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**To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board 4    Date: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Subject: Fly tipping in Coventry**

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**1 Purpose of the Note**

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

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)
- 1) Note the actions and programmes in place to tackle fly tipping.
  - 2) Make recommendations as appropriate to the Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities).

**3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 The city faces challenges around littering and fly-tipping, with a marked increase in the number of fly-tips reported. There has been a 47% increase in the number of fly-tips reported, with an increase from 4,704 in 2017/18 to 6,922 in 2018/19. It should be noted that fly-tipping is increasing nationally.
- 3.2 The online reporting form makes it much easier for the public to check if the fly-tipping has already been reported and if not for them to ensure that an accurate report is then generated.
- 3.3 The number of enforcement actions, by the Street Enforcement Service, has also increased markedly from 2,613 in 2017/18 to 3,925 in 2018/19, a 50% increase. Despite the marked increase in fly-tipping, the Council has slightly increased the proportion of fly-tips attended to and addressed; and has developed metrics to identify, determine and address the levels of cleanliness across the city.
- 3.4 Fly tipping has reduced in the first quarter of 2019/20, when compared with the same period last year. It is too early to determine if this is part of a long-term trend, but the progress is encouraging.

**4 Measures to address the increase in fly tipping**

- 4.1 **Fly tipping on private land.** Private land owners also suffer from fly tipping and the City Council does not distinguish between fly tipping on public or private land. If fly tipping is reported on private land and we are able, to secure evidence, then we will take enforcement action. Where fly tipping routinely occurs on private land we readily advise the land owners on how they can protect their sites with physical measures and surveillance. These measures are not inexpensive but are proportionate to the risk that the land owner faces in terms of damage to the land and the resultant costs of removing any waste.
- 4.1.1 Where a private land owner takes no action to deal with fly tipping on their land and it is either unsightly, a threat to public health, or is being used as an authorised 'refuse site', then the City Council has enforcement powers to deal with the nuisance.

- 4.2 **Redesigning the service.** The Street Enforcement Team was restructured in February 2018 to better align the service to tackle fly tipping. The restructure was designed to create elements of the service that could a) respond rapidly to collect evidence and catalogue fly tipping incidents, and b) allow other elements of the service to more effectively case manage incidents. The measures taken are now having the desired effect.
- 4.3 **Focus on 'Hot Streets'.** Over half of the City's fly tipping occurs in three wards. Fly-tipping reports are monitored and analysed in terms of location and the type of waste deposited; this data is recorded right down to street level. These streets, which almost exclusively suffer from fly tipped domestic waste form the focus of our attention are deemed 'hot streets'. At any one time we target and monitor 30 'hot streets'.
- 4.3.1 Neighbourhood enforcement officers are deployed to these areas, providing education and a staged approach to enforcement when required. 'Keep it clean' cards are distributed, which outline the way waste should be disposed. Residents are encouraged to take ownership of environmental issues within their community, and to notify the Council of any issues and possible perpetrators.
- 4.3.2 Whilst we endeavour to ensure that our resources are focussed on these areas, there are also competing issues which this team also need to service. A list of these duties are contained in Appendix 1.
- 4.4 **Surveillance.** For a number of years we have successfully deployed surveillance equipment in areas of the city that are vulnerable to 'commercial' and 'large scale' fly tipping; these tend to be semi-rural locations. There is a recognition that we no longer have the officer resources to patrol our 'hot streets' as frequently as we once did and some residents, are too frightened to report what they know, or have seen. There are now plans to 'pilot' this type of surveillance in some of our 'hot streets'.
- 4.4.1 **Pilot surveillance project.** This surveillance will be overt and appropriate signage will be placed in the street to alert residents and visitors that cameras are in operation. We know from experience, that the majority, of domestic fly tipping is by local people and they fly tip in their own neighbourhood. Our aim is not necessarily to identify offenders, although the equipment has the potential to capture evidence, but deter people from this activity and lead to long term behaviour change.
- 4.4.2 In order, to achieve the correct level of surveillance, we anticipate that it will be necessary to deploy two cameras per street. Each of the cameras, will need to be mounted on specially adapted lampposts from which they will be powered. The cameras will be capable of storing at least 30 days of data and our officers will be able to examine the data remotely. The potential equipment cost per street, will be in the region of £9K. The cost for some streets will be less because specific lampposts have already been adapted.
- 4.5 The service currently has the resources to pilot this approach in 6 streets. Equipment will first be deployed in those streets which suffer the highest levels of fly tipping, or where we believe it will have the greatest impact. The service will evaluate the effectiveness of the programme to determine if there is benefit in its expansion.
- 4.6 It is also recognised that these same streets that suffer the highest levels of fly tipping, also suffer disproportionately from higher levels of crime. The data collected by these cameras will also be made available to the Police when requested.

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## **Appendix One: Full suite of services managed by the Street Enforcement Service**

- **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