

Report for: Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel, 4th March 2021

Title: Update on Fly Tipping Strategy

Report authorised by : Stephen McDonnell – Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods.

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Ward(s) affected: All

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

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. This report updates Scrutiny Members on our progress against Borough Plan commitments for waste and street cleansing, specifically the work to reduce fly-tipping in the borough.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Panel notes performance to date and comments on progress against Borough plan objectives.

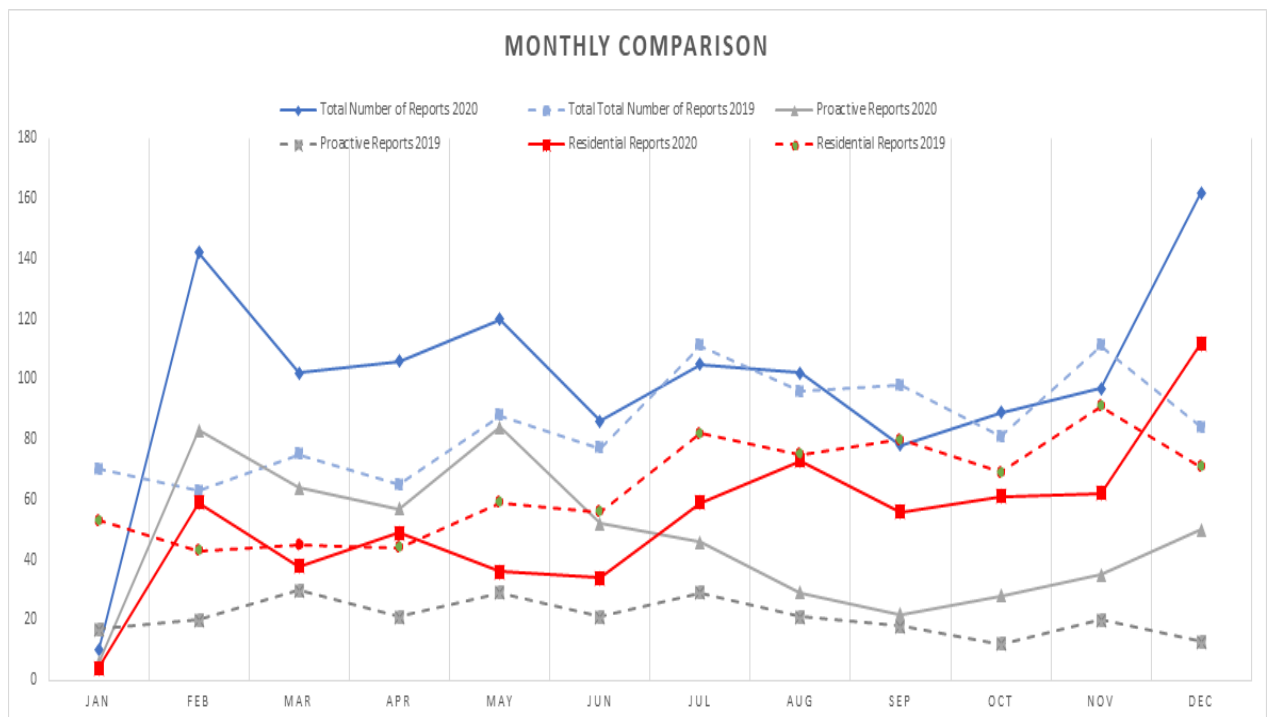
3. Background

- 3.1 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%).
- 3.2. 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 are left by illegal waste collectors. The vast majority however is household waste, often presented in the wrong place and/or at the wrong time or placed on the pavement because their property has limited waste storage or, in the cases of flats above shops, no waste storage facilities. The remaining fly tips are 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.

4. Current Performance

- 4.1. The graph below shows the number of recorded fly tips we dealt with during 2020 compared to 2019. In 2020 we saw an increase in the number of recorded fly tips by approximately 10% with a spike in the numbers during February to May and July to August. We attribute both the increase and the spike to an unusually warm spring from early March and an increase in domestic waste (anecdotal evidence suggests a large increase in DIY work) during the Covid crisis first national lockdown. During the national lockdown key waste services - namely our reuse & recycling centre and special collection service were temporary suspended.
- 4.2. The graph also details the number of fly tips reported by the public compared to the number that are proactively removed by Veolia. The number proactively removed by Veolia has increased from 221 in 2019 to 556 in 2020.

