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Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

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Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Communities Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 12 September 2024

6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Democratic Services: Sam Yarnall 01952 382193

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Committee Members: Councillors E Davies (Chair), G L Offland (Vice-Chair), E Aston, S Handley, P J Scott and G Thomas

Agenda

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6.0 Building Safer & Stronger Communities through tackling fly tipping 3 - 14

To receive an update report following the work of the Communities Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group on fly tipping in the Borough.

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Thursday 12 September 2024

Building Safer & Stronger Communities through tackling fly tipping

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Richard Overton - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing & Enforcement
Lead Director:	Dean Sargeant – Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services
Service Area:	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services
Report Author:	Paul Fenn – Neighbourhood Enforcement Manager
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 382107 Email: Paul.fenn@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	SMT – 3 September 2024 Communities Scrutiny Committee – 12 September 2024

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

Communities Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the growing local and national challenges associated with increasing reports of fly tipping;
- 1.2 Note the proactive approach undertaken by the Council in tackling fly tipping; and
- 1.3 Note the focus of the Fly Tipping Task Force and content of this report, endorse the initiatives proposed to tackle fly tipping across the Borough while offering areas of further focus where required.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the ways in which the council continues to tackle fly tipping across the Borough. This report also provides an overview of the work completed by the 'Fly Tipping Task Force' and seeks endorsement of the outcomes of the task force going forward.

3.0 Background

3.1 Telford & Wrekin Council is on the side of residents and fulfils a variety of enforcement duties spanning several services including fly tipping. The Council continues to engage with residents on tackling fly tipping and reduce the impact it has on communities and the environment.

3.2 Despite a continued downward trend in fly tipping reports for the 12 months post Covid-19 pandemic, the number of fly tips reported to the council has increased with national figures showing that just over 4,300 fly-tipping reports were made to the council during 2021/22 and 2022/23.

3.3 During 2023/24 the council issued over 180 fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping, and since 1st April 2024 to date, 134 have been issued. The number of fixed penalty notices continues to increase year on year with each reported fly tip investigated by the council.

3.4 In June 2023, Communities Scrutiny Committee received an update on the work the Council has been doing on tackling fly tipping. This includes:

- Intelligence led approach to identify trends and hotspot locations;
- Continued partnership working with West Mercia Police, Environment Agency and National Farmer Union (NFU);
- Multi-agency roadside operations;
- Continued deployment of CCTV including solar and covert cameras in priority locations;
- Review of how trade waste is accepted at household recycling centres; and
- Supporting private landowners with target hardening advice and guidance to prevent fly tipping;

3.5 In addition to the above, the council has developed Telford & Wrekin Watch. Launched in 2022, this innovative community engagement and awareness tool allows members of the public to support the council with identification of offenders. In 2024, this platform issued 38 appeals via social media with the released video footage being viewed over 76,000 times. A recent appeal in August reached over

32,000 accounts and resulted in successful identification and issue of £1,000 penalty.

- 3.6 In tackling issues locally, the Council has continued its successful partnership of the Community Action Teams with partnering Parish and Town Councils. 13 Town and Parish Councils have signed up to this jointly funded service which enables a local focus on priorities via a local area enforcement action plan.
- 3.7 Through 2023, the Council has reviewed and increased the fixed penalty notice associated with fly tipping. The last review took place in July 2023 where the fine associated with fly tipping was increased to £1,000 in accordance with the amendments to the Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (England) Regulations 2017. At the same time, the early payment (discount) option was removed.
- 3.8 The number of fly tips across the borough not only impacts on the community but on the environment. In Telford and Wrekin, there is access to household recycling centres 7 days a week 362 days a year, a cost effective and efficient household bulk collection service and no charges for household waste collections including green waste.
- 3.9 In outlining the above, the Fly Tipping Task Force was asked to explore more ways in which the council could make a significant step change in tackling fly tipping and the damage this criminal act has on the community and environment. Details of this work is provided below.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

