

- Scrutiny to note current position and funding
- To support the co-ordinated response to managing Empty Dwellings in the city
- To include as a future agenda item to receive an update on progress and outcomes achieved in dealing with long term empty dwellings



Thank you
for listening



**To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)
2023**

9th February

Subject: Update on the 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 an update on the recommendations identified by the Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group which were submitted to Cabinet Member in March 2022 following ratification by the Communities and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Board (4) on 3rd March 2022.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) are recommended to:
 - 1) Note the update on the implementation of the recommendations from the Fly-tipping Task and Finish Group
 - 2) Make recommendations or comments to the Cabinet Member regarding the progress on the implementation of the recommendations.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Communities and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Board (4) established a task and finish group during the 2021/22 municipal year to review fly-tipping.
- 3.2 The task and finish group made 25 recommendations. Appendix 1 provides an update on each of these recommendations and progress to date on implementing them.
- 3.3 Appendix 2 outlines the fly- tipping 3 year position showing fly- tipping trends.

4 Health Inequalities Impact

- 4.1 The highest levels of fly-tipping are in those areas of the city which have the highest levels of disadvantage and health inequalities.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 The recommendations proposed by the task and finish group contribute to the Marmot Principles by creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities.

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Appendix 1

Scrutiny Board 4 Recommendations to Reduce Fly Tipping

No.	Grouping	Recommendation	Cabinet Member	Lead Off.	Progress made, Cabinet Member (CM) approval and approximated implementation costs
1	Enforcement & Land Ownership	All fly-tipping incidents with evidence should be investigated with officers using the full force of their powers to prosecute	CM (P&E)	CMH	With the time delays in getting cases to the congested court system, we are increasingly using fixed penalty notices, where appropriate as an alternative to prosecution, for this type of offence. Approved by CM: Within existing budget
2	Enforcement & Land Ownership	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.	CM (P&E)	CMH	We are currently negotiating a contract for 'air time' to view CCTV footage 'remotely'. We will publish footage on Twitter where we cannot identify the offender and need the public's assistance. We will routinely publish details of successful enforcement actions, 'naming and shaming' persons where appropriate. Approved by CM. Implementation cost: Within existing budget
3	Enforcement & Land Ownership	Run a campaign which outlines the consequences and fines for fly-tipping	CM (P&E)	CMH	We have been routinely publicising successes. These have been published with a quote from CM. Approved by CM. Implementation cost: Within existing budget.
4	Enforcement & Land Ownership	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	CM (P&E)	CMH	This has already been introduced. Set conditions have been designed and will be used to defend any decisions where planning permission is refused.

Appendix 1

Scrutiny Board 4 Recommendations to Reduce Fly Tipping

		appropriate robust conditions be inserted in any permissions and be robustly enforced			Approved by CM. Implementation cost: Within existing budget.
5	Enforcement & Land Ownership	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	CM (P&E)	MM	A media campaign will be run in the new year which gives a clear message as to how refrigeration equipment can be disposed of legally. Informative stickers have been designed and are already being affixed to the offending items at the roadside. Approved by CM. Implementation cost: Within existing budget.
6	Enforcement & Land Ownership	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	CM (P&E)	MM	A letter has been drafted and sent to Coventry's three MPs. We will be asking them to lobby government for a change in legislation to assist with the easier removal and recycling of these unwanted items. Approved by CM. Implementation cost: Within existing budget.
7	Enforcement & Land Ownership	Prohibit the depositing of charity clothes banks on public land	CM (P&E)	CMH	The owners of these banks will be approached and removal requested. If they fail then we confiscate them and charge for storage. Approved by CM. Implementation cost: Within existing budget.
8	Enforcement & Land Ownership	That the Street Enforcement Team write to businesses to remind them that they need to have a commercial waste contract (legal duty of care)	CM (P&E)	CMH	The street enforcement team have been working with businesses to ensure that they have adequate waste removal contracts in place. Enforcement action will follow if they have not made adequate provision. Approved by CM. Implementation costs: Within existing budget.

Appendix 1

Scrutiny Board 4 Recommendations to Reduce Fly Tipping

9	Enforcement & Land Ownership	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	CM (P&E)	CMH	This recommendation is being completed in tandem with recommendation 8. Approved by CM. Implementation costs: Within existing budget
10	Enforcement & Land Ownership	Coventry should adopt a zero tolerance of commercial waste bins being stored permanently on streets	CM (P&E)	CMH	This is already being piloted in some streets, with the aim of expanding this process to be citywide. Approved by CM. Implementation costs: Within existing budget.
11	Enforcement & Land Ownership	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	CM (P&E)	ML	The street enforcement team will work with supermarkets where abandoned shopping trolleys approving a problem. We will also launch a media campaign to publicise the Trolley Wise APP To increase its usage in the city. To be approved by CM. implementation costs: Within existing budget.
11a	Enforcement & Land Ownership	Troublesome land with complex ownership, which is regularly the source of fly tipping ASB and arson (including delapidated garage sites). Use all available powers (including CPOs) to address the root causes of the problems.	CM (P&E)	MM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify these parcels of land. 2. Prioritise them for action. 3. Work with local stakeholders to harness their support. <p>Currently meeting with Cllr. Richard Brown.</p>
12	Commercial Waste	Promote Coventry City Council's flexible commercial waste collection contracts so that they help businesses to deal with the seasonal changes	CM (CS)	SE	Where Coventry Commercial Customers request additional collections during busy times this can be accommodated. Where the problems occur with businesses receiving their services from other providers enforcement action can be taken for non-compliance with duty of care requirements. No additional costs.