Figure 1: Annual Comparison 2019 to 2020



5. Our Approach

5.1 Our approach to Fly Tipping includes:

- Education, communication, and early intervention
- Prevent recurrence

- **Targeted enforcement**

5.1.1. Over the last 18 months we have introduced several new initiatives to tackle fly tipping and improve the borough's cleanliness and street scene appearance.

5.2. Litter & Waste Enforcement Team

5.2.1 In October 2020 a dedicated team of 6 officers were introduced as part of our existing ASB enforcement team. The team – known as the Litter & Waste Enforcement Team are a dedicated resource dealing with litter and fly tipping across the borough. Through the issuing of warning letters and Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) the team take enforcement action against any trader, resident or visitor to the borough responsible for dropping litter or illegally dumping rubbish.

5.2.2. The introduction of the team marked a new chapter in the way Haringey deals with fly tipping offenders and represents a clear message that fly tipping in Haringey will not be tolerated and enforcement action will be taken

5.3. On Street Containment of Waste

5.3.1. The borough of Haringey faces a series of challenges in its containment of waste: the borough has a high prevalence of resident fly-tipping, a higher than average number of privately rented properties; many are HMOs without adequate bin storage and inadequate waste disposal facilities for flats above shops. All of which result in waste left on the street negatively affecting the street scene and residents' perception of the area.

5.3.2. In March 2020, the first part of a trial of 'black boxes' began to examine whether the street scene could be improved by providing residents in flats above shops with some form of containment to use prior to collection.

5.3.3 Before the trial started, letters were sent to residents in flats above shops and to Traders informing them about the boxes and their use.

5.3.4. An evaluation of the trial in the summer of 2020 confirmed that thoughtfully placed, well signed, appropriately sized and well-designed structures like black boxes can store waste safely, contribute to the waste containment challenges Haringey has and improve the street scene overall. The additional waste containment capacity offered to residents and commercial premises had reduced the number of sacks on the street - the monitoring also confirmed that the boxes were either partially or in the case of 15 of the 22 locations fully utilised.

5.3.5. The second part of the trial began in February 2021 and aims to further examine the feasibility of removing a "clear all waste policy" from an area with

boxes. The 6 week trial will also determine how we can containerise trade waste more effectively and enforce against incorrectly placed out waste.

Data and “lessons learnt” from both parts of the trial will be used to develop our borough wide roll out plan for the waste containment scheme which will commence from April 2021. The Council has £400,000 capital funding for this scheme using ‘drop-boxes’, similar in size to yellow salt bins, strategically installed along our timed collection zones. Whilst the time zone will still operate to facilitate services by commercial waste companies, the boxes will significantly reduce the number of bags visually present on the street.

5.4. CCTV

5.4.1. We have and continue to upgrade the Council’s CCTV infrastructure to significantly increase the current number of cameras in Haringey. The cameras include a mix of fixed cameras and deployable mobile cameras that can be used at various locations across the borough as the need arises.

5.4.2. Predominately CCTV is seen as a tool to use to detect or prevent criminality taking place in an area. Although a helpful tool in this respect, using mobile CCTV units to target fly tipping is equally helpful and has delivered a number of positive outcomes over the last 9 months.

5.4.3. The extension and refresh of the camera network will double the number of fixed cameras from 75 to approximately 150 and increase the number of deployable cameras from 6 to 37. To date, 20 deployable cameras have been installed and a further 11 are due to be installed by summer 2021. The 11 cameras have analytics a useful component to specifically target Fly Tipping Hot Spot Areas.

5.5. Joint Working Protocol

5.5.1. We have strengthened our approach to working with internal colleagues and external partners to support our work to tackle fly tipping and breaches of waste disposal by traders or residents living in the borough.

5.5.2. Procedures to respond to the vast majority of cases have long been in existence and are proven to be effective. Where clear evidence exists and the responsible party can be identified, fixed penalty notices are issued.

5.5.3. On occasions however, a more holistic approach is required, and this will be the case when a problem has been ongoing for some time or/and the breach of waste is a symptom of a more complex issue or multiple problems.

If the problem appears more complex, a coordinated response from a number of functional disciplines is required. This is particularly important where the

problem relates to, for example, waste generated from a domestic dwelling or where an issue is related to overcrowding of a HMO or where there are other ASB related problems.