- 4.1 The task force was asked to consider the development of a series of fly tipping leaflets that can be used to promote awareness in priority areas via ward walks and ward members. A copy of the leaflets are contained in Appendix A; once approved, this will be used in areas where fly tipping reports are increasing and will be supported by an increased presence of neighbourhood enforcement officers and CCTV.
- 4.2 To compliment the fly tipping leaflet, environmental 'crime scenes' will be set out and aligned to fly tipping hot spot locations. This will include the use of 'crime scene tape', installing temporary fly tipping signage and using sprayed stencils. Supported by local communication on social media, it is envisaged that this will promote and increase awareness and engagement to reduce fly tipping. The proposed draft stencil is contained in Appendix B.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 The Council continues to explore initiatives that tackle fly tipping, aligned to promoting community engagement and raising awareness. The Council continues to consider fines levels in accordance with legislation.

5.2 The Council will continue to explore and evolve its approach in tackling fly tipping alongside new and emerging techniques that will further enhance and support this commitment.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 There is the risk of challenge and right to appeal by those who are issued with Fixed Penalty Notices. However, such appeals and challenges are mitigated through robust processes and compliance with necessary legislation to ensure those who do not comply are tackled. The neighbourhood enforcement team continues to work closely with legal services to minimise and mitigate risk while reviewing best practice across other local authorities.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 This report supports the following Council priorities:

- Every child, young person, and adult lives well in their community
- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 Costs associated with fly tipping are met from existing budgets with the income received from issuing fixed penalty notices used to offset associated costs.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 Enforcement Officers have delegated powers under a wide range of legislation relating to environmental offences. This enables them to carry out investigations, issue fixed penalty or other statutory notices, or to refer offences for prosecution where appropriate.

9.2 Ongoing legal advice is provided by Legal Services as and when necessary.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 This report covers the whole Borough with all wards being affected.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 A firm, fair and transparent approach to tackling fly tipping is welcomed by residents and businesses across the Borough.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 Data suggests that fly tipping within the borough typically occurs in rural locations or within residential areas, mostly in south of the borough. Proposals set out in this report support raising awareness of access to household recycling centres 7 days a week 362 days a year, cost effective and efficient household bulk collection service along with promoting the correct ways in which to dispose of waste and recycling opportunities.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 Tackling fly tipping to ensure waste is disposed appropriately via the correct channels minimises wider environmental impact and reduces the risk of land contamination.

14.0 Background Papers

None

15.0 Appendices

- A Fly tipping draft leaflets
- B Fly tipping draft stencil

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Finance	03/09/2024	03/09/2024	PT
Legal	03/09/2024	03/09/2024	RP
Director	03/09/2024	04/09/2024	DS

56% of fly-tips are HOUSEHOLD WASTE

**THIS INCLUDES
BIN BAGS,
FURNITURE,
WHITE GOODS,
GARDEN WASTE,
BUILDING
WASTE.**

IT'S A CRIME...

That is punishable by a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months imprisonment if convicted in a Magistrates' Court. It also damages the environment and ultimately, taxpayers foot the clean-up bill.

REMEMBER: YOUR WASTE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

BE CAREFUL...

you could be fined up to £600 if you use an unlicensed waste carrier who subsequently fly-tips your waste.

DON'T GET CAUGHT OUT £1,000 FINE

Cut out and keep

HOW TO report a fly-tip

Telford & Wrekin Watch stop it

Call 01952 388 800
www.Telford.gov.uk/Watch



Telford and Wrekin Watch is a confidential hotline. Call it to share information about people who you know are fly-tippers.

With your help we can find people who break the law.

my 
Telford clear it

[www.telford.gov.uk/
info/20328/my_telford/3281/
my_telford](http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20328/my_telford/3281/my_telford)



Log the exact location of a fly-tip for our team to remove.



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FLY-TIPPING is ILLEGAL

From a single bag to a truck load
and it's everyone's problem

How can you help?



