



Environment Committee

18 January 2020

Title	Fly Tipping
Report of	Chairman of the Environment Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix One – Fly Tipping Working Group Action Plan
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Summary

Analysis of the number of reports and service requests received by the Council from members of the public regarding fly-tipping during 2020/21 highlights that cases are increasing when compared to data from the previous year. This pattern also reflects the number of enquiries made to elected members and referred onto the Council for investigation.

This increase is not unique to the London Borough of Barnet and is a national issue experienced by most local authorities.

The Council has recently invested an additional £1.1million to enhance its Street Cleansing service and has implemented an area based operating model that incorporates dedicated resource to deal with fly-tipping.

The Council recognises however, that fly-tipping is a multi-faceted issue, and that the removal and clearance of tipped material by the Street Cleansing team, is just one element of the effort required to effectively mitigate and manage the prevalence of such issues.

The increased incidence of fly-tipping was raised and discussed at the September Environment Committee and concluded with a request for officers to investigate options for improving the response to this matter and for a report to be brought back to the committee

in this regard.

Multiple stakeholders are involved in the investigation and resolution of fly tipping cases within the London Borough of Barnet. A cross service/organisation working group has been established to investigate the opportunities to enhance the effort to tackle fly-tipping with emphasis on greater collaboration and consistency of approach between the stakeholders.

This work will also incorporate a review of the mechanisms currently available for customers to report fly-tipping incidents and the consideration of options to consolidate and simplify the reporting process.

The initial scope of the group is focused on fly-tipping incidents with a view to the principles of any successful outcomes being extended to other environmental crimes e.g. graffiti and anti-social behaviour etc.

This report details the actions and initiatives that the group are investigating and implementing in order to improve the response to and management of fly tipping.

A recommendation has been made that an update report is brought back to the committee in six months detailing progress with the implementation of actions set out in the action plan appended to this report.

Officers Recommendations

- 1. That the Environment Committee notes the contents of the report.**
- 2. That the Environment Committee endorses the implementation of fly tipping working group action plan as set out at Appendix One.**
- 3. That the Environment Committee request that the Executive Director for Environment reports back in six months with an update on progress of the implementation of the action plan.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Analysis of fly-tipping service request numbers received by the Council between 01 April 2019 and 30 September 2019 and the same period in 2020 confirms an increase from 4,134 requests in 2019 to 5,106 in 2020. An increase of circa 23.5%.
- 1.2 The increased prevalence of fly-tipping is a national issue with reports across local and national media channels of most local authorities experiencing an increase in cases. National Data from the Government Statistical Service shows that during 2018/19, local authorities in England dealt with over 1 million (1,072,000) fly-tipping incidents, an increase of 8% from the 998,000 reported in 2017/18¹. The publication of data for 2019/20 has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.3 The increased incidence of fly-tipping was raised and discussed at the September Environment Committee and concluded with a request for officers to investigate options for improving the response to this matter and to report their findings back to the Committee.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Multiple stakeholders are involved in the investigation and resolution of fly tipping cases within the London Borough of Barnet, including:
 - Street Scene Services
 - Highway services
 - Community Safety & Enforcement Services
 - Estates Services
 - Environmental Health
 - Barnet Homes
- 2.2 These parties have and continue to liaise with each other in respect of cases that cross their respective spheres of responsibility. However, the group does not currently share common service standards for responding to incidents and have discrete working processes for the cases they investigate or deal with.
- 2.3 An initial review of this arrangement has highlighted the opportunity to rationalise and improve the workflows associated with fly tipping investigations and the potential for operational efficiencies and improved outcomes for Barnet residents and our communities.
- 2.4 A working group has been established to investigate these opportunities with emphasis on greater collaboration between the stakeholders. The initial scope of the group will be focused on fly-tipping incidents with a view to the principles of any successful outcomes being extended to other environmental crimes e.g. graffiti and anti-social behaviour etc.
- 2.5 The working group is chaired and sponsored by the Director of Street Scene and comprises the following officers:

¹ [Fly-tipping statistics for England, 2018/19 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