5.5.4. The Council and its partners carry out a number of regulatory functions that allow them to influence and control the behaviour of individuals, businesses, and other organisations within the borough. These regulatory services cover a wide range of areas including:

- Environmental Health - pollution, food protection, noise, health and safety.
- Licensing - alcohol, entertainment, gambling, street trading.
- Trading Standards e.g. fair trading, animal health & product safety
- Housing Standards – HMO & Selective licensing & disrepair.
- Planning - enforcement and building control.
- Parking

5.5.5. The joined-up protocol introduced in the summer of 2020 aims to use the full arsenal of enforcement powers available across the Council, not just those offered to environmental services. This approach means that we can identify the quickest and often the most effective means of tackling an ongoing fly tipping/waste issue. It also allows the council to instigate a range of measures at any one time if it becomes apparent that the fly tipping problem is part of a wider range of problems/crimes taking place at a location.

5.5.6. The joined up working protocol extends to our waste contractor Veolia, tasking operations are now carried out jointly between Veolia and various Council services. Over the last 3 months the following improvements have been introduced:

- Increase in the number of fly tips proactively removed by Veolia.
- Whats app group introduced for Veolia and Enforcement staff to allow a quick response times on fly tips.
- Feed back to Veolia staff following successful enforcement of a fly tip/dumped rubbish brought to our attention by Veolia's street cleansing or refuse staff.

5.5.7. A wide range of tools and processes are now used to support enforcement action. These include:

- Issuing of licenses or permits which may bind the applicant to certain service standards or behaviours which can be subsequently monitored and enforced. (*Private Tenants – property Licensing*)
- Joint Inspections to ensure compliance with statutory duties and or license conditions. (*licensing & HFH*)
- Issuing of legal notifications to both residential and commercial premises (*Trading Standards*).

- Outlining breaches, rectifications needed and consequences of non - compliance. (*Breaches of Planning*)
- Approximately 60 CEO's within parking have new handheld technology with fly tipping reporting functionality.

5.6. Top 10 Hot Spot Areas

5.6.1. Enforcement teams adopt an area-based approach and each enforcement area (North, East & West) maintain and periodically review a tasking list of 10 fly tip hot spot areas – 30 areas in total. Each area is monitored, and in most cases, a joined-up approach is adopted to manage and resolve the problem. The concentrated joined up effort of our highest problematic areas has delivered the following outcomes:

- Warning signs erected to warn fly tippers
- Leaflets and letters delivered to near by properties and businesses.
- Footage captured on CCTV and published on the Wall of Shame.
- Red bags introduced to alert local residents that the fly tip is under investigation by the Enforcement Team.
- Designing out problems – Bin storage etc
- 540 FPNs issued to residents since April 2020
- 330 FPNs issued to businesses since April 2020
- Anecdotally approximately 75% of residents issued with FPNs reside in a HMO or rented property in the borough.