Appendix 1

Scrutiny Board 4 Recommendations to Reduce Fly Tipping

13	Domestic Waste	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 reconsider 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 move this waste at a later date	CM (CS)	SE	The requirement to collect waste presented alongside bin was included in the new Waste Services Agreement which was produced as part of the negotiations during the strike. Training is being undertaken with crews to ensure that everyone is aware of the requirements. Processes designed to reduce side waste will be fully implemented when the new in cab recording system goes live shortly.
14	Domestic Waste	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.	CM (CS)	SE	Additional collections on Saturdays are being trialled in problem areas to assist with enforcement action and to reduce issues.
15	Domestic Waste	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.	CM (CS)	SE	The working group will liaise with Birmingham City Council to identify the options and costs of providing the "bringing the tip to you" initiative. Consideration also to be given to identify if the pop-up site model utilised during the strike could provide further options for residents in some areas at key times of the year.
16	Domestic Waste	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	CM (CS)	SE	The subsidised bulky waste collection service has been extended. Data has been gathered to identify the impact of the reductions and to identify areas where usage of the service is low and links with flytipping. The working group will be using this information to identify areas for trials to increase usage of the

Appendix 1

Scrutiny Board 4 Recommendations to Reduce Fly Tipping

					service to see if this reduces flytipping .e.g. vouchers for free collections in low use / high flytipping streets. Costs / benefits to be confirmed alongside trial initiatives.
17	Domestic Waste	Look at reducing the wait for a replacement wheelie bin to discourage fly- tipping	CM (CS)	SE	Temporary additional resource is being implemented to help reduce waiting times.
18	Domestic Waste	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	CM (CS)	SE	To be considered alongside future route reviews. Within existing budget.
19	Domestic Waste	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	CM (CS)	SE	Same day booking now in place allowing greater flexibility and ease of booking for residents. As all surrounding authorities have booking systems in place, removing the requirement to book would be likely to encourage non-Coventry residents to try to use the site again and the potential return of large queues on the London Road. Data on tip usage will be reviewed by the working group to identify trends in relation to flytipping. Same day booking is now available.
20	Domestic Waste	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	CM (CS)	SE	Stickers and tags to be reviewed and updated. This will be with a QR code. Minimal additional costs.
21	Street Pride	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	CM (CS)	GH	Funding towards increased cleansing operations throughout the City has been secured and will focus on hot spot

Appendix 1

Scrutiny Board 4 Recommendations to Reduce Fly Tipping

		that street cleansing is coordinated so that it takes place after a waste collection round			areas. As far as is practicably possible cleansing operation will seek to follow after cleansing rounds.
22	Communication, Education and Technology	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	CM (CS)	SE	Options and costs for the provision of an "Education Hub" are to be identified to support and enhance current waste education resource and to coordinate and support volunteer groups and activities. Costs to be confirmed alongside identified requirements.
23	Communication, Education and Technology	Support the development of or purchase of 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	CM (CS)	GG	The functionality described here has been included in the Coventry Connects programme plan. The business case for this programme is currently being drafted for financial approval by Adrienne Bellingeri.
24	Communication, Education and Technology	Support the work of the GIS Development Group which is developing up-to-date and accurate GIS mapping data which will remove the ambiguities around land ownership and its maintenance	CM (CS)	GG	Three work streams have been identified through the initial meetings of the GIS Development Group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the response time and accuracy of returned data held in the GIS data layers. Work in progress consolidating the data storage location. GIS systems have been updated to the latest version. Review business processes around identifying land ownership to remove

Appendix 1

Scrutiny Board 4 Recommendations to Reduce Fly Tipping

					<p>ambiguity. A GIS strategy is currently being drafted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pilot has started with Corporate Property Management to improve data management and improvement processes.
25	Communication, Education and Technology	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 curbside	CM (CS)	GG	<p>The expectation is that this can be delivered through existing forms solution. Waste services will need to define how they would like the updated assisted bin lift solution to work.</p> <p>No implementation costs.</p>

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Fly Tipping 3 year position January 2023