- Assistant Director Street Scene, LBB
 - Street Cleansing Operations Manager, LBB
 - Community Safety Manager, LBB
 - Deputy Head of Communications, LBB
 - Estates Services Manager, Barnet Homes
 - Senior Estates Service Manager, Barnet Homes
 - Head of Repairs & Estates, Barnet Homes
 - Community Safety MARAC officer, LBB
 - Estates Special Projects Manager, LBB
- 2.6 Other specialist officers and stakeholders are invited onto the group as the need dictates e.g. Public Health & Nuisance, Highways, Environment Agency and British Waterways etc. The working group meets on a monthly basis.
- 2.7 The first meeting of the group identified the benefit of greater collaboration and communication between the various stakeholders. An immediate action was implemented to introduce fortnightly task and review meetings between the key stakeholders. The purpose of these meetings is to share details of fly tipping cases received by each party over the past two weeks, to provide an opportunity to jointly problem solve complex cases and use the intelligence arising from these discussions to inform resource tasking for the coming two week period.
- 2.8 Early conversations have also highlighted a potential opportunity to increase service resilience, improve responsiveness and assist in harmonising service standards across the stakeholder group through closer alignment of the dedicated fly tipping resource that some stakeholders employ. A feasibility study is being undertaken on this option.
- 2.9 Communication is a key factor in helping raise awareness of what is classified as fly tipping e.g. a bag of waste left on the ground adjacent to a litter bin is fly tipping. The Council's communication team has commenced work with the Council's enforcement team to develop a messaging campaign around fly tipping. The working group has identified an opportunity to build on this to develop a brand that will provide a common identity across the stakeholder group and jointly agreed narrative for any future collective effort to tackle fly tipping. This work will also look at the reporting mechanisms available to residents to ensure the process facilitates quick and simple reporting.
- 2.10 Effective enforcement is a critical element of successfully managing and deterring fly tipping activity.
- 2.11 The Council has engaged in several approaches to tackling those persons responsible for fly tipping/abandoning waste in our public and communal spaces. These include but are not limited to:
- Use of environmental crime signage for deterrence, awareness and assurance purposes
 - Use of written warnings for low level type offences e.g. use of Community Protection Notices and Environmental Protection Act warnings
 - Use of high visibility patrolling by our waste enforcement contractor in hotspot areas
 - Use of door-step interviews under cautions for suspected offenders

- Use of the Council's core CCTV services to seek to protect identified vulnerable locations and assist in the identification of offences/offenders
- Joint working with Barnet Homes and other registered providers to employ a coordinated approach and the use of tenancy enforcement for offenders where relevant

2.12 The working group has highlighted the opportunity to enhance the current enforcement capability by upskilling front line operational staff in evidence identification and gathering techniques. This will enable all operation teams to gather evidence at the point of attending a fly-tipping report. This approach will increase responsiveness and will enable the specialist enforcement officers to focus on the more complex cases or those that are likely to proceed to further or more formal action.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Maintaining the current working arrangements with collaboration occurring on an ad hoc or as needed basis has been considered. This has not been pursued and has not been recommended as it would not realise the opportunity to enhance the operation and improve the response and effort to tackle fly tipping within Barnet.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 The working group has produced an action plan that is structured around three thematic workstreams:

- i) Enforcement & Operations
- ii) Communication/Education & Awareness
- iii) Community Empowerment & Engagement

The action plan is appended to this report at Appendix One.

4.2 Implementation of the action plan is managed and monitored through the monthly project working group meetings. A progress report detailing the implementation of the action plan will be brought back to the Environment Committee in six months.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1 The implementation of the action plan and collaborative approach to tackling fly tipping supports the Council's corporate priority of *'Barnet being a pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in'*.

Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property,

Sustainability)

- 5.2 **Finance and Value for Money:** All actions and proposals detailed within the action will be subject to a business case that considers value for money and any financial implications outside of existing budgetary provision. Any actions that require additional investment will be considered through the Council's delegations and established governance arrangements.
- 5.3 **Procurement:** Not applicable.
- 5.4 **Staffing:** The actions detailed within the fly tipping action plan provide upskilling opportunities for existing personnel.
- 5.5 **Property:** The actions detailed within the fly tipping action plan seek to utilise existing assets. Any additional investment will be subject to established approval and governance arrangements.
- 5.6 **IT:** The implementation of a single point for the reporting of fly tipping incidents is being considered including the use of an 'App' based function. This will provide a more convenient and streamline process for residents and will support greater responsiveness and intelligent resource deployment by the front-line operational teams.
- 5.7 **Sustainability:** The effective management and deterrence of fly-tipping will help reduce the detrimental impact that unlawfully dumped waste material can have on the environment, biodiversity, flora and fauna.
- 5.8 Fly-tipped material and waste collected by the front-line operational teams will be processed and treated through approved and permitted waste disposal channels.

Social Value

- 5.9 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. The implementation of the fly tipping working group action plan will improve the public realm and help encourage customers, visitors and businesses to the Borough. This will assist with the Council's efforts to assist economic recovery post COVID and future economic success.

Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.10 Local authorities have several different statutory powers and responsibilities in relation to street cleaning, recycling and waste collection. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended), the Controlled Waste Regulation 1992 (as amended) the London Local Authorities Acts 2007 (as amended). These acts set out the duty of the Local Authority to ensure that land in its area for which it is responsible is kept clear of litter and refuse.
- 5.11 Council Constitution (Article 7, Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships) sets out the responsible body and their functions. For the Environment Committee it's functions include: *Responsibility for all borough-wide or cross-constituency matters relating to the street scene including, parking, road safety, lighting, street cleaning, transport, waste, waterways, refuse, recycling, allotments, parks, trees, crematoria and mortuary, trading standards and environmental health*".

Risk Management

- 5.12 The Fly Tipping Working Group and the implementation of the action plan is being managed as a discrete project and is subject to normal project governance arrangements. This incorporates a project risk register and issues log that is regularly reviewed and updated by the project board.

Equalities and Diversity

- 5.13 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision making of the council. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality Duty requires elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place.
- 5.14 This is set out in the Councils Equalities Policy together with our strategic Equalities objective – as set out in the corporate plan – that citizens will be treated equally with understanding and respect; have equal opportunities and receive quality services provided to the best value principles.

Corporate Parenting

- 5.15 Not applicable.

Consultation and Engagement

- 5.16 Officers will engage with ward members and residents where appropriate for specific actions, initiatives or pilots proposed within the fly tipping working group action plan.
- 5.17 The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Environment Committee have been briefed and engaged with the development of the proposed plan and committee is asked to endorse its implementation and receive future updates regarding progress in this regard.

Insight

- 5.18 This proposal has been informed by intelligence from service requests, complaints and feedback received from members of the public and elected members. Actions have also been informed by officer's experience and knowledge of this subject matter and hot spot areas etc. across the Borough.
- 5.19 Historic complaint and service request data has been analysed and cross referenced with geographical information to help identify patterns and trends.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Appendix One - Fly Tipping Working Group Action Plan

Workstream: Operational

Ref	Action	Expected Outcome	By When	Status	Comments
FTOP1	Implement fortnightly joint tasking and debrief sessions for Community Safety, Enforcement & Barnet Homes officers.	All resources involved in fly tipping investigation or clearance are fully informed of active cases in Borough. Reduced risk of cases falling between stakeholders. Greater responsiveness and ability to determine more complex cases.	Q3 - 2020/21	Complete	Joint tasking meetings scheduled in key stakeholders' diaries. Initial meeting held on 07/10/20
FTOP2	Create a central register of active fly tipping cases and enforcement.	Common intelligence source for fly-tipping cases in Barnet used to inform all stakeholders and facilitate joint tasking and information sharing between key stakeholders.	Q1 - 2020/21	Complete	07/10/20 - Circulated to working group for review and use at next joint tasking and debrief meeting.
FTOP3	Review and improve the reporting arrangements for members of the public for incidents of fly-tipping within Barnet.	Creation of a simple, single point of reporting for customers irrespective of tenure.	Q3 - 2021/22	On Track	
FTOP4	Upskilling of front-line operational staff to support fly-tipping evidence collation.	a) Competent and trained front line staff who can assess fly tips at the time of attending and collate any evidence so as to support any future enforcement action.	Q4 - 2020/21	On Track	
FTOP5	Implement pro-active patrols of known fly-tipping hotspots.	a) Increase visibility of fly-tipping personnel to act as a deterrent to tip waste material. b) Pro-active identification of fly-tipped material and resolution prior to complaints being registered.	Q3 - 2020/21	Complete	Dedicated LBB & Barnet Homes fly tipping crews are in place with responsibility for defined areas of the Borough. Each crew undertakes pro-active patrols of known fly-tipping hotspots. Future development to link this activity with CCTV vehicle resource
FTOP6	Trial fly tipping geographical data capture through Kingdom's newly developed case and tasking request app.	Develop analytical capability on fly tipping location data to identify trends and emerging hot spots etc.	Q2 - 2021/22	On Track	

