

Introduction of 3 combined reports:

- ❖ Environment Crime Update
- ❖ Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy
 - ❖ Littering from Vehicles

Environmental Crime Update

This paper provides an update for members in relation to enforcement activity on Environmental Crime since WRS took these functions forward on your behalf in June 2024.

There are no decisions/
recommendations

Environmental Crime Update

- WRS has been undertaking elements of environmental crime enforcement since June 2024.
- This includes work on fly tipping, littering, dog fouling and untidy land.
- At this time, the budget was amended to allow for a resource increase from 1 to 1.5 full time equivalent (FTE) posts to cover the Bromsgrove District Council area.
- For any enforcement action to be possible, evidence must be gathered that proves the identity of the perpetrator beyond a reasonable doubt
- Few incidents like fly-tips have the evidence required to do this.

Environmental Crime Update

- The volume of fly tipping incidents in Bromsgrove District are significant and outweigh most other WRS work areas in numbers.
- For example, there are more reported fly-tips in Redditch and Bromsgrove than WRS records nuisance complaints for the whole of Worcestershire
- Our intelligence led approach focuses on outcomes rather than targets.
- WRS intelligence unit identifies hot-spots, which help us to deploy targeted evidence gathering, as well as responding to fly-tips
- Other tactics and legal routes are used to identify offenders, especially businesses advertising waste disposal services on-line. The focus is not solely on residents!

Environmental Crime Update

Key points:

- **Table 3.8 on the next slide, from the report shows the levels of work this creates, and the enforcement activity undertaken.**
- **It highlights the difficulties of finding evidence in tips to link back to perpetrators**
- **WRS team works closely with Env Services team who will clear the tips. If there is no evidence, waste is removed quickly**
- **WRS Intelligence Officers use other investigative techniques to identify businesses who offer services then tip the waste illegally**

Environmental Crime Update

Action taken	2023	2024 (Jan-May)	2024 (Jun-Dec)	2025	2026 (Jan)
Number of fly tips reported	1905	925	1202	2392	146
Number of fly tips investigated	Not recorded	Not recorded	262	471	27
Number of littering offences reported	Not recorded	Not recorded	3	26	2
Number of dog fouling offences reported for investigation	Not recorded	Not recorded	7	10	0
Number of untidy land cases reported	Not recorded	'a couple'	21	12	2
Number of Fixed Penalty Notices for Fly tipping	0	0	0	28	6
Number of Fixed Penalty Notices for Littering	'a few'	0	1	7	1
Number of Fixed Penalty Notices for breach of CPN	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	1

Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy

The Cabinet Committee RECOMMEND that:-

The revised Redditch BC and Bromsgrove DC Enforcement Policy be adopted and replace the current Joint Environmental Enforcement Policy.

Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy

- **Since the 1990's LAs have been required to use enforcement policies to shape responses to alleged offending**
- **They provide a framework for decision making and ensures consistency in actions**
- **Cover all responses from no action and informal advice up to formal action, notices, penalty notices or prosecution**
- **Normally, officers will look to resolve issues informally, working through the response levels to find resolution**
- **However, with serious matters, the council to go straight to formal action**

Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy

- **Policy mirrors current WRS one so is in line with wider process for regulatory law enforcement**
- **Puts environmental crime on same footing as food law, health and safety. etc.**
- **Provides council with defensible position in its decisions**
- **Demonstrates to council solicitors that officers have considered sufficiency of evidence and the public interest, especially for formal action**
- **Ensures formal action is only taken where it is both necessary and proportionate**

Littering from Vehicles

The Cabinet Committee RECOMMEND that:-

- **Civil enforcement of Littering from Vehicles be introduced.**
- **The Civil Enforcement Team be given delegated authority to issue Litter Penalty Charge Notices.**
- **The parking administration team be authorised to deal with appeals and enforcement matters in respect of Litter Penalty Charge Notices.**
- **The Penalty Notice Charge be set at the level set by Council for Criminal offences where a Fixed Penalty Notice is served for Depositing Litter (section 87/88 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) which for 2026/27 subject to Council approval are proposed to be set as: £250; and £125 for prompt payment (within 14 days).**
- **Authority be delegated to the Assistant Director Regeneration & Property to issue Penalty Notice Charges for Littering from Vehicles under The Littering From Vehicles Outside London (Keepers: Civil Penalties) Regulations 2018.**

Littering from Vehicles

- **Currently littering from vehicles is only enforced as a criminal offence,**
- **There is an alternative disposal available in law via civil penalty notice**
- **Since June 2024 this work has been part of Worcestershire Regulatory Services duties.**
- **However, there are difficulties in proving littering offences, particularly around gathering sufficient evidence.**
- **In all but a few cases, having someone present when the incident occurs is the only way to catch this offending.**
- **Hence, proposal to include the Civil Enforcement Team and provide them with authority, so that if they witness littering from vehicles, they can take action.**

Littering from Vehicles

- **At the same time, introducing the penalty notice provides a proportionate response to this low-level offending, avoiding the need to go through the Court process.**
- **Parking administration team will need authorisation to deal with all appeals and enforcement matters in relation to these.**
- **WRS will continue also to issue FPN's to offenders via the criminal route available to them, and other action if required.**