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**To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board 4    Date: 8 July, 2021**

**Subject: Fly Tipping in Coventry**

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**1 Purpose of the Note**

1.1 Fly tipping has increased substantially in the last 12 months. 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 content of the briefing note, and
- 2) Create an elected Members 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 Information/Background**

3.1 The City has faced challenges around waste disposal and fly tipping over recent years. In 2019/20 the rate of growth in fly tipping had been arrested, however the COVID-19 epidemic significantly changed the landscape of waste disposal and our ability to challenge adverse behaviour and recorded fly tipping within the City increased by 54% to 10,765 [see table 1]. This pattern has also been seen nationally.

3.2 **Table 1 showing recorded fly tipping over the past three financial years.**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Recorded fly tipping</b>	<b>% difference</b>
2018 / 2019	6922	
2019 / 2020	6962	+0.5%
2020 / 2021	10765	+54%

3.3 Whilst the whole City has faced additional challenges in waste disposal, certain parts of the City have suffered disproportionately. Four wards now account for 70% of all fly tipping [see table 2].

3.4 **Table 2 showing recorded fly tipping by Ward 2020/21**

Ward	Recorded Flytipping [2020/21]	% of total [10765]
Foleshill	4004	37%
St Michaels	1857	17%
Upper Stoke	936	9%
Lower Stoke	710	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7507</b>	<b>70%</b>

3.5 Whilst it is early days, 2021/22 by comparison has provided more of a settled environment for waste disposal services, education of residents in waste matters and enforcement activities [see table 3]. Pleasing reductions have also been evident in the worst affected wards.

3.6 **Table 3 showing recorded fly tipping comparison for 2020/21 V 2021/22**

Quarter	Month	2020 /2021	2021/ 2022	Percentage reduction
Q1	April	930	779	16.2%
Q1	May	939	651	30.7%
Q1	June	1000		

3.7 Close examination of waste type data shows that the vast majority of fly tipping in the city is classified as 'domestic' [See Table 4]. Where 'other household' consists of mattresses and furniture, white goods [fridge freezers etc] and 'other electrical items' [toasters, microwaves, TV's, kettles etc]

3.8 It is apparent that commercial/business waste forms a relatively small part of the problem and the final column is a good indicator of what can happen when there is disruption to normal waste disposal mechanisms i.e. weekly waste collection, access to the tip and bulky waste collection services.

3.9 **Table 4 showing recorded fly tipping comparison for 2020/21 V 2021/22**

Waste type	Recorded 2019/20	Recorded 2020 /21	% difference
Other Household	3962	5903	+49%
Black bags - domestic	1898	3026	+59%
White goods	668	1004	+50%
Other electrical	90	275	+205%

**4 Enforcement**

4.1 The increase in fly tipping throughout the past year was also accompanied by increased levels of enforcement [see Table 5].

4.2 The Street Enforcement Service investigated all reports that were referred to it and carried out formal action as appropriate, this was hampered by the inability to carryout formal interviews under caution as would ordinarily happen.

4.3 The closure of the courts also played a significant part in how cases were dealt with. It was decided early in the pandemic that to ensure an expedient closure to these cases that the most appropriate sanction was a fixed penalty.

4.4 **Table 5 shows number of enforcement actions taken over the past 4 years**

Years	Enforcement actions taken	% difference
2018 / 2019	3925	
2019 / 2020	4841	+23
2020 / 2021	6346	+31

4.5 As can be seen in table 6 with the exception of prosecutions, all activity had been increased throughout the year. The backlog of cases that were unable or unsuitable to be dealt with via the fixed penalty route are currently going through the courts [with 5 successful convictions in the first quarter of 2021 /22 and a further 20 cases due to appear in court in the coming months] . **[see table 6]**

4.6 **Table 6 enforcement actions by type 2020/2021**

Enforcement activity	Recorded 2019/20	Recorded 2020 /21	% difference
investigations	3216	4465	+43
Warning	264	410	+55
Statutory notices	1094	1144	+5
Fixed penalty waste	51	124	+143
Prosecutions	7	<b>[courts closed]</b>	

4.7 **Fly tipping on private land.** Private landowners 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 landowners 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 landowner faces in terms of damage to the land and the resultant costs of removing any waste.

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 unauthorised 'refuse site', then the City Council has enforcement powers to deal with the nuisance. 1144 such notices were served in the last year.

4.8 **Focus on 'Hot Streets'**. 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 50 'hot streets'.

4.8.1 Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers are deployed to these areas, working with colleagues in Waste Services to provide education and a staged approach to enforcement when required. Residents are encouraged to take ownership of their streets and to notify the Council of any issues and possible perpetrators.

4.8.2 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 is

contained in **Appendix 1**. During the COVID-19 epidemic this team also provided support and resilience to other 'front line' council services. The Council's control room and Bereavement Services are but two.

**5 Surveillance of Hotspots.**

- 5.1 For a number of years, we have successfully deployed camera 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 all of streets that routinely suffer fly tipping as frequently as we once did and some residents, are too frightened to report what they know, or have seen. We are now routinely carrying out this type of camera surveillance in some of these 'hot streets'.
- 5.2 **Pilot surveillance project.** This surveillance project has been running in six streets since the beginning of April 2021 and are largely in Foleshill ward. It is overt and appropriate signage and publicity has been used to alert residents and visitors that cameras are in operation.
- 5.3 We know from experience, that the majority, of domestic fly tipping is by local people and they fly tip in their own neighbourhood. Whilst the technology is capable of identifying offenders, the main aim is to change behaviour and ultimately reduce fly tipping. 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.
- 5.4 The pilot is under constant review and monitoring and we will report back to the Communities and Housing Scrutiny Board 4 in November 2021.

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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