

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (BMBC)

This matter is not a Key Decision within the council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

Report of the Director of Human Resources, Performance and Communications

SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT ON 'FLY-TIPPING'

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) from the investigation undertaken on its behalf by the 'Fly-Tipping' Task & Finish Group (TFG) regarding what is being done to resolve the high instances of fly-tipping in the Borough.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Cabinet considers the conclusions and recommendations set out in the Draft Fly Tipping Action Plan (Appendix 1) as a result of the TFG's investigation into what is being done to resolve the high instances of fly-tipping in the Borough.**

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 Elected Members from across the Borough raised concerns about the amount of fly-tipping incidents that had occurred in their ward, particularly recent increases. Therefore, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) agreed to one of its TFGs undertaking a detailed investigation into this area to consider what the main issues were, what was being done to resolve them and what further action could be taken.
- 3.2 To understand the extent of the issue and identify some key lines of enquiry, the TFG sought feedback from Area Councils and met as a group to gather a list of key questions. This led to the TFG meeting with officers on an individual basis as well as undertaking workshops which involved officers and Members coming together to identify the key issues and pull together a draft action plan to address them.
- 3.3 The members of this TFG included:
Councillor Gill Carr (TFG Lead Member), Councillor Robert Frost, Councillor Wayne Johnson, Councillor Caroline Makinson, Councillor Sarah Tattersall, Councillor John Wilson together with Co-opted Members Joan Whitaker and Pauline Gould.

4. Findings

- 4.1 Nationally, there has been an increase in the incidents of fly-tipping. According to the Government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the trend in incidents of fly-tipping had been downward, until 2013/14 when there was an increase to 852 thousand incidents. This number increased again in 2014/15 to 900 thousand incidents. Nearly a third of all incidents (31%) were equivalent to a

'small van load' of materials being tipped. In 2014/15, the estimated cost to Local Authorities to clear this waste was nearly £50 million; in the same period nearly 515 thousand enforcement actions at an estimated cost of £17.6 million were undertaken.

- 4.2 In Barnsley, there has been a 41.4% increase in fly-tipping incidents between 2013/14 and 2014/15. In 2013/14, 2162 fly-tipping incidents were recorded, in 2014/15 this rose to 3057. During 2014/15 the cost to BMBC to collect and dispose of the fly-tipped waste was over £250K. This doesn't include the cost of additional services Area Councils have commissioned to remove litter and fly-tipped waste. During 2013/14, 134 enforcement investigations took place in relation to fly-tipping which increased to 152 in 2014/15. These resulted in prosecutions and financial penalties being administered to the perpetrators.
- 4.3 Through undertaking several meetings and workshops alongside both strategic and operational officers from different services including Waste, Enforcement, Communities and Planning, the TFG gained an understanding of the key challenges and complexities of the issue of fly-tipping. The TFG acknowledged that any solutions would require joint action both across services and local stakeholders. Similarly, that due to the current economic climate and the Council being subject to Government cuts, any recommendations would need to be mindful of this.
- 4.4 During the officer/Member workshops, a PESTLE (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal, and Environmental) analysis was undertaken to identify some of the possible causes for the recent increases in fly-tipping. Reasons included the post-recession economy and increased sale of white goods, and the throw-away culture in society where items are regularly replaced. This was followed by identifying key stakeholders in relation to fly-tipping at a local, regional and national level; including those affected by fly-tipping, those responsible for it and those who had influence and opportunity to reduce it. This approach was centred on looking to unpick the problem with a view to making recommendations that seek to reduce the supply of the problem, thus endeavouring to reduce the number of incidents at source.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 As a result of the findings, the TFG pulled together a 'Draft Fly-tipping Action Plan' (Appendix 1) which combines recommendations under 4 themes requiring action at a local, regional and national level. The document is provided as a framework for actions which may be further developed.

The TFG would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who provided information, attended events and assisted with the investigation.

6. Implications for local people / service users

- 6.1 The issue of fly-tipping is prevalent across the Borough; therefore improvements in this area of work would have implications across the area. Residents are included within the Draft Fly-Tipping Action Plan as their knowledge, awareness and actions will assist with the prevention of fly-tipping. By them being increasingly aware of the problem and associated costs should improve intelligence gathering and the prosecution of those committing this crime.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no specific financial implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the financial implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding which may be the Council or other agencies.

8. Employee implications

- 8.1 There are no specific employee implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the employee implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding which may be the Council or partnership agencies.

9. Communications implications

- 9.1 To combat the issue of fly-tipping it would be impractical and ineffective to rely solely on enforcement action, therefore a joined up, holistic approach is required. A key focus of the Draft Fly-tipping Action Plan is communication activity as a preventative measure to reduce the incidents by raising awareness of the issues and costs, and making fly-tipping socially unacceptable.

10. Consultations

- 10.1 Consultations have taken place with Councillors G. Carr (TFG Lead Member), Frost, Johnson, Makinson, Tattersall and Wilson, Co-opted Members Joan Whitaker and Pauline Gould and Council Officers Paul Castle, Dorne Kanareck, Paul Brannan and the Senior Management Team.

11. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

- 11.1 One of the Council's strategic priorities is to have 'Strong and Resilient Communities'. Within this, 'Outcome 11' focuses on 'protecting the Borough for future generations', describing how we must ensure the effective collection and disposal of waste to protect the environment for the future. This requires encouraging residents to ensure they recycle and correctly dispose of their waste, not only to protect the environment but to minimise associated costs and protect savings for other important services.

12. Risk management issues

- 12.1 The issue of fly tipping and the consequences to stakeholders, and the Borough as a whole are clearly significant. The management, development and delivery of the attached Action Plan will act as a robust mitigation to a number of risk areas.
- 12.2 Following approval of this report and further development of the Action Plan, the Scrutiny Officer and Council's Risk and Governance Manager will liaise with key officers within the Council to ensure relevant risks are logged in the appropriate business unit risk register. These will contribute to the assurances that members will require in terms of progressing the delivery of the TFG Action Plan.

13. Health, safety, and emergency resilience issues

- 13.1 Fly-tipping can cause serious pollution to the environment as well as risks to human health, wildlife and animals. National data shows that in 2014/15 nearly half of all fly-tipping incidents (48%) were on highways. This can cause serious risks to road users, therefore it is important that work is undertaken to combat this issue.

14. Promoting equality, diversity, and social inclusion

- 14.1 To ensure the correct disposal of waste, it is essential that all our communities understand how to correctly use local methods and facilities. Therefore when undertaking campaigns to highlight the issue of fly-tipping a variety of methods have been identified for use including social media, videos, printed text (including community languages and Easy Read) so that the information is accessible to all our communities and promote social inclusion.

15. Reduction of crime and disorder

- 15.1 Fly-tipping is a criminal activity and is considered as part of the local area's Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA). Large costs are associated with undertaking enforcement action; therefore it is impractical to rely solely on this to deal with the issue. It is important that residents are encouraged to be alert to the issue, reporting concerns and intelligence to appropriate agencies to assist with tackling the problem and reducing this crime.

16. Glossary

DEFRA - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
HWRC – Household Waste Recycling Centre
OSC - Overview and Scrutiny Committee
TFG – Task and Finish Group

17. List of appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Fly Tipping Action Plan

18. Background papers

- Defra Fly-tipping statistics for England 2014/15:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/469566/Flycapture_201415_Statistical_release_FINAL.pdf

Officer Contact: Anna Morley Telephone No: 01226 775794 Date: 26th February 2016

Financial Implications /

Consultation

(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer where no financial implications)



25/02/16