

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 DECEMBER 2017
FLY-TIPPING IN NOTTINGHAM
REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To conclude the review of how the Council's waste services work together to combat fly-tipping in Nottingham.

2 Action required

- 2.1 To agree the recommendations in the attached report.

3 Background information

- 3.1 The Committee carried out a review of how the Council's waste services work together to combat fly-tipping in the city at its meetings on 6 September and 8 November 2017.
- 3.2 The summary report attached details the outcome of the review.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Outcome of the fly-tipping in Nottingham review.

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None.

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 Fly-tipping in Nottingham - Overview and Scrutiny Committee reports and minutes - 6 September and 8 November 2017.

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All.

8 Contact information

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Review of Fly-Tipping in Nottingham

6 September and 8 November 2017

Outcome Report

Background

At its meeting in April 2017, when the Committee was discussing its work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year, many of the councillors on the Committee found that fly-tipping and waste management appeared to be a common theme in all of the wards they represent.

The Committee took the decision to review the effectiveness of Council services working together to combat fly-tipping, manage waste, and deal with enforcement action.

Evidence gathering

The Committee has based its findings and recommendations on desk-top research, background information and presentations made at the meetings held on 6 September and 8 November 2017, by the following contributors:

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| Richard Antcliff | - Chief Licensing, Trading Standards and Anti-Social Behaviour Officer |
| Alvin Henry | - Head of Waste Services |
| John Marsh | - Head of Street Scene and Grounds Maintenance |
| Steve Stott | - Anti-Social Behaviour Manager |
| Tamazin Wilson | - Solicitor |

Key findings

1 Fly-tipping

- 1.1 The Council collects around 8,000 tonnes of fly-tipping and street waste each year.
- 1.2 The Council has a target to collect 95% of fly-tipped waste within 48 hours of when it is reported. The team cleared 94% of reported fly-tipping incidents within this target in 2016/17.
- 1.3 The number of fly-tips has reduced annually, which may be down to improved knowledge of citizens on the subject or the free bulky waste collection that the Council offers.

- 1.4 The Council's recent Keep it Clean campaign seen a 4% drop in fly-tipping,
- 1.5 The majority of fly-tips reported are small scale, for example a single black bag or a single fridge. However, some can be on a much larger scale and require considerable Council resources.
- 1.6 Nationally the levels of fly-tipping are increasing. In Nottingham the levels are high but reducing. Fly-tipping hotspots are not featured on NOMAD, but are mapped from jobs recorded, and the majority of fly-tips are found in the inner-city areas such as Arboretum, Berridge, Radford and St Ann's where the population is more transient.
- 1.7 There is a temporary increase in fly-tipping each summer.
- 1.8 A relatively recent increase in bulky waste fly-tipping appears to have coincided with the linking of the free bulky waste disposal service to being on the electoral register.

2 Waste Management

- 2.1 The city has around 135,000 households from which it collects 113,192 tonnes of waste a year.
- 2.2 Side waste is excess, unauthorised bags left at the side of the wheelie bin on collection day and, as the Council has no policy on side waste, it collects this with wheelie bins on collection day. However, side waste goes straight to landfill.
- 2.3 The Council runs a free bulky waste collection service which is a weekly kerbside collection. The collections are distributed across 5 collections zones based on ward boundaries. Most other local authorities charge for bulky waste collection.

3 Trade Waste

- 3.1 A Council run programme called Operation Cleansweep takes place once a quarter and is a multi-agency operation targeting unlicensed vehicles transporting trade waste illegally.
- 3.2 The Council collects trade waste outside of the city as a commercial enterprise.

4 Costs

- 4.1 It is estimated that waste management costs £28 per household and Street Scene services cost £38 per household. The average cost of fly-tipping clear-up was estimated at £56, but there is wide variation depending on the size and materials involved.

- 4.2 Nottingham had an additional 4,500 households to collect waste from in the period 2011-16, which is expected to grow by 2,000 per year going forward, and delivered a better-value service on a cost-per-head basis than any other Core City, despite a reduction in capacity.

5 Enforcement

- 5.1 When a fly-tip is reported, Community Protection Officers will photograph it, examine it to check whether the offender can be identified, knock on doors and examine CCTV footage. There must be proof beyond reasonable doubt to prosecute an offender.
- 5.2 There are four routes of prosecution for fly-tipping: warnings, fines, fixed penalty notices or prosecution. Fines are unlimited and fixed penalty notices are set at £300 in Nottingham.
- 5.3 The difference between considering an issue to be littering or fly-tipping is made on an individual basis. Littering is prosecuted quickly, but where the incident is significant, the enforcement team will try to ensure there is full prosecution.
- 5.4 Private sector landlords have been charged where student material has been identifiable to a particular property, although landlord behaviour is improving, with more using skips and other appropriate means of getting rid of bulky waste.
- 5.5 Citizens can be fined if they pay an unlicensed company to remove waste from their premises.

6 Education

- 6.1 Work is ongoing to reduce bin contamination, with a focus on student areas at key times in the year.
- 6.2 There are 250 volunteer litter champions across the city.
- 6.3 There are 3 Waste Advisors that cover the city. They visit citizens when there have been issues with contaminated waste, bins left on the street, etc, to provide the relevant information to ensure that the citizen knows how to use the facilities available to them correctly.

Conclusion

From the evidence provided, the Committee concluded that the services work well together to combat any issues with waste in the city, particularly given the decreasing resources available to them, and that there is very little that could be done differently.

The Committee commends the work of the services, particularly the Waste Advisors and, had resources not been an issue, would have recommended

that the number of Waste Advisors be increased to build on the good work already carried out.

Recommendations

That the Head of Waste Management, and Head of Street Scene and Grounds Maintenance:

- (1) work with Area Committees to discuss individual ward needs/issues in regard to waste management, and ascertain how/if ward budgets could contribute to specific projects within the wards;
- (2) investigate possible ways of data sharing between all relevant services to ensure that issues are reported and dealt with;
- (3) provide a response to the recommendations at the February 2018 meeting of the Committee.