

Report for: Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel, 8 April 2019

Title: Waste and Street Cleansing Update: Fly Tipping, Green Waste Charges and Bulky Waste Collection.

Report authorised by: David Murray, Assistant Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Lead Officer: Ian Kershaw, Client and Commissioning Manager, Community Safety, Waste and Enforcement

Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Non Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

This report outlines the fly-tipping strategy that will be presented to Cabinet on 2 April, and provides an update on waste collection efficiency measures including charges.

Our Fly Tipping Strategy reflects that action is required from all levels – residents, community groups, ward Members, landlords, council services and our partners – if we are to make a difference. The council has a key role to play and we are committed that we will take the toughest enforcement action we can to catch and fine those who are responsible.

Waste and street cleansing services are some of our most visible front-facing universal services. We need to regularly review them to make sure they are meeting the needs of those that live, work and play in our borough, respond to changes in markets and national policy and that they are delivered efficiently. Consequently we introduced a range of charged waste services in 2017. These have allowed the Council to prioritise other service areas such as social care and help the Council respond to budget pressures. We plan to bring forward further proposals that meet the changing national and regional requirements for waste collection and can contribute to ongoing efficiencies from 2020/21.

2. Recommendations

That the Panel notes the new strategy and associated performance measures, and progress on waste transformation savings and efficiencies.

3. Background

A fly tip is rubbish left on the street (or other land) without arrangements for its collection and without agreement with the council. A small proportion of fly tips in Haringey is left by illegal waste collectors (just 4%) – the vast majority (83%) is household waste, often presented in the wrong place and/or at the wrong time. The remaining 13% of fly tips is from local businesses. Of the fly tips that are household waste, nearly half are carrier bags or black bin bags and over a quarter is furniture.

Last year (2017/18), Haringey received reports of 24,000 fly tips and a similar level is projected for 2018/19. The cost to Haringey's tax payers to collect fly tipping is over £3 million per year. This has a wider impact on the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, and the council's ability to provide other vital services to our residents.

Haringey's Borough Plan has made a firm commitment to reducing the levels of fly tipping in the borough, as part of the Place Priority. Our ambition is for a borough which is cleaner, accessible and attractive. We know from our 2018 Resident Satisfaction Survey that cleanliness is a top priority for residents (11% of residents saying this makes a difference to their day to day quality of life), second only to safety (13%).

4. Haringey's Approach to Tackling Fly Tipping

The Fly Tipping Strategy sets out an approach using three strands, to be delivered through a series of 'hot spot' targeted locations:

- Education, communication and early intervention
- Prevention of recurrence
- Targeted enforcement

The approach in the draft Strategy has been defined over a five year period using existing resources across the Waste Client Team, Enforcement, Communications and our waste contractor Veolia.

We know that fly tipped waste often occurs with more frequency in 'hot spot' areas. Often these hot spots are distinct areas or clusters of roads where waste has been deposited and collected for many years, becoming informal collection points. We also recognise that litter bins and recycling/textile banks can become attractors for dumped waste. Our approach will focus on such areas to either design out or formalise collection waste points.

A hot spot approach will be used to target resources at areas which are most affected by the issue, using the three strands of the Strategy's approach as set out above (communications, intervention and enforcement). To inform this approach we will use data that pinpoints the locations around the borough which suffer the highest number of fly tips. Each hot spot is likely to be just a handful of roads where we know there are high levels of fly tipping. On a borough level, this is shown below in Figure 1 as a heatmap of all fly tips in Haringey in 2018.

At each hot spot, we will have a visible presence in the area, both through communications and officer presence. Communications will be highly localised to make sure residents are aware of the issues. We will work with local champions, including resident or trader groups and members, to engage the community and drive a local response.