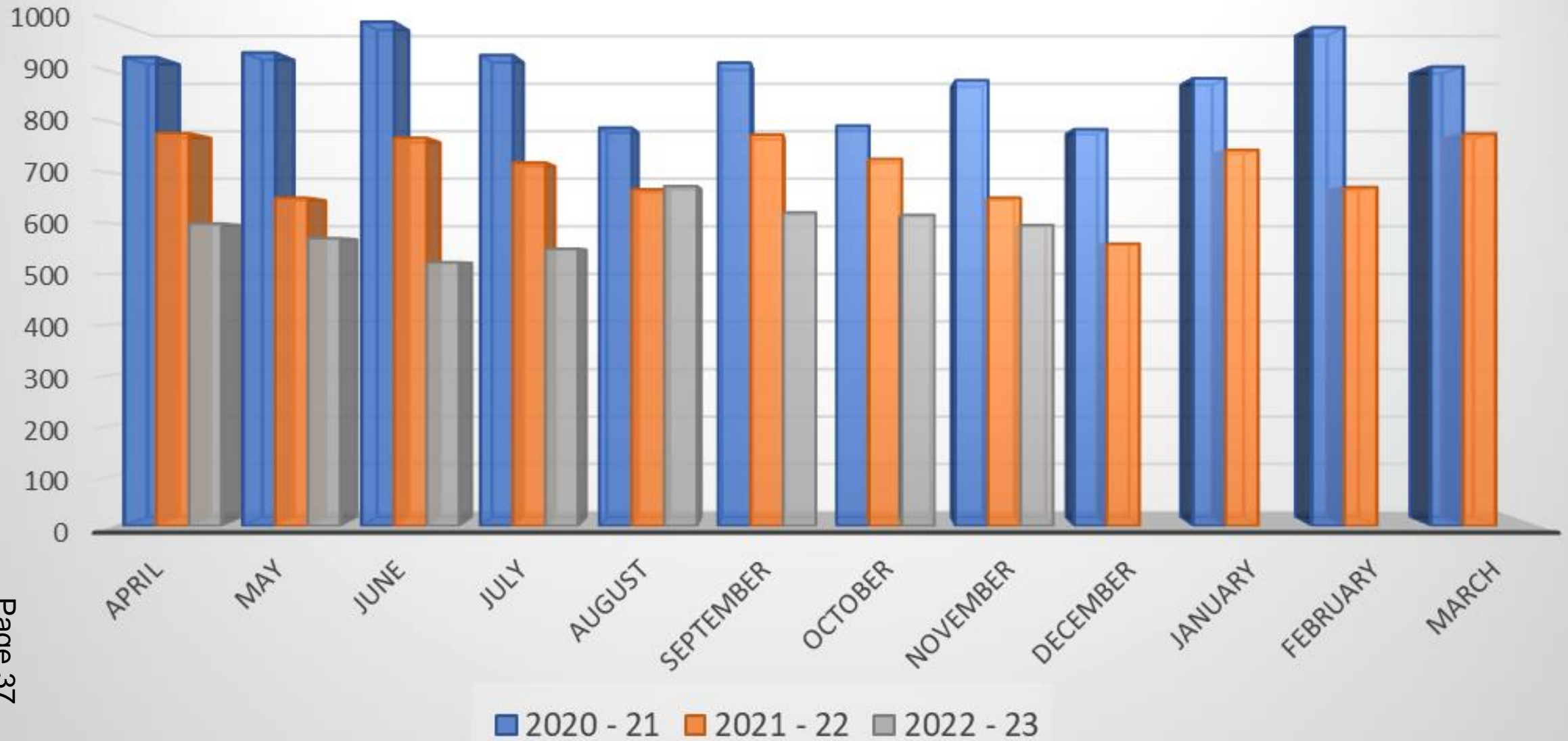
Craig Hickin
Head of Environmental Services