FTOP7	Develop cost identification process for use in schedules of costs for enforcement cases in order to assist cost recovery efforts in successful prosecutions.	a) Schedule of costs developed to allow simple calculation of manpower, clearance and disposal costs for each fly-tipping incident.	Q4 - 2020/21	On Track	
FTOP8	Meet with the Environment Agency to confirm responsibilities for litter and fly tipping clearance within the Silk Stream.	a) Clarity on roles and responsibilities for this area and confirmation of a clearance programme etc.	Q4 - 2020/21	On Track	
FTOP9	Complete feasibility study of consolidating dedicated fly tipping resource from LBB and Barnet Homes into one operational team.	a) Determination of viability and potential to deliver enhanced responsiveness, service standards and service resilience. b) Identification of any risks or detrimental impacts on other dependant/related services. c) development of a business case for consideration and determination by both stakeholders.	Q1 - 2021/22	On Track	
FTOP10	Utilisation and enhancement of the council's CCTV resource to support the management of fly tipping.	a) Develop agreed protocols and arrangements for utilising the council's CCTV resource to support fly-tipping deterrence and enforcement activity.	Q1 – 2021/22	On Track	
Workstream: Communication/Education & Awareness					
Ref	Action	Expected Outcome	By When	Status	Comments
FTCOM01	Develop a common brand for fly tipping	Development of a single brand identity and marketing strap line for fly tipping to be used by all stakeholders.	Q1 - 2021/22	On Track	

FTCOM02	Develop a joint communications strategy with all stakeholders.	Development of common messaging for fly tipping that is employed and publicised by all stakeholders. The CST 'Caught in the act' campaign to be incorporated into this strategy and be used as the platform to kick start the joint marketing initiative.	Q1 - 2021/22	On Track	
FTCOM03	Targeted marketing campaign for HMO's and Private Landlords	Increased awareness of correct waste disposal channels and bulky waste collection service. Opportunity to communicate enforcement risks if fly tipping is evidenced.	Q1 - 2021/22	On Track	
FTCOM04	Enhanced communications and sign posting to community waste outlets.	a) Marketing campaign with Barnet Homes residents/new tenants signposting residents to Summers Lane HWRC and LBB's bulky waste collection service.	Q1 - 2021/22	On Track	
FTCOM05	Development of a Legal Powers and Tools Fact Sheet for stakeholders and interested parties.	Greater understanding of the legal powers and processes that are available for dealing with fly-tipping.	Q1 - 2021/22	On Track	
Workstream: Community Empowerment/Engagement					
Ref	Action	Expected Outcome	By When	Status	Comments
FTEMP01	Trial the use of online single point of reporting App e.g. Clearwaste.com/Up my street etc. application across all stakeholder groups.	a) Single point of reporting for fly-tipping cases for residents (irrespective of tenure), businesses and visitors. b) Improved simple reporting mechanism with online app accessibility and capability to upload photos.	Q1 - 2021/22	On Track	

FTEMP02	Recycling relaunch & Reinvigoration pilot at Graeme Park Estate	<p>a) Introduction of new recycling containers for BH flatted developments to enhance and/or reintroduce recycling effort.</p> <p>b) Increased disposal capacity for residents and improved local environment through reduced incidence of fly tipped side waste.</p>	Q1 - 2021/22	On Track	
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