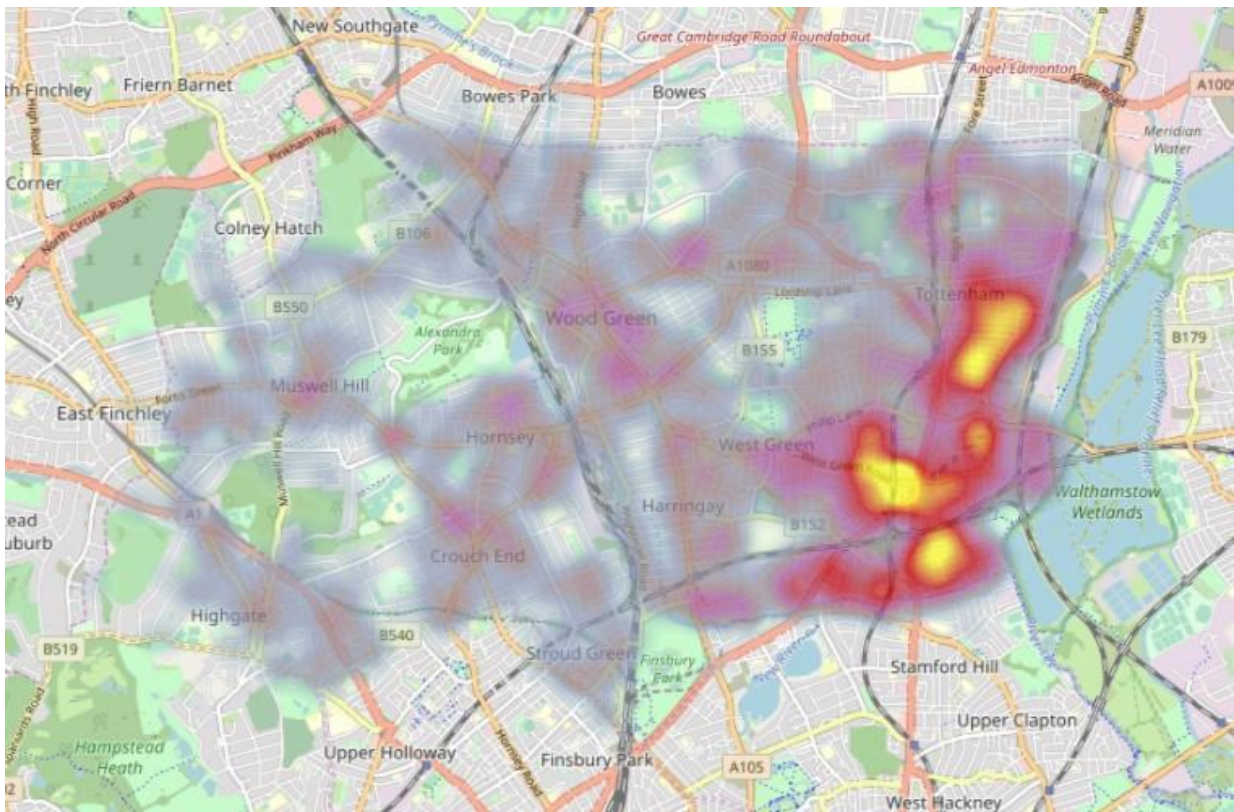
The hot spot approach is a phased over an 8 week period:

- Phase 1 (weeks 1-2): Intelligence gathering, site visits and analysis;
- Phase 2 (weeks 3-4): Advice and education, ensuring residents have the necessary capacity to store and dispose of waste correctly;

- Phase 3 (weeks 5-6): Designing in innovative solutions for waste presentation where possible;
- Phase 4 (weeks 7-8): Enforcing where necessary.

Initial trials of the hot spot approach have been rewarded with some success. The recent Noel Park hot spot (Jan/Feb 2019) has resulted in a 23% decrease in fly tips in this area in the following month. We will continue to monitor this area to ensure this is sustained. The team has compiled a series of case studies where interventions have been trialled to date to demonstrate the hot spot approach in action.

Figure 1: Heatmap of all Fly tips in Haringey 2018 showing a density of fly tips in the east of the borough, particularly down the Tottenham High Road corridor and Bruce Grove.



5. Working with Landlords & the Licencing Scheme

It is recognised that the most challenging demographics for waste collection are high density, high turnover properties which weren't designed for 21st century waste disposal needs. Haringey has a higher proportion of such properties than most boroughs.

The recent work in designing the additional licencing scheme for HMOs and investigating a selective licencing scheme for private rented properties generally has established a clear link between reported complaints and environmental crime. The dumping of small and large scale domestic rubbish accounts for nearly three quarters (72%) of all such complaints relating to private sector dwellings.