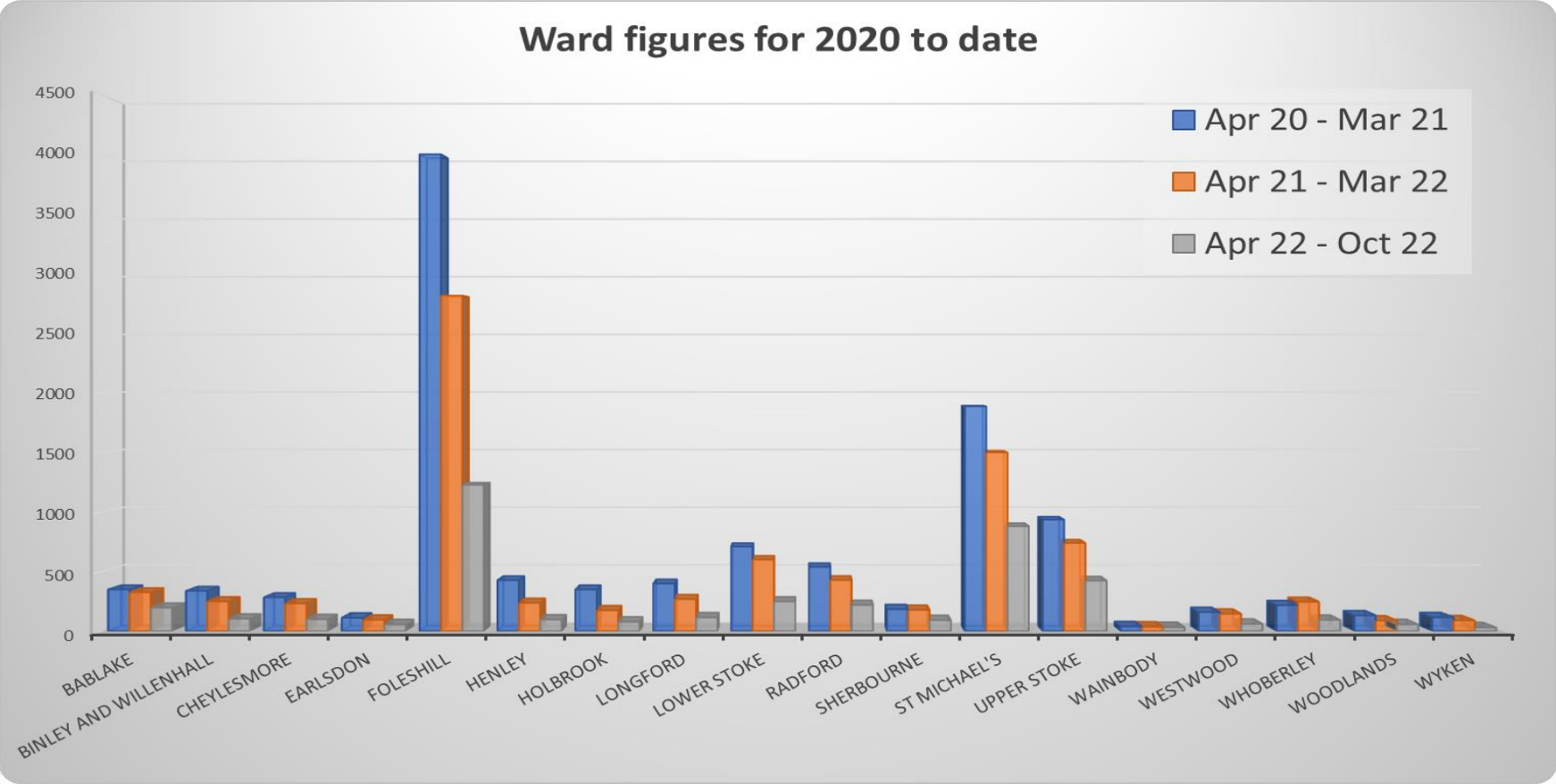


Fly Tipping Trends

- The fly tipping position over the past three years is detailed in the following slides. A continuing downward trend.
- It covers the final stages of the COVID lock downs, and the industrial action by the refuse collection drivers
- The first slide shows the city position month by month across the three years
- The second slide shows the electoral ward position over the same period. It is clear to see that certain wards suffer disproportionately.
- The third slide again shows the electoral ward positions as a percentage of total fly tipping, quarter by quarter. Fly tipping is seasonal (generally the hotter and drier the weather, the more fly tipping).
- The final slide shows what is fly tipped using DEFRA's 'Flycapture' categories.
- The position is encouraging and is a combination of continued endeavour by the Street Enforcement Team, Street Pride and Waste Services. All are inter-dependent in achieving success.

Total reported Fly tipping incidents





	Bablake	Binley and Willenhall	Cheylesmore	Earlsdon	Foleshill	Henley	Holbrook	Longford	Lower Stoke	Radford	Sherbourne	St Michael's	Upper Stoke	Wainbody	Westwood	Whoberley	Woodlands	Wyken
Apr 20 - Mar 21	350	338	284	112	4004	428	350	400	710	539	184	1887	936	39	160	218	132	116
Apr 21 - Mar 22	326	250	233	95	2817	237	175	269	601	429	179	1500	740	37	146	246	88	90
Apr 22 - Oct 22	197	104	100	57	1228	97	79	115	250	220	92	881	424	33	61	94	57	31

Wards as a % of all flipping incidents

Flytipping by Ward	April 2021 - March 2022								April 2022 - March 2023								April 2022 - Sept 2022			
Ward	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q1		Q2	
Bablake	83	3%	94	4%	61	2%	112	4%	56	3%	83	4%	85	4%	102	5%	101	6%	80	4%
Binley and Willenhall	75	3%	57	2%	87	4%	119	4%	71	3%	75	3%	44	2%	60	3%	36	2%	60	3%
Cheylesmore	49	2%	65	2%	63	3%	107	4%	69	3%	44	2%	59	3%	61	3%	46	3%	44	2%
Earlsdon	26	1%	22	1%	24	1%	40	1%	25	1%	26	1%	11	1%	33	2%	31	2%	22	1%
Foleshill	1084	38%	972	37%	852	35%	1096	39%	712	32%	710	33%	663	34%	732	33%	498	29%	531	29%
Henley	126	4%	108	4%	71	3%	123	4%	66	3%	71	3%	35	2%	65	3%	38	2%	41	2%
Holbrook	100	3%	80	3%	64	3%	106	4%	45	2%	53	2%	36	2%	41	2%	32	2%	27	1%
Longford	107	4%	97	4%	67	3%	129	5%	64	3%	71	3%	65	3%	69	3%	43	3%	54	3%
Lower Stoke	124	4%	135	5%	211	9%	240	9%	172	8%	150	7%	150	8%	129	6%	94	6%	111	6%
Radford	127	4%	107	4%	111	5%	194	7%	117	5%	121	6%	83	4%	108	5%	86	5%	111	6%
Sherbourne	40	1%	38	1%	48	2%	58	2%	38	2%	36	2%	53	3%	52	2%	33	2%	45	2%
St Michael's	426	15%	510	19%	483	20%	468	17%	403	18%	391	18%	366	19%	340	15%	350	21%	407	22%
Upper Stoke	321	11%	216	8%	178	7%	221	8%	197	9%	184	8%	138	7%	221	10%	175	10%	173	9%
Wainbody	11	0%	8	0%	6	0%	14	1%	7	0%	11	1%	10	1%	9	0%	12	1%	15	1%
Westwood	19	1%	40	2%	26	1%	75	3%	35	2%	31	1%	37	2%	43	2%	19	1%	37	2%
Whorley	44	2%	33	1%	63	3%	78	3%	73	3%	65	3%	58	3%	50	2%	40	2%	37	2%
Woodlands	27	1%	30	1%	28	1%	47	2%	23	1%	16	1%	26	1%	23	1%	19	1%	30	2%
Wyken	23	1%	30	1%	23	1%	40	1%	25	1%	17	1%	16	1%	32	1%	19	1%	8	0%

