

REVIEW: TACKLING LITTERING & FLY-TIPPING IN HILLINGDON

Committee name	Residents, Education and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
Officer reporting	Cathy Knubley, Waste Team Nathan Welch, ASB & Environment
Papers with report	None.
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The Committee have agreed to conduct a review into littering and fly-tipping in Hillingdon. As part of this, a number of witness sessions and other activities will be undertaken to gather the relevant information and evidence for Members.

As set out in the scoping report Members' considered at the last meeting, this first witness session has the theme of:

- Hillingdon Council's current response and upcoming activity

Officers attending as witnesses will include:

- Perry Scott, Director of Infrastructure, Procurement, Business Improvement, Communications, Waste Services & ICT
- Cathy Knubley, Head of Waste
- Nathan Welch, ASB & Environment Manager

This report provides the Committee with core data and information to aid their review. Officers will also provide a presentation to Members.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee notes the information provided in this report as part of its review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

This report provides the Committee with core data and information to aid their review. Officers will also provide a presentation to Members.

Fly tipping

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste. It can be liquid or solid in nature and can vary in scale significantly from a single bin bag of waste to large quantities of waste dumped from trucks. Fly-tipping differs from littering in that it invariably involves the removal of waste from the public street scene where it was produced with the deliberate aim of disposing of it unlawfully.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to report witnessed and unwitnessed incidents of fly tipping to the Council in three main ways. These are either by telephoning our Contact Centre, completing an online "report it" form or by email to our Contact Centre where it is logged and passed to the waste team to action. Local Councillors are also proactive in reporting fly tipping using our internal Members Enquiry system.

The waste team has three fly tipping teams, consisting of driver and operative which work Monday to Fridays. All reported fly tipping should be removed within 48 hours of receiving the complaint.

For larger fly tips the grab lorry may also be employed or for our largest fly tips a private contractor will be used to remove and dispose of the waste.

The waste team work closely with the ASBET team and any identification found in fly tips removed by the waste team are sealed in evidence bags and delivered to the ASBET team for possible enforcement work.

Volume of fly tipping incidents excluding ASBET figures	
2014	10,239
2015	9,850
2016	11,045
2017	8,555
2018	9,952
2019 January to July	6,646

On average the waste team are dealing with the removal of 190 fly tipping incidents each week, despite the fact that the Borough provides a weekly refuse collection service, offer a free bulky waste service and allow the disposal of a variety of materials for free at New Years Green Lane Civic Amenity Site, Harefield (NYGL).

ASBET Fly tipping

Volume of fly tipping incidents ASBET figures	
2014	1,922
2015	1,668
2016	1,499
2017	1,213
2018	1,253
2019 Jan to July	927
Total	9,862

- In January 2019 ASBET received 155 reports of fly tipping of which 40 were Members Enquiries.
- In February 2019 ASBET received 118 reports of fly tipping of which 45 were Members Enquiries
- In March 2019 ASBET received 118 reports of fly tipping of which 43 were Members Enquiries.
- In April 2019 ASBET received 120 reports of fly tipping of which 32 were Members Enquiries.
- In May 2019 ASBET received 122 reports of fly tipping of which 41 were Members Enquiries.
- In June 2019 ASBET received 133 reports of fly tipping of which 38 were Members Enquiries.
- In July 2019 ASBET received 161 reports of fly tipping of which 43 were Members Enquiries.

Current resources:

- 3 x Cage Crew van operators (Borough wide)
- 7 x ASBET Rapid officers (Borough wide)
- Partnership Tasking Team MPS North/South Teams (Borough wide)
- Environmental Enforcement Team 10 x officers working of a shift pattern (Borough wide)

Challenges:

- Traveller community and fly tipping on a commercial scale.
- Enforcement/legal action of traveller community.
- Hot spot areas/CCTV/evidence/MPS support

Classification: Public

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Strategies employed to tackle:

- Borough wide injunction (interim) High court writ to remove illegal encampments from public land.
- Section 61 MPS Police powers to remove illegal encampments from public land
- Section 77 ASBET LBH powers to remove illegal encampments from public land.
- Waste Carrier operations MPS/ASBET to be set up within 3 hours of incursion to check all vehicles and waste documentation of vehicles coming and going from illegal encampment
- Cage Crew (evidence gathering) to attend and clear sites and gather evidence during clearing to identify those who are responsible for waste
- Out of Hours ASBET Team to operate outside of normal office hours and respond and manage illegal encampments and LBH response.

Littering

Littering is the act of leaving litter whether from a person or a vehicle. Littering gives the perception that the Borough is untidy or unsightly and has significant implications for the wellbeing of the environment, including wildlife and also upon the residents and users of the area.

- The street cleansing team consists of:
 - 1 x 15t mechanical sweeper
 - 5 x 7.5t mechanical sweepers
 - 10 x 3.5t mechanical sweepers (1 with scrubbing facilities)
 - 11 x town centre solo operatives
 - 28 x solo operatives
 - 12 x mobile crews

Despite these teams cleaning the Borough, reports of littering continues to increase. The reporting options are the same as stated for fly tipping incidents.

Volume of littering incidents	
2014	2,968
2015	3,470
2016	4,757
2017	4,074
2018	4,445
2019 January to July	3,313

Enforcement - Environmental Enforcement Team

Litter enforcement is undertaken by the Council's contracted Environmental Enforcement Service. Along with littering enforcement of the public, the Service also enforces a wide variety of other environmental crimes, including dog fouling, street trading infringements, breaches of PSPOs etc. When patrolling is carried out, Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) are issued for witnessed offences. The figures below show just the littering enforcement activity from August 2016 to July 2019:

Volume of Littering incidents EET figures	
Aug - Dec 2016	1,268
Jan - Dec 2017	4,665
Jan - Dec 2018	3,303
Jan - July 2019	1,268
Total	10,938

Education

Whilst enforcement will always be a key element to deterring littering and fly tipping it is also recognised that our residents hearts and minds need to also be engaged, to encourage ownership, responsibility and pride within the Borough.

The Council is considering a wide-ranging promotional campaign that seeks to raise awareness and educate to in turn influence and change behaviour to reduce the amount of littering in the Borough, encourage residents to have civic pride and be more environmentally conscious. Members views will be welcome in this regard.

Implications on related Council policies

A role of the Policy Overview Committees is to monitor the performance of Council services and make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

By decreasing fly tipping and littering residents will benefit from a cleaner environment to live and work in. If residents and the public disposed of waste correctly, the Council would instead be able to invest this money on other essential services for residents.

Financial Implications

It is important that, as part of this in-depth review, at the appropriate time the Committee considers cost effective proposals that benefit resident taxpayers, which would ultimately be determined by Cabinet as part of the Council's broader budget planning process.

Classification: Public

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Legal Implications

No legal implications at this stage.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.