



## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Communities Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 12 September 2024

#### Building Safer & Stronger Communities through tackling fly tipping

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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Richard Overton - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing & Enforcement
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Dean Sargeant – Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services
<b>Service Area:</b>	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services
<b>Report Author:</b>	Paul Fenn – Neighbourhood Enforcement Manager
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Report considered by:</b>	SMT – 3 September 2024 Communities Scrutiny Committee – 12 September 2024

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#### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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