Flytipping by type

	Apr 21 - Jun 21	Jul 21 - Sep 21	Oct 21 - Dec 21	Jan 22 - Mar 22	Apr 22 - Jun 22	Jul 22 - Sep 22
Other Household Waste	1090	1179	946	848	861	979
Black Bags - Household	694	595	684	1004	432	495
White Goods	231	198	166	141	196	215
Constr / Demol / Excav	44	44	48	49	66	25
Other Electrical	38	58	33	47	29	23
Other Commercial Waste	33	21	18	27	29	13
Green	31	23	6	7	22	29
Tyres	19	18	21	23	31	34
Vehicle Parts	9	9	9	16	13	11
Asbestos	3	1	1	0	2	0
Clinical	3	6	7	6	4	1
Chemical Drums, Oil, Fuel	1	2	0	5	2	11
Other	1	0	0	4	1	2
Animal Carcass	0	1	0	2	0	0
Black Bags - Commercial	0	3	0	0	0	2

Defra define all flytipping into 15 categories.

This table shows all flytipping incidents per quarter since April 2021 broken down by type.

It shows the majority of incidents come from residential properties and are mostly made up of household items

Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board 4

Fly Tipping Task and Finish Group



SB4's review of Fly Tipping

- **Creation of a TFG**
 - **Four themed meetings**
1. **Domestic Waste** - Refuse Collection and bulky waste
 2. **Commercial Waste Management**
 3. **Enforcement** - 'no man's' or complex land ownership together with enforcement
 4. **Community and Education** – Education of residents and volunteering
- **In looking at each of these themes we asked ourselves the following questions:**

Questions we continually asked ourselves?

- 1. Are all households the same size?**
 - Some are overcrowded, some illegally!
 - But they don't know that they can have extra bins!
- 2. Do all households have room to store waste?**
 - Some have no gardens, others small gardens!
 - Some have no rear access to their properties!
- 3. Do all households have transport to help waste disposal?**
 - Less in deprived neighbourhoods!
- 4. Do all households have the money to pay for waste disposal?**
 - Less in deprived neighbourhoods!
- 5. Do all household work together to minimise waste?**
 - If you have kids, then you know the answer to this one!
 - There is no, or very little, cooperation in shared households!
 - Some people will not recycle!

