

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Scrutiny Committee
18 July 2019

From: Director of Environment

Subject: **FLY TIPPING ENFORCEMENT POLICY - UPDATE**

All Wards

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 In 2017 Scrutiny Committee investigated whether the Council's policy on fly tipping was fit for purpose. A report on the policy and issues surrounding fly tipping was presented to Scrutiny Committee on 19 October 2017. Scrutiny Committee concluded their review at their meeting on 15 February 2018 and made the following recommendations to Cabinet.
- (1) It be noted that the current enforcement policy on fly tipping was not currently effective and no longer fit for purpose and required updating, although the Committee recognised that this work was already being undertaken;
 - (2) The draft updated Enforcement Policy be presented to Scrutiny Committee for consideration at the appropriate time;
 - (3) Consideration be given to providing more promotion and publicity about fly tipping and enforcement to raise awareness;
 - (4) Information on the Council's website regarding fly tipping be updated, including exploring the possibility of an interactive portal to report incidents; and
 - (5) Consideration be given to more multi-agency working to tackle the issue within North Yorkshire.

- 1.2 A follow up report was submitted to Scrutiny on the 13 September 2018 detailing actions that had been carried out by officers since the previous report.

2.0 REVISED POLICY AND ACTIONS

- 2.1 There has been significant progress made in the areas that Scrutiny Committee identified. A project group made up of Officers from Legal, Environmental Health, Waste and Street Scene, IT and Communications have developed a policy that covers enforcement activities across the Leisure and Environment Directorate with schedules for Waste and Street Scene and Environmental Health that sit behind it. This policy was agreed by Council on 11 December 2018.
- 2.2 The approach was taken to have a directorate policy to provide a consistent approach to enforcement with appropriate officers given authority to carry out enforcement actions through the scheme of delegation. The scheme of delegation has been extensively reviewed through 2019 and is now in place having been agreed by the Legal Team and signed off by the Director of Environment. The delegations ensured that all relevant and new legislation is included, such as the authority to issue penalty notices to householders who have not used approved waste carriers and had their waste fly tipped by third parties. The policy will be backed up by further schedules of enforcement as this becomes necessary.

- 2.3 The project scope includes the other areas that Scrutiny required further action on. As such, Hambleton has signed up to Operation Eyeball, a multi-agency operation throughout North Yorkshire looking to tackle fly tipping. Partners such as North Yorkshire Police, unitary authorities and the Environment Agency are working together to share intelligence and information.
- 2.3 Local actions being taken by the Waste and Street Scene and wider project team include;
- In addition to existing CCTV equipment, covert CCTV equipment is presently being trialled and is expected to be purchased during July 2019. There has been a delay with the purchase due to needing to comply with GDPR legislation.
 - Signage around reporting fly tipping and fly tipping enforcement is being placed on the large and small vehicle fleet.
 - New fixed signage is being designed to be displayed around the district at hot spots.
 - Small fleet drivers ie pest control and dog warden are patrolling fly tipping hotspots with appropriately liveried vehicles.
 - From 05 June 2019 there are 2 portable dashboard cameras in service (with sound recording) that can be easily moved and used in any vehicle.
 - There are a further 4 dashboard cameras on order which are being fitted into 2 new 7.5T cage sided vehicles due for delivery in September and 2 new electric vans due for delivery in November 2019.
 - 7 Body cameras have been approved for purchase, which will help with evidence gathering; however, there are still GDPR issues which need to be resolved at this point.
 - A trial electronic reporting system for mobile devices that uses mapping technology is being worked on in house and should be ready for deployment in September. This allows residents to use their mobile phones to report fly tipping using location data from their phones.
 - Officers have improved the existing website to be more focussed on ease of reporting fly tipping, including a link straight from the homepage.
 - Officers are working closely with community groups to increase the number of community litter picks and to raise awareness of fly tipping and littering issues, this includes visits to parish councils and meetings with voluntary groups.
 - Subject to Council approval, there will be Key Performance Indicators for the Waste and Street Scene Service to include:
 - Implementing the fly tipping and littering enforcement policy including monitoring of the policy.
 - Facilitate 52 community litter picks in 2019/20.
- 2.4 In addition, Hambleton officers are working closely with waste staff across North Yorkshire Authorities to look at focussed county wide campaign looking at tackling fly tipping and littering, proposals are being brought to the group for consideration. A communication plan runs alongside the project plan and targeted press releases and social media statements will be co-ordinated to run alongside enforcement or education activities.

3.0 LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

- 3.1 The work on fly tipping fits within the Council's priorities of Enhancing Health and Wellbeing and Caring for the Environment, by ensuring that neighbourhoods are kept clean and safe and attractive to residents and visitors.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 4.1. It is recommended that Scrutiny Committee considers the report and advises on any further improvements they would like to consider.

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Background papers: Leisure and Environment Enforcement policy

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