Figure 2: Litter and Waste Team Type of FPN's issued 27/07/2020 – 08/1/2021

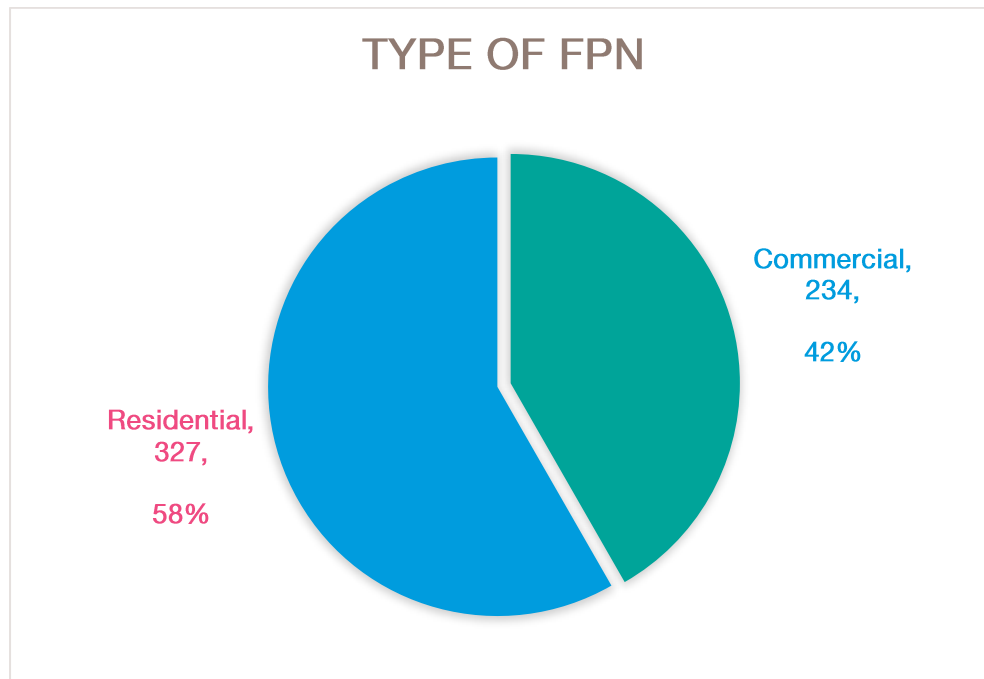


Figure 3: ASB Enforcement Waste Team Type of FPN's issued 01/04/2020 – 08/1/2021

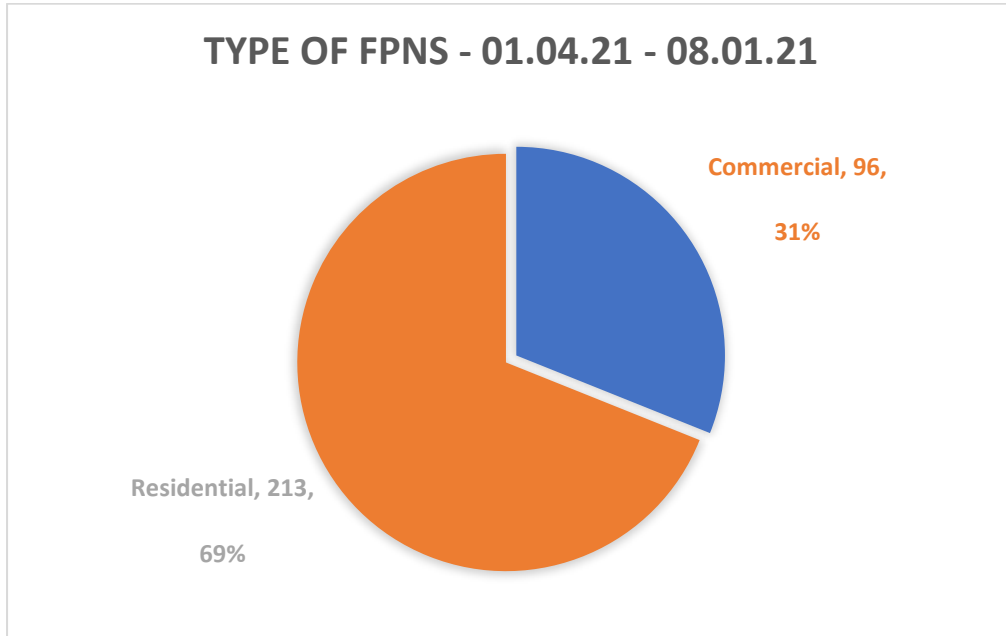
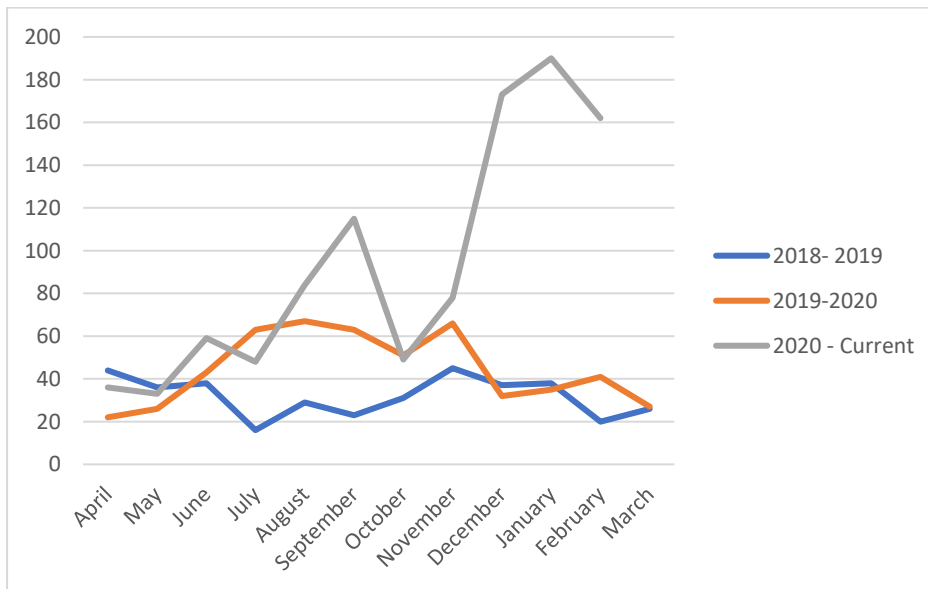


Figure 4: FPN's issued 2018 - current



5.6.2. Examples of successful enforcement action can be found in appendix A

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 6.1. Dealing with fly tips 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. It also aligns with the existing and prospective Community Safety Strategy for Haringey.