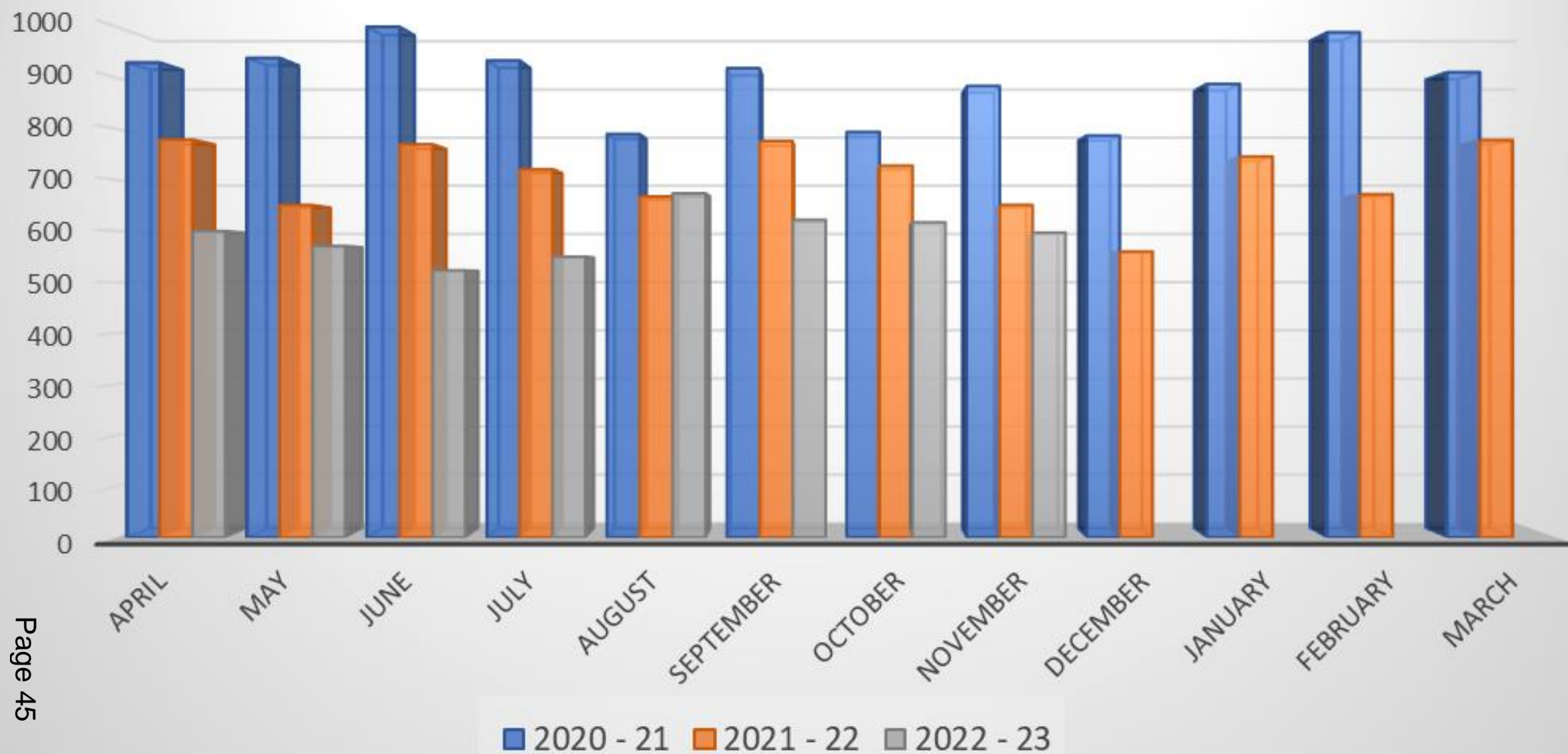
Summary: One size can never fit all

Progress

- **Some quick wins**
- **Progress in all areas**
- **Some have a slower burn**
- **Please see the progress matrix**



Total reported Fly tipping incidents



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Briefing note

To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board 4

9th February 2023

Subject: Waste Services Update

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board 4 of an update on waste services to include the impact of the industrial action and information on the Christmas waste collection 2022.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) are recommended to:
 - 1) Note the update on Waste Services
 - 2) Make recommendations or comments to the Cabinet Member about Waste Services

3 Background

- 3.1 The Communities and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Board 4 requested an update on Waste Services.
- 3.2 An update will be presented at the meeting on 9th February using the attached slides in Appendix1.

Vicky Castree
Scrutiny Co-ordinator
02476 971699

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Scrutiny Board 4

9th February 2023

Sarah Elliott

Head of Fleet and Waste Services

Scrutiny Board 4

9th February 2023

Update on:-

- Industrial Action
- Christmas Collections 2022

Scrutiny Board 4

Industrial Action

January 5th 2022 – HGV Drivers from Unite the Union commenced a strike relating to pay

Around 65 drivers took part in the action

With minimal driver resource available collections of recycling and garden waste were suspended with immediate effect

Strike ended 31st August 2022 following a long period of negotiation with Unions

Scrutiny Board 4

Industrial Action



Pop Up Sites

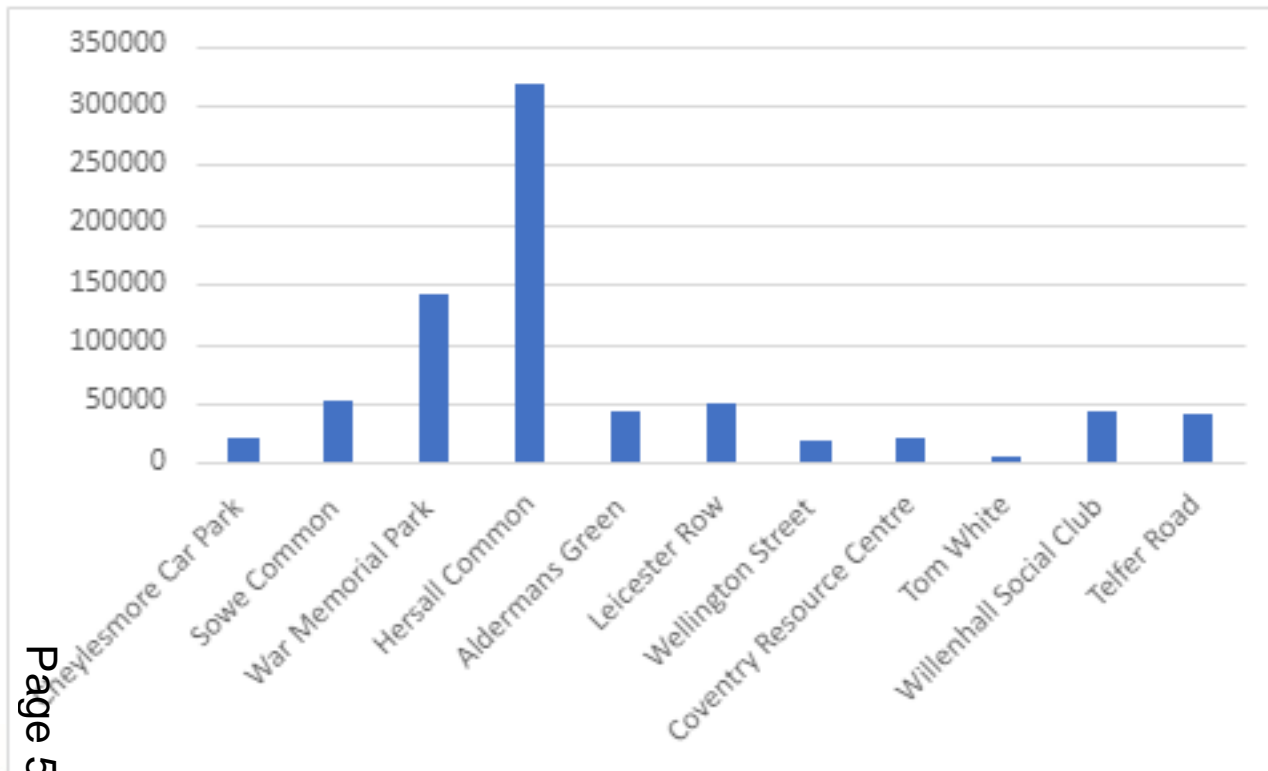
29th December 2021 – first 4 sites opened to reduce the impact of the planned strikes on residents

Between January and April new locations were identified across the City – 11 sites

