

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 8 June 2021
Report Subject	Littering and Fly Tipping
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Streetscene
Report Author	Chief Officer (Streetscene And Transportation)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested a report on the impact of littering and fly tipping events during the COVID-19 pandemic to allow the Committee to consider the matter fully.

This report details the Council approved approach to littering and fly tipping operations, data gathered on the number of reported incidents and the amount of waste collected, as well as information about the enforcement response to those found committing an offence. Information is also provided for previous years for comparison purposes.

The report further details what we are currently doing as a Council to address environmental crime offences and improve the Local Environmental Quality (LEQ).

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1. | To note the actions of Streetscene in dealing with littering and fly tipping events. |
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND TO LITTERING AND FLY TIPPING DURING COVID-19																								
1.01	<p>In 2012, following the introduction of the Streetscene service, a range of performance standards were introduced, which were subsequently approved by Cabinet (Appendix 1). The standards provided a minimum service standard, which the operational services within the Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio work towards and they offer key reporting and monitoring functions covering many aspects of the service, including street cleansing and fly tipping. Since 2012, the standards have been reviewed on two occasions to ensure that they reflect the changing demands of the service.</p> <p>The standards are continually monitored and form a key element of the reporting measure in respect the Personal and Community Well-being Priority of the Council Plan (2021/22).</p> <p>During the pandemic, the Portfolio has maintained the delivery of both the street cleansing service and the response to fly tipping incidents.</p>																								
1.02	<p>The table below details the number of reported incidents of littering, dog fouling and fly tipping made to the Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio for the last three years. This data demonstrates that in 2020/21 there was an increase in reported incidents in comparison to the previous year; however, for littering and dog fouling, the number of reports is consistent with 2018/19</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Number of Reported Incidents</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Litter</th> <th>Dog Foul</th> <th>Fly Tipping</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>594</td> <td>495</td> <td>1006</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019-20</td> <td>137</td> <td>258</td> <td>949</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>424</td> <td>504</td> <td>1519</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-22 (to date)</td> <td>85</td> <td>30</td> <td>156</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of Reported Incidents				Year	Litter	Dog Foul	Fly Tipping	2018-19	594	495	1006	2019-20	137	258	949	2020-21	424	504	1519	2021-22 (to date)	85	30	156
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1.03	<p>In comparison with reported incidents, the following table details the tonnages of waste collected by the Streetscene cleansing team from routine street cleansing and following reports of fly tipping incidents. This data shows a decrease in the waste collected in 2020/21 in comparison to previous years.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Number of Reported Incidents</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Litter & Dog Foul (T)</th> <th>Fly Tipping (T)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>1294.48</td> <td>26.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019-20</td> <td>1138.68</td> <td>136.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>809.10</td> <td>72.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-22 (to date)</td> <td>83.52</td> <td>17.36</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>One reason for the increase in reported incidents could be down to the increase in public footfall outdoors, as many people took up exercise in the outdoors during the lockdown periods, meaning that more people observed waste and litter deposited in the local environment. Additionally, the issue of litter and fly tipping has received increased media attention over recent times, which in turn may have increased public awareness of the matter.</p>	Number of Reported Incidents			Year	Litter & Dog Foul (T)	Fly Tipping (T)	2018-19	1294.48	26.60	2019-20	1138.68	136.70	2020-21	809.10	72.14	2021-22 (to date)	83.52	17.36						
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	<p>The decrease in collected waste would be consistent with the fact that there were restrictions on essential travel to town centres and tourist destinations, which will have reduced the likelihood for people to deposit litter.</p> <p>It is worth noting that a number of reported incidents will be for waste deposited on private land, for which the Local Authority does not have the responsibility to remove.</p>																																				
1.04	<p>Enforcement plays a vital role in maintaining a clean and safe environment by initially providing information and advice to individuals regarding their rights and citizenship duties and, where individuals and/or businesses fail to recognise and change negative behaviours, enforcement ensures that they are made accountable for their actions, through various legislative processes.</p> <p>The Council's Environmental Enforcement Policy (Appendix 2) sets out how we will use legislation, in our current enforcement work, to ensure an effective, clear and consistent approach is taken to all environmental crime across Flintshire.</p>																																				
1.05	<p>All enforcement activities responsible to Streetscene are carried out by the Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement team based in Alltami depot. The team comprises eight officers and a working supervisor. The team is multifunctional, covering enforcement of on-street/off-street parking contraventions, environmental crime (littering; dog fouling; fly tipping; side waste; household duty of care) and public education campaigns on such matters.</p> <p>The team's primary focus is on engagement and education of the public, ensuring that when out on patrol the residents of Flintshire are understanding of the law and their own personal responsibilities. Where residents then chose to disregard this advice/information, then enforcement means are necessary.</p>																																				
1.06	<p>The table below details the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) that have been issued over the past three years. It is important to note that a high number of FPN's is not the only measure by which the success of enforcement should be measured and overall cleanliness and public awareness of the enforcement process should also be considered.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Number of Fixed Penalty Notices Issued</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Litter</th> <th>Dog Foul</th> <th>PSPO</th> <th>Fly Tipping</th> <th>Duty of Care</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018-19</td> <td>594</td> <td>7</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019-20</td> <td>62</td> <td>1</td> <td>42</td> <td>19</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>8</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>5</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-22</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Throughout the pandemic, the process of investigating and interviewing suspected fly tipping offences was significantly impacted due to lockdown, social distancing measures and the closure of public buildings to conduct investigatory interviews. There are a number of investigations still ongoing, which may result in an FPN being issued or prosecution.</p>	Number of Fixed Penalty Notices Issued						Year	Litter	Dog Foul	PSPO	Fly Tipping	Duty of Care	2018-19	594	7	3			2019-20	62	1	42	19		2020-21	8	1	0	5	0	2021-22	3	0	0	0	0
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1.07	<p>There are a number of measures which we are currently undertaking to address environmental crime offences and improve the Local Environmental Quality (LEQ), these include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage and educate the public • Develop a Local Environmental Quality (LEQ) Action Plan with Keep Wales Tidy • Promote the Caru Cymru initiative to improve the LEQ and drive behavioural change • Use Welsh Government funding provided for LEQ projects • Support national behavioural change campaigns • Promoting the use of reusable containers • Support community litter picking and the collection of information • Support and engage with community led groups • Phase out single use plastics within the Council • Use enforcement powers where necessary
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The resources required to deliver the current service standards are based on existing staffing levels and budgets within the service.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transportation.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Failure to achieve the standards may result in reputational issues for the Council.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Streetscene Standards Appendix 2 – Environmental Enforcement Policy

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Contact Officer: Ruth Cartwright Telephone: 01352 704796 E-mail: ruth.cartwright@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	FPN – Fixed Penalty Notice