

## **LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**24 SEPTEMBER 2019**

### **FLY TIPPING WITHIN NEWARK & SHERWOOD – A COORDINATED CAMPAIGN AND ENFORCEMENT APPROACH**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To inform members of the current situation regarding fly tipping within the district and to seek Member support for a coordinated campaign with the aim of reducing incidents and the associated clean-up costs, through increased reporting, education and enforcement.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 Members will be aware that the Council's Cleaner, Safer and Greener Campaign was very successful in raising the public's awareness of the importance of the cleanliness of the local environment. This has been reflected in the council's Community Plan as there is an objective specifically to address this issue (see section 6.0 below.)

2.2 Fly tipping is the illegal disposal of household, industrial, commercial or other "controlled" waste without a waste management licence. The waste can be liquid or solid. Fly tipping is not the same as littering.

#### **How big is the problem?**

2.3 Nationally the latest figures show that:

- For the 2017/18 year, local authorities in England dealt with just under 1 million fly tipping incidents.
- Two thirds of fly tips involved household waste
- Local authorities carried out 494,000 enforcement actions in 2018/19.

2.4 Locally our latest figures show that

- During financial year 2018/19 the Council removed 1,438 fly tips giving a combined weight of 361.89 tonnes
- Our average response time to reported incidents was 2.0 days
- 2019/20 financial year so far 425 fly tips removed between April-July (est 1,600pa) giving a combined weight of 81.36 tonnes
- This included 1.84 tonnes of asbestos and 3.56 tonnes of garden waste
- Our average response time to reported incidents was 1.7 days

2.5 Local Actions

Historically fly tipping investigations and enforcement actions have been taken by the Waste and Transport Business Unit. More recently they have been supported by the newly appointed Community Protection Officers. It should be noted that in the main fly tipping is carried out as a commercial venture and as such the fly tippers have experience in avoiding detection.

The recent enforcement activity is show below.

Year 2018/19

Warning Letters sent: 3

FPNs: 1

Duty of Care inspection: 2

Year 2019/to date

Warning Letters sent: 2

Simple Caution: 1

FPNs: 1

- 2.6 Fly tipping is now being recognised as an increasing problem not just in Newark and Sherwood, but across Nottinghamshire as a whole. Recently, councils across Nottinghamshire joined forces to launch a 'Not in Notts' Campaign with the aim of sharing intelligence and working across boundaries to reduce incidents.
- 2.7 The Community Safety Partnership for Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw also recently approved a refreshed set of priorities with rural crime being identified as one of the new objectives. Given the very rural nature and large geographic area of Newark and Sherwood, fly tipping is a particular challenge and officers, in conjunction with the local police and County Council, have therefore agreed to work together with the aim of reducing the crime locally.
- 2.8 NSDC has set up a fly tipping working group made up of officers from Waste Management, Public Protection, Grounds Maintenance and Communications. The aim of the group was to take a fresh approach to fly tipping. The group examined the locations and types of fly tipping, some of the potential causes, what tools may be available for enforcement and how the use of both print and digital media could be used to send out positive messages.
- 2.9 Recent operational changes and the establishment of Community Protection Officers within the service have enabled us to take a new and firmer approach to the investigation and enforcement of fly tipping laws, whilst interventions and powers are available to the Council which have not been significantly well used previously.

### **3.0 Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that a targeted 12 month campaign is resourced and delivered being led jointly by the Business Managers from Public Protection and Waste and Transport. The Campaign will be called 'Not in Newark and Sherwood' and will dovetail with the wider campaign across Nottinghamshire.
- 3.2 The campaign and associated actions have been developed to address what are seen as the main areas likely to have an impact. These are set out below.
- Re-launch the council's bulky waste service and step up requests for increased reporting where residents suspect illegal fly tipping is taking place
  - Carry out a review of the bulky waste service (on the agenda for November's Committee) and consider three 'bring out your dead' style days in key communities in which the Council would take items free of charge

- In conjunction with the Police, carry out at least two days of action during which vans may be stopped and checked to ensure appropriate waste carrier notices are in place
- Approach local social media sites to ensure the irresponsible promotion of 'tip run' requests and services are monitored to prevent the risk of residents falling foul of the law
- Identify and tackle problem sites with new signage and cameras (a list of problem sites have been identified, but it is not appropriate to disclose these in the public domain at this time)
- Consider a Covert Human Information Source operation in which the Council may request waste removal services from operators, to then check operators have the appropriate licenses in place and if not take enforcement action
- Close at least one problem site in Newark and Sherwood which is currently attracting fly tipping and other crimes
- Work with the County Council to consider increasing access to its household waste recycling sites.

3.3 It is proposed that a budget of £15,000 would allow the campaign to be delivered.

#### **4.0 Equalities Implications**

4.1 The set of actions likely to be involved in the campaign have been assessed and it is considered that with the exception of the use of covert cameras there are not likely to be any implications.

4.2 If, and when covert cameras are deployed these will be done in accordance with the information Commissioners Office guidance and the protocols issued by the Surveillance Commissioner.

#### **5.0 Financial Implications - FIN19-20/2741**

5.1 This cannot be met within current revenue budgets. It is proposed to use the CSG/Enforcement reserve, which has sufficient funds to cover the £15,000 to fund the campaign.

#### **6.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives**

6.1 Objective 1 of the Community Plan is to 'Improve the cleanliness and appearance of the local environment'. This is supported by the following actions:

Reduce littering, fly-tipping, graffiti and dog fouling, through a programme of education aimed at changing behaviours.

Increasing the number/profile of enforcement actions

Supporting communities to build civic pride and facilitating activities to enable communities to improve their local areas.

6.2 The campaign actions proposed will assist in the delivery of this element of the Community Plan.

**7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a) Members are asked to support the 'Not in Newark and Sherwood' fly tipping campaign with funding to come from the CSG reserve;**
- b) An update report is brought back to the Committee in March with a final report to be presented to the Committee on the Campaign outcomes in November next year.**

**Reason for Recommendation(s)**

To allow a sustained and targeted programme to be delivered to reduce the level of fly tipping in the district.

**Background Papers**

Nil

For further information please contact Andy Kirk ext 5577 or Alan Batty ext 5467 .

**Matthew Finch**  
**Director – Communities & Environment**