Scrutiny Board 4

Industrial Action

Pop Up Sites



751,614 visits

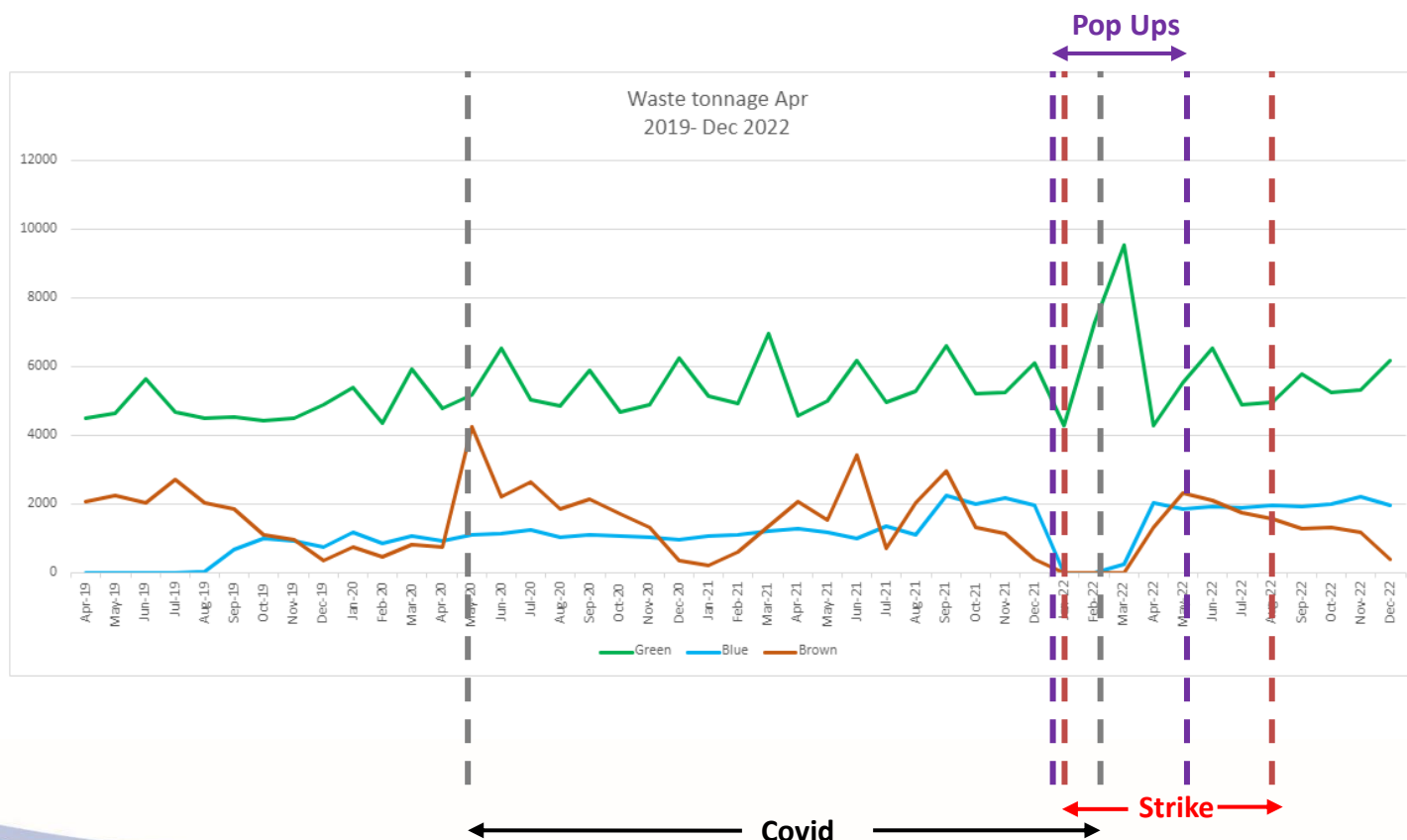
5327 tonnes

£1.5 million

Waste Services

Industrial Action

Tonnages



Scrutiny Board 4

Industrial Action

Impact on recycling

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual Total
	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21
HH waste sent for recycling, reuse or composting	12,913.40	13,091.63	9,694.40	8,888.67	44,588.10
Total HH Waste Collected	34,241.11	34,731.73	30,758.36	31,500.87	131,232.07
Reuse, Recycling and Composting Rate	37.7%	37.7%	31.5%	28.2%	34.0%

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual Total
	2021/22	2021/22	2021/22	2021/22	2021/22
HH waste sent for recycling, reuse or composting	13,424.33	11,950.82	8,500.23	1,100.27	34,975.65
Total HH Waste Collected	35,328.81	33,021.64	28,637.97	25,276.89	122,265.31
Reuse, Recycling and Composting Rate	38.0%	36.2%	29.7%	4.4%	28.6%

Scrutiny Board 4

Industrial Action

Financial Impact

Cost of pop ups – January to May £1.5 million

Loss of commercial waste income – Circa £1.5 million

Cost of TWW – April to September £3.365 million

Savings associated with salaries and reduction in waste disposal circa £1 million

Scrutiny Board 4

Christmas Collections

Historically

The introduction of alternate weekly collections meant that the delivery of the service over the Christmas and New Year period became more challenging

No collections on the week between Christmas and New Year and heavily reliant on agency staff and volunteers to cover non contractual working days