Cut out and keep

www.telford.gov.uk/MyTelford

Got an extra bag of rubbish that doesn't fit in your bin?

Please do not leave it next to your bin as this can attract rats. Squash down your rubbish, recycle more and make use of the food caddy to save on space.

Any old iron?

Scrap metal such as washing machines, old BBQs, or bikes should never be left outside for the 'tat man'. They may not be a licensed carriers and may take what's of value and dump the rest.

Unwanted items in good condition?

Sometimes things we no longer need are in good condition, or could be restored and it seems a shame to throw them away. These items should be donated to charity shops or given to someone who can make use of them – not left out the street.

Check where your waste is heading.

Registered waste carriers can legally remove your rubbish but check that you know what is going to happen to your rubbish. Don't be afraid to ask for paperwork that shows where your waste is going. A legitimate waste carrier would not object to this questioning.

How to dispose of waste LEGALLY?

We all have a **legal obligation/duty of care** to ensure our household or business waste is disposed of correctly.

- ✓ Sell or give away items **online markets** using Facebook marketplace, ebay, Gumtree, Freecycle or community groups. Alternatively donate to charity shops but do not leave it on the doorstep if they are closed.
- ✓ Use your **household recycling centres** – open seven days a week. For large vehicle permits, locations and opening times visit www.telford.gov.uk/hrc
- ✓ Our **bulky waste collection service** costs as little as *£7.50 per item with discounts and free collections for people aged 80+, long-standing illness or a registered disability. A great option if you don't have a vehicle. Visit www.telford.gov.uk/bulk for more information and booking a collection.
- ✓ Use an **authorised waste carrier** to take away your waste and check their license. Call the Environment Agency on **08708 506506** and ask for a waste carrier check.



*£7.50 saying prices correct at time of going to print.
Visit www.telford.gov.uk/bulk for latest charges.

DON'T Leave items **NEXT TO** bins



DON'T Leave items **OUT FOR** the 'scrap man'



DON'T Leave items **OUTSIDE** charity shops





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Sorry we missed you

We stopped by today to talk to you about **fly-tipping** and how, together we can tackle it

HELP US CATCH A FLY-TIPPER

Call the **Telford and Wrekin Watch hotline** with confidential information on **01952 388 800** or visit www.telford.gov.uk/watch

Use the **my Telford** app to report a fly-tip.



Are you disposing of waste RESPONSIBLY and LEGALLY?

We all have a **legal obligation/duty of care** to ensure our household or business waste is disposed of in the right way.

✓ Use **household recycling centre**. For large vehicle permits, locations and opening times visit www.telford.gov.uk/hrc



✓ **Bulky waste collections** costs as little as *£7.50 per item with discounts and free collections for people aged 80+, long-standing illness or a registered disability.

✓ Use an **authorised waste carrier** to take away your waste and ask to see their license. Call the Environment Agency on 08708 506506 and ask for a waste carrier check. It might cost you a £600 fine if your waste is found tipped illegally.

FLY-TIPPING IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE, PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF UP TO £50,000 OR 12 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT IF CONVICTED IN A MAGISTRATES' COURT.

IT ALSO DAMAGES THE ENVIRONMENT AND ULTIMATELY, TAXPAYERS FOOT THE CLEAN-UP BILL.

DON'T

Leave items **NEXT TO** bins
Leave items **OUT FOR** the 'tat man'
Leave items **OUTSIDE** charity shops



SEEN A FLY-TIPPER? IS THERE A HOTSPOT NEAR YOU?

Call the **Telford and Wrekin Watch hotline** with confidential information on **01952 388 800** or visit www.telford.gov.uk/watch



Use the **my Telford** app to report fly tip

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*Prices correct at time of going to print, visit www.telford.gov.uk/bulk for up-to-date prices.



Fly-tip cleared

#TWOOurCleanHome



**Not on our
streets**

#TWOOurCleanHome