

Hambleton District Council

Report To: Scrutiny Committee
3 December 2020

From: Director of Environment

Subject: Fly Tipping - 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 13 September 2018 detailing actions that had been carried out by officers since the previous report.

1.3 Scrutiny asked for a further update in 2019, which was presented at the meeting on 18 July 2019. Significant work has been carried out in the three years since the original report and Scrutiny Committee have been satisfied that while fly tipping continued to be an issue the actions to tackle it had been satisfactory.

1.4 The figures below show statistics over the last 5 years.

Year	No of Incidents	Actions	Costs
2015/16	260	Not recorded	£24,100
2016/17	293	Not recorded	£44,500
2017/18	421	Not recorded	£78,600

Year	No of Incidents	Actions	Costs
2018/19	381	25 warning letters issued	£84,500
2019/20	348	2 notices issued, 1 FPN, 11 warning letters	£85,800
2020/21 Q1+Q2	344	30 warning letters	£57,875

1.5 In recent years cannabis farm tipping has caused significant problems. This area of work was not significant before 2018. However, in 2018 there were 14 incidents, in 2019, 63 incidents (approx. 49 tonnes) and in 2020 45 incidents to October (approx. 35 tonnes).

1.6 In October 2020, the Waste and Street Scene Manager attended an online conference discussing the national issue of tackling waste crime, with the aim of sharing best practice and looking for further actions and potential solutions. Some of the areas discussed were as follows:

- Fixed Penalty Notices are not an effective deterrent.
- The public have a lack of awareness of their duty of care regarding waste disposal.
- There is a perception that CCTV camera footage is a silver bullet. However, all authorities in attendance experience difficulties in obtaining footage that provides enough evidence for successful prosecutions.
- 60-70 % of fly tips are household waste.
- The Waste Carriers Licence fee is set from £158 registration, £105 renewal every 3 years, it was felt by attendees that a higher fee would potentially discourage unscrupulous waste traders.
- Attendees felt Central Government could support Household Waste and Recycling Sites to be open 7 days a week.
- In some areas crime scene investigation tape and stencils with wording that states '*dumping rubbish means less money for xx services*' has reduced fly tipping by up to 77%.
- In rural areas the success of cameras is very limited due to lack of detail and number of cameras required to adequately survey an area.

2.0 Actions

2.1 Following the original report in 2017 a directorate policy was implemented 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 was extensively reviewed through 2019 and is now in place. The delegations have 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.

2.2 Action to tackle fly tipping remains a corporate priority and is monitored through recording incidents, types of waste, locations, number of actions taken and costs. The Waste and Street Scene Manager reports these through the service planning process to the Director of Environment.

2.3 Local actions being taken by the Waste and Street Scene

- Covert CCTV equipment is presently deployed in fly tipping hot spots around the district.
- Signage around reporting fly tipping and fly tipping enforcement is prominently displayed on Waste and Street Scene vehicles.
- New fixed signage is displayed around the district at hot spots.
- Small fleet drivers i.e. pest control and dog warden are patrolling fly tipping hotspots with appropriately liveried vehicles.
- The small vehicle fleet have dashboard cameras fitted, which can record any live incidents.
- Selected staff members use body cameras, which help with evidence gathering and help reduce aggression during interviews with suspected offenders.
- An electronic reporting system for web and mobile devices that uses mapping technology has been implemented with successful results.
- Officers have improved the website to be more focussed on ease of reporting fly tipping.
- 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. Facilitating community litter picks remains a corporate target and has been extremely successful.
- Officers are involved in a shared operation with North Yorkshire police involving tackling cannabis fly tipping and Waste Carriers vehicle inspections, this includes investigation and shared publicity.

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.

2.5 Further actions being considered by the service include:

- More focussed publicity around household waste tipping and the public's duty of care to ensure that their waste is disposed of correctly.
- The use of stencils at fly tipping sites.
- Working with partners to provide an effective lobbying body.

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. The Council Plan has targets to maintain a focus on fly tipping and to facilitate community litter picking.

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: None

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