



To: **Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board [4]**

14th September 2016

Subject: **Update on Flytipping and Littering Enforcement**

1. Purpose of the Note

1.1. To inform Members as to what is being done to address the increase in fly-tipping and concern from residents. To also look at the impact of reduced resources on Streetpride and street cleansing.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board is recommended to:

- 1) Consider the content of the information to be presented at the meeting on the 14th September 2016
- 2) Note that over £1m of savings have been achieved from these service areas in the last two years.
- 3) Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member

3. Information / Background

3.1 Fly tipping data.

The number of Flytipping incidents is recorded annually by officers. The numbers of incidents for the last three are presented below (Values obtained from in house data submitted to central government).

- 2014/15 - 2811 incidents [**Q1 =779**]
- 2015/16 - 2316 incidents [**Q1 = 516**]
- 2016/17 - 761 incidents [**Q1 = 761**]

3.2 Discussion of the data set

The data indicates that there has been an increase in flytipping across the city in the first quarter of this financial year.

As reported to Members in 2015, during 2015/16 the entire regulatory, enforcement and planning services were fundamentally reviewed in order to delivery over £500k of savings annually, and increase the coverage of some parts of the service (including Environmental Services) beyond office hours Monday to Friday.

During the review period there was a reduction in environmental enforcement officers compared to 2014/15. This short-term reduction in resource is likely to have contributed to the increase in flytipping incidents in late 2015/16 and early 2016/17, as the capacity to enforce was reduced.

The enforcement, regulatory and planning review was completed in late 2015, the Street Enforcement team is now fully staffed and in the process of tackling a number of street based enforcement issues.

3.3 Measures taken to address the increase in fly tipping

The new Street Enforcement Team, who are responsible for dealing with a range of environmental crimes, 'street based' issues, anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance, have been tasked with dealing with fly tipping. This team operates 7 days per week from 9am to 3am the following day.

We have now fully recruited to this team and we are currently training these officers in the required skills. More specifically, these officers are being trained to operate our 'hot streets' programme, which has been successful in reducing fly tipping. Details of the hot street programme can be found in appendix 1.

Other initiatives which aim to reduce fly tipping are as follows:

- The Community Payback programme funded by the Police & Crime Commissioner (Appendix 1).
- Use of surveillance to monitor fly tipping hot spots
- Work with partner agencies such as the Universities
- Improvements in reporting methods

3.4 The impact of reduced resources on Streetpride and street cleansing.

Street Pride undertake a range of key operational functions including, street cleansing, litter bin emptying, graffiti removal, fly tip removal, grass cutting, horticultural and grounds maintenance and Road traffic accident clearance amongst other activities.

It is estimated that the service cleans 10,000 miles of streets each year, picks 2,100 tonnes of litter each year, empties 2,000 litter bins each week, 1,500 tonnes of street sweepings each year and cuts up 69 million sq meters of grass each fortnight.

On the first of April 2015 Streetprides operational budget was reduced by £500,000 as part of the Councils overall Medium Term Financial strategy.

In order to meet the budgetary reduction the Streetpride Service was restructured. This restructure took effect during February 2016.

The restructure reduced the area teams from 10 to 6, reduction in amenity mowing teams, overall staff numbers have been reduced by approximately 40 full time posts. Week end working has been reviewed, reduced resource for winter works such as leafing, shrub bed maintenance and edging, highway weed spraying operations reduced from 3 to 2. Grass cutting frequencies reduced 16 to 8 cuts per year, reduction in plant and equipment.

New grass cutting equipment has been procured to cope with a reduction in cutting frequencies as well as new street sweeping plant to deal with the reduced sweeping frequencies.

It was anticipated that the impact of these reductions would result in reduced visits to shopping centres, loss of flexibility and change to Service Standards, increased response times, increase in the appearance of highway weed growth, increase in the length of grass between cuts visibly higher levels of litter and detritus between collection and sweeping operations, non offensive graffiti staying longer before removal.

The full impact of the budgetary reductions and corresponding operational restructuring is still being assessed and a review is planned to take place over the next two months. Anecdotally there has been an increase in complaints particularly regarding grass cutting. Complaint levels were high during the early part of the season when weather conditions were wet and warm, however, complaints dropped off as the season progressed.

Craig Hick – Head of Environmental Services

Graham Hood – Head of Streetpride and Greenspace

Andrew Walster – Assistant Director for Streetscene and Regulatory Services

Appendix One.

4.1 Hot Streets

- Obtain monthly reports which identify fly tipping patterns down to street level.
- Ascertain the worst affected streets termed 'hot streets'.
- Each 'hot street' is allocated to an officer and they visit these streets on a regular basis and will highlight any issues such as refuse in the entry or waste in gardens.
- Officers will then look to educate and signpost local residents as to how they can dispose of their waste in a more appropriate manner.
- Officers will carry out any subsequent enforcement. If the waste isn't disposed of correctly then fines or potentially prosecutions could be the ultimate sanction.
- Entryways that are clogged with accumulations of waste are to be highlighted and referred on to the community payback team:

4.2 Community Payback Programme [CPP] [funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner]

- Areas such as rear entryways that are heavily blighted with fly tipping are highlighted.
- Photographs of the waste are taken and any evidence is gathered, action taken against anyone found to be responsible.
- Surrounding gardens are checked to see if they also contain waste [as part of the hot street programme see above]
- The site is thoroughly checked and the type of waste ascertained.
- CPP are engaged to clear the alleyway

4.3 Use of surveillance to monitor fly tipping hotspots

- Flytipping data analysed and hot spots are identified
- Deployment of overt cameras which are then positioned in areas where fly tipping is prolific, particularly in areas where there is little footfall and very few potential witnesses to any activity.
- All activity captured is assessed and action taken where appropriate.

4.4 Work with Partner agencies such as the Universities

- Work with both universities in providing education to their students and have also provided assistance to the 'student wardens' in their work to improve the quality of life for students in the community.
- Collection of unwanted goods arranged by British Heart Foundation

4.5 Improvements to reporting methods

- Currently working with partners in ICT to provide customers with an online app through which they can make referrals regarding fly tipping to the council. [DEMO]