
To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board 4 Date: 6th September 2017

Subject: Fly tipping in Coventry

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 Members requested details of what is being done to address the increase in fly-tipping and concerns from residents. It was noted that there was an increased number of incidents highlighted in the Council Plan Performance 2016/17 Annual Report.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members of Scrutiny Board 4 note the circumstances leading to the increase in fly tipping and the measures, which are already taking place to address this issue.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 Fly tipping in Coventry has increased in the last 12 months; Appendix 1 compares the number of fly tipping episodes in the years 2015/16 and 2016/17. This needs to be set against a rising trend nationally and locally; Appendix 2 compares Coventry's total fly tipping episodes with those of our near neighbours and as a factor of population size.
- 3.2 The increase in fly tipping and our response was exacerbated by a number of factors:
- 3.2.1 **Change in legislation and the cost of waste disposal.** The cost of waste disposal has risen in recent years and there is a temptation to avoid paying for correct disposal. In particular, the legislation around the disposal of refrigerators was 'tightened' and made more onerous and as a result scrap metal collectors are reluctant to take this type of waste and will want payment. This one factor resulted in an additional 301 'white goods' being fly tipped; this represents 9.0 % of the total and accounts for 29% of the annual increase in fly tipping.
- 3.2.2 **Restructure of the enforcement team.** In 2015/16 the teams that carried out education and enforcement of fly tipping had been settled and had acquired a degree of experience and local knowledge, which is crucial in tackling this endemic problem. Indeed, because of their work and our 'tried and tested' methods, cases of fly tipping had been reducing for a number of years.
- 3.2.3 In February 2016 the service which previously covered environmental crime, was amalgamated with other services that enforced noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour; the total number of officers working in these combined areas was reduced by 10 and a number of experienced officers left the service. Furthermore, the service now operates 7 days per week from 9am to 3am the following day and whilst this gives greater flexibility and resilience, it does mean that remaining resources are spread more thinly.
- 3.2.4 In the early stages of 2016/17 the team had vacancies approaching 40%; these vacancies have now been filled and officers are being trained in the full suite of issues managed by the Street Enforcement Team. Appendix 3 details the issues managed by this team and gives an indication of the training required in ensuring officers are competent. Appendix 4 gives an indication of the total work that falls to this team and the individual officer's case load.

3.2.5 **Reporting fly tipping.** The Council has introduced a new online reporting tool that has made the reporting of fly tipping much easier for member of the public and probably, increased reporting as a result. Prior to this development, customers largely reported fly tipping through Coventry Direct by telephone.

4 Measures to address the increase in fly tipping

- 4.1 To continue the training programme for the Street Enforcement Team, which will increase competence in dealing with fly tipping and other issues.
- 4.2 The Street Enforcement Team along with colleagues in Street pride will continue to map all instances of fly tipping to better determine where the problem is occurring and attempt to understand why this may be the case.
- 4.3 Over half of the City's fly tipping occurs in three wards. The Street Enforcement Team together with the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team will continue to work on projects such as 'hot streets'. We have successfully used this early intervention and education initiative with residents in these specific areas.
- 4.4 We have recently ordered some new surveillance equipment which will be deployed at areas that we know are frequently fly tipped on, such deployment often leads to a reduction in tipping but also it is hoped that the repeat offenders will be identified and ultimately formal action would be taken.
- 4.5 We plan to engage community members in assisting us in reporting incidents, using social media and promoting good practice.
- 4.6 We plan to continue to target offenders and to highlight any prosecutions that we obtain.
- 4.7 The introduction of selective licencing in certain parts of the city may well have a positive impact on the private rented sector. Specific conditions in the licence will increase the landlord's accountability for waste management in these properties.

NAME: Craig Hickin
JOB TITLE: Head of Environmental Services
DIRECTORATE: Place
PHONE: 024 7683 2585
EMAIL: craig.hickin@coventry.gov.uk

Appendix One: The number of incidents of fly-tipping

2015 -2016	totals	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Number of fly tipping incidents - quarterly	2316	705	586	509	516
2016-2017	totals	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1
Number of fly tipping incidents - quarterly	3342	1013	790	778	761

Appendix Two: Fly tipping in the sub-region

Total number of incidents this period by authority [Ranked by no of fly tips per head of population]				
Authority	2016/17	Rank	Population 2011 census	Fly tipping per head of population
Leicester City Council	8,716	1	329,839	0.026
Tamworth Borough Council	1,556	2	76,813	0.020
Sandwell MBC	5,288	3	308,063	0.017
Walsall MBC	4,565	4	269,323	0.017
Birmingham City Council	14,799	5	1,074,300	0.014
North Warwickshire Borough Council	900	6	62,014	0.015
Coventry City Council	3,342	=7	316,960	0.011
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	1,405	=7	125,252	0.011
Rugby Borough Council	1,073	=7	100,075	0.011
Wolverhampton MBC	2,653	=7	249,470	0.011
Solihull MBC	1,570	11	206,700	0.008
Warwick District Council	835	12	137,648	0.006
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	291	13	120,500	0.002
Total	956,881		3,376,957	0.013

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

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

- **General nuisance and public health issues:**
 - Noise nuisance
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Nuisance feeding of birds
 - Drainage complaints (businesses only)
 - Abandoned vehicles
 - Nuisance Car Sales on the highway,
 - Vehicle repairs on the highway
 - Obstructions on pavements
 - Odour nuisances from domestic properties
 - Bonfires
 - Light nuisance from domestic premises
 - Illegal Traveller and Gypsy illegal encampments,
 - Invasive plants

Appendix 4: Workload for the Street Enforcement Team

