

## **Briefing Note – Environmental Services use of Surveillance Cameras Monday 22 November 2021**

### **Purpose**

This briefing note has been compiled to update the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the Council's use of surveillance cameras to support environmental enforcement across the District to address fly tipping on the public highway.

### **Context**

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes certain duty bodies legally responsible for keeping land which is under their control, and to which the public has access, clear of litter and refuse and their highways must be kept clean, as far as is practicable.

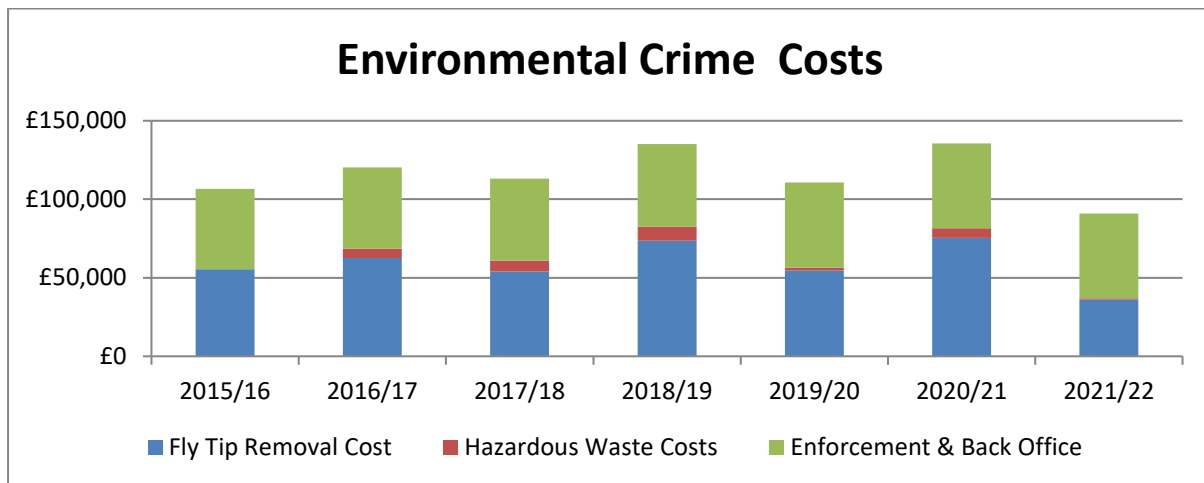
Bromsgrove District Council is the principal litter authority under the Act, and Worcestershire County Council are the Waste Disposal Authority responsible for arranging disposal of any waste collected by BDC as litter or fly tipping under this duty.

Residents and Businesses have a legal Duty of Care to ensure their waste is disposed of responsibly, and are liable if their waste is not managed this way and they can't evidence that they have taken reasonable steps to ensure it will be. However, Fly Tipping is a national problem that has a significant cost for local authorities to deal with, requiring significant time and resources to manage each year.

### **Our Current Position**

Below are the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by Bromsgrove District Council over the last 5 years.

	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
Apr	114	248	199	135	182
May	155	170	215	239	112
Jun	91	203	164	297	131
Jul	88	213	216	202	102
Aug	190	168	96	231	147
Sep	62	173	101	237	103
Oct	79	93	89	202	56
Nov	85	208	62	92	
Dec	113	129	59	120	
Jan	181	164	101	155	
Feb	135	263	106	148	
Mar	178	192	86	240	
Total for Year	1471	2224	1494	2298	833



So far in 2021 we have had fly tipping on over 800 different locations, although the majority of these are along our northern borders, and the majority of these are attributed to informal waste collectors that operate through social media and word of mouth rather than fully licensed contractors. Referred to as “Man and Van” incidents, these are driven by individuals who will arrange to take waste from residents for a small cost, and rather than dispose of it responsibly – which would cost money, they dispose of it illegally to maximise their profit.

Environmental Services have used basic surveillance cameras to identify some of those responsible in recent years, and secured convictions of 3 offenders who all operated this type of arrangement.

In 2020 the service significantly increased the use of warning signs across the district in response to an increase in fly tipping (a picture seen nationally), and in 2021 the service invested in more advanced camera systems to improve our evidence gathering capabilities, which have been used to secure the following:

- ▶ 25 Current Live Cases being investigated for further action
- ▶ 11 FPN’s issued so far this year
- ▶ 1 CPN issued this year
- ▶ 4 Cases ready to progress to court
- ▶ Stop and Search project agreed with Police for Waste Carriers License Checks (Date TBC)

We have recently submitted a Joint bid with Wyre Forest District Council through the Community Safety Partnership for funding from the Police Crime Commissioner to support tackling fly-tipping on private land, and have secured £22,000 to support that project for two years using a combination of additional covert cameras, signage and guidance for landowners. We have now received notification that our bid has been successful, and we will now progress that project with a view to a public launch once equipment and arrangements have been finalised.

## **Next Steps**

- ▶ Mirror campaigns of neighbouring LA's to present a consistent message
- ▶ Publicise our actions in neighbouring areas such as South Birmingham to increase awareness in the areas much of this fly tipping originates
- ▶ Work up a Communications plan regarding fly tipping and householder's liability for waste to launch in 2022
- ▶ Raise the risk profile for "man and van" type operations through further signage, enforcement action, and publicity
- ▶ Arrange for direct access to Police National Computer to speed up investigations.
- ▶ Further use and expansion of Camera technology under RIPA, with associated funding bids linked to ability to resource them.
- ▶ Review Penalty Charges to increase impact