The licencing scheme should help to reduce such complaints, by the inclusion of licencing conditions relating to waste:

- The licence holder shall provide suitable and sufficient refuse and recycling bins with lids in a suitable and easily accessible location for occupants of the property to use. The licence holder shall ensure that all tenants on commencement of tenancy are given details about the refuse storage arrangements, including the collection date for refuse, recycling and green waste and how to present their waste for collection.
- The licence holder must ensure that all gardens, yards and forecourts within the curtilage of the property are kept in a reasonably clean and tidy condition. Under no circumstances should old furniture, bedding, rubbish or refuse from the property be left immediately outside the property, on the public highway, or on private land by either the licence holder, tenant or tenant's visitors.

By working with landlords through the Licencing Scheme we can try and influence in-home solutions recognising that most residents have made their waste disposal decisions before they leave their property. We are unlikely to be able to influence property redesign (retrofit) extensively but we can produce landlord/tenant packs to advise on the correct waste disposal options and sanctions for not complying.

6. Learning from Best Practice

Fly tipping is a problem across the country and many authorities have tried different approaches to address the issue. We aim to learn from the experiences of other authorities and will capture this in our annual implementation plan.

Barking and Dagenham have established a strong approach to tackling fly tipping which is engrained across their organisation, using CCTV images of perpetrators caught fly tipping and publishing these online on a 'Wall of Shame'. This is used to encourage the community to identify perpetrators to be followed up by enforcement and/or prosecution, and acts as a deterrent. There is also a strong narrative for the borough that Barking and Dagenham doesn't accept fly tipping and needs help from across the community to tackle it.

Newham has also done extensive work in recent years to tackle fly tipping, including setting up a dedicated Fly Tip Task Force in 2016, backed with £1m of investment. The task force consists of 10 officers (1 manager, 2 senior enforcement officers and 7 enforcement officers). Some of their core activity included:

- Investing in eight camera vehicles, 50 camera devices, two CCTV vans and five service cars to respond to fly tips;
- Tackling organised crime industrial fly tips;
- Monthly joint tasking operations with the Police, licencing, trading standards, immigration and cleansing;
- Hot spot operations and patrols;
- Building research and intelligence on offenders;
- Communications and media campaigns.

In the 18 month period between May 2016 and October 2017, Newham have issued 251 £400 FPNs and taken 31 cases of fly tipping to court (with a 100% success rate). They report that their Task Force has been a good deterrent and has particularly helped them to reduce and prevent industrial scale fly tips.

We have also been working with Keep Britain Tidy on their national research of fly tipping best practice and their learning is captured in our Strategy. Furthermore, Haringey has been selected by Keep Britain Tidy to do focused trials around tackling black bag waste which we have been developing with them since May 2018. We have also worked with the London Environment Directors Network to share best practice.

There is a risk that the communications and activity around fly tipping may have an adverse effect on residents' satisfaction with cleanliness e.g. by highlighting the problem people become more aware of the issue. This was seen in the Team Noel Park pilot (2015-2017) where during the life of the project, despite targeted local communication campaigns and activities, resident satisfaction across a range of cleanliness measures actually decreased. The Team Noel Park pilot demonstrated how hard it is to influence residents' perception of cleanliness, and also showed that behaviour change takes time to build momentum and for norms to shift.

7. Charged Waste services

In 2017 we introduced charges for replacement bins and garden waste collection and extended the charges for bulky collections. Together these have delivered an annual saving to the Council of approximately £1m. We were conscious when we introduced these charges there may have been an adverse impact on fly-tipping. We have monitored this closely (looking at figures on a weekly basis). There has been no adverse impact. It was felt that people who disposed of waste responsibly before charging were likely to continue to do so and this has been borne out. There is a lower take up of charged services but an increase in residents taking items to the Reuse and Recycling centre themselves.

There has been increased international recognition of the need to handle waste disposal differently, particularly focussed on plastics. The Government has published

four major consultations on waste collection and disposal related to this issue. The Mayor of London has announced challenging targets for recycling and has described a set of best practice standards to achieve this. The Council has continued pressure on its budgets and in its most recent MTFS agreed to a savings target of £500,000 from 2020/21 associated with transforming waste services.

8. Contribution to strategic outcomes

The Fly Tipping Strategy supports the Place Priority of the Borough Plan, specifically 'A cleaner, accessible and attractive place' with the objective to improve cleanliness and reduce the levels of fly tipping. The Fly Tipping Strategy also aligns with the existing and prospective Community Safety Strategy for Haringey.