Schedules were designed to ensure that all residents received a collection of their green lidded bin both before and after Christmas

Clear sacks distributed to all residents to allow for additional recycling after Christmas



Scrutiny Board 4

Christmas Collections

2022

New waste services agreement as part of the strike negotiations

Made collections on the week between Christmas and New Year compulsory in return for a one off payment

106 staff signed up for the change meaning that collections were carried out with no changes and no delays for residents

No clear sacks required



Scrutiny Board 4

Christmas Collections

2022

Complaints

2021/22		Dec	Jan	Total
	Collections - Crew behaviour	28	48	76
	Collection - Food and Garden (brown lidded bin)	5	3	8
	Collections - Recycling (blue lidded bin)	20	3	23
	Collections - Refuse (green lidded bin)	26	89	115
Total				222
2022/23				
	Collections - Crew behaviour	13	14	27
	Collection - Food and Garden (brown lidded bin)	0	4	4
	Collections - Recycling (blue lidded bin)	3	1	4
	Collections - Refuse (green lidded bin)	10	2	12
Total				47



Scrutiny Board 4

Christmas Collections

Financial Impact

Ongoing Savings

No temporary staff requirements

No clear sacks

Around £150, 000 +/-

No calendars

One off Cost 2022

Christmas buyout - £4,000 per person (Funded from reserves)

106 people



Thank you

Any Questions?

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Agenda Item 7

Communities and Neighbourhoods Work Programme 2022-23

|
Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

Last updated 30 January 2023

7th July 2022
Consultations on SPD's – Biodiversity and Residential Building Design Highways Asset Management Programme - Scheme Assessment Process
6th October 2022 (moved from 22nd September)
Article 4 consultation HMO DPD Local Listings SPD - Tall Buildings and View Management
3rd November 2022
Homes for Ukraine Scheme
8th December 2022
Housing and Homelessness Services Green Spaces SPD - Householder Design Guide
9th February 2023
Empty Properties Fly-tipping and Street Cleansing Waste Services
23rd March 2023
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Flood risk management and drainage update report Water Courses – management, infrastructure, and investment
2023/2024
Review of the Implementation of the Homefinder Allocations Scheme (June 2023) Housing Development Infrastructure Average Speed Cameras Homes for Ukraine Scheme Enforcement Powers

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
7th July 2022	Consultations on SPD's – Biodiversity and Residential Building Design	To input into the consultation on the Supplementary Planning Document for Biodiversity and Residential Building Design	Cllr Welsh David Butler
	Highways Asset Management Programme - Scheme Assessment Process	About the selection and assessment process for schemes coming forward.	Cllr Hetherton Neil Cowper
6th October 2022 (moved from 22nd September)	Article 4 consultation HMO DPD	For the board to contribute to the consultation process	Cllr Welsh David Butler
	Local Listings	To look at the process and criteria for Local Listings	Cllr Welsh David Butler
	SPD -Tall Buildings and View Management	To consider the final SPD before Cabinet agreement	Cllr Welsh David Butler
3rd November 2022	Homes for Ukraine Scheme	How the Council is supporting the Homes for Ukraine scheme	Cllr Welsh Peter Barnett
8th December 2022	Housing and Homelessness Services	An update following an item in December 2021.	Cllr Welsh Jim Crawshaw
	Green Spaces	To consider levels of usage post pandemic and steps taken to encourage usage of green spaces and parks such as paths, lighting, and mile markers	Graham Hood Cllr AS Khan, Cllr Caan, Cllr Hetherton
	SPD - Householder Design Guide	To input into the consultation on the Householder Design Guide SPD.	Cllr Welsh David Butler

Communities and Neighbourhoods Work Programme 2022-23

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
9th February 2023	Empty Properties	To consider the work being undertaken to get empty properties back into use.	Cllr Welsh Davina Blackburn/ Adrian Chowns
	Fly-tipping and Street Cleansing	Including an update from the task and finish group and progress on the implementation of the recommendations.	Cllr Hetherton/ Cllr AS Khan Andrew Walster/ Martin McHugh
	Waste Services	To pick up impact of industrial action, including recycling rates and review of Christmas waste collections	Cllr Hetherton/ Cllr AS Khan Andrew Walster/ Martin McHugh
23rd March 2023	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	To receive the Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Cllr Welsh Claire Eggington
	Flood risk management and drainage update report	An annual update on the flood risk management programme	Cllr Hetherton Neal Thomas
	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 – to include the annual report.	Colin Knight/ Neal Thomas Cllr Hetherton
2023/2024	Review of the Implementation of the Homefinder Allocations Scheme (June 2023)	Requested at the meeting on 8 th December.	Cllr Welsh Jim Crawshaw
	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	Cllr Welsh Andrew Walster/ Clare Eggington

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
		seek assurances that infrastructure will be in place before homes are occupied.	
	Average Speed Cameras	Following the introduction of average speed cameras across the city, SB3 referred an item to consider the impact and effectiveness of the average speed cameras on road safety	Cllr Hetherton Joel Logue
	Homes for Ukraine Scheme	To consider the situation with Ukrainian guests once the 12 month hosting arrangements are ending	Cllr Welsh Peter Barnett
	Enforcement Powers	The remit of the Enforcement team was expanded in October 2022. Members will consider the impact that expanding the remit has had on those areas. Areas Members were specifically interested in were skip licenses, dropped kerbs,	Davina Blackburn Cllr AS Khan