



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 DECEMBER 2023
Subject	FLY-TIPPING UPDATE
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Lidia Arciszewska – Executive Member for Environment Email: Lidia.arciszewska@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Jon Dearing – Assistant Director for Resident Services Email: democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk
Report author	Mandy Fathers – Business Manager for Environmental, Welfare and Revenues Email: democratic.services@westoxon.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To give an update on fly-tipping activities during the first two quarters of the financial year 2023/2024.
Annexes	Annex A – Incident reported by type. Annex B – Initiatives
Recommendation(s)	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves to: I. Note the report.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Better Environment for People and Wildlife• Responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency• Working Together for West Oxfordshire
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer, Interim Head of Legal, Executive Member for Environment, Group Finance Director (Publica)

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 On 23 March 2023 officers presented a presentation to the Climate and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee which covered:

- Fly-tipping data
- Enforcement action in respect of fly-tipping
- Mapping and reporting of fly-tipping
- Achievements
- Future initiatives

1.2 This report provides an update on activities in respect of fly-tipping during the first two quarters of this financial year (2023/2024)

2. MAIN POINTS

2.1 The total fly-tipping incidents report for the period 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 (Q1) was 233. This was a 6.4% decrease on the same period in 2022/2023. 268 incidents were reported for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023 (Q2) which shows an 9.4% increase on the same period for 2022/2023.

Incidents Reported	Apr – June 2022	Apr – June 2023	July – Sept 2022	July – Sept 2023
	249	233	245	268

** a breakdown on the type of incidents can be found in Annex A

2.2 The total number of investigations during 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 (Q1) in comparison to the same period in 2022/2023 did increase; however, due to low resources for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023 (Q2), investigation work and the issuing of FPNs decreased.

	Apr – June 2022	Apr – June 2023	July – Sept 2022	July – Sept 2023
Investigation	0	5	2	1
FPN	1	1	0	0

2.3 There is a vast improvement showing on this during October 2023, with 19 investigations being undertaken, 7 warning letters being sent and 8 FPN's issued. In comparison to the full quarter 3 period of 2022/2023 (Oct to Dec) when there were no investigations and 2 FPN's issued.

2.4 The mapping of fly-tipping hotspots continues, and cameras will be very shortly deployed to these known hot spots; subject to the appropriate approvals being given. Similar cameras have been deployed in our neighbouring authority, Cotswold District, which has supported the Council in obtaining successful prosecutions for fly-tipping offences.

- 2.5 Work continues to strengthen communications with other external organisations, such as the local neighbourhood policing teams and housing associations; whilst continuing to develop stronger links with local communities.
- 2.6 The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023 has also increased the amount of a FPN from £400 to £1,000. A report is scheduled with the Executive in November 2023 with recommendations for the Council to adopt the increased charge.
- 2.7 The list of ongoing initiatives continues to increase since March 2023. A full list of these can be found in Annex B. Further work is still required against each initiative to consider the objectives, achievements, and any associated additional costs.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 There are no alternative options to consider at this point. The work continues to evolve.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Ubico, as the Councils waste collection contractor collects the majority of items fly-tipped and this service forms part of the main waste contract. Based on the collections for Q1 and Q2 this cost approximately £6,000.
- 4.2 The financial benefits for fly-tipping offences have yet to be realised; however, it should be noted that fly-tipping investigations is one of several duties being carried out by the Environmental crime officer.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Fly-tipping is an offence under section 33(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 There are no risks associated with this report. The report is for noting only.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 7.1 There are no unacceptable adverse effects on the protected characteristics covered by the Equalities Act that have been identified.

8. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Measures to reduce fly-tipping and ensure the quick removal of fly-tips will reduce ecological harm and risks to human health.
- 8.2 The recent acquisition of an electric vehicle to carry out investigations will have a positive impact on carbon footprint.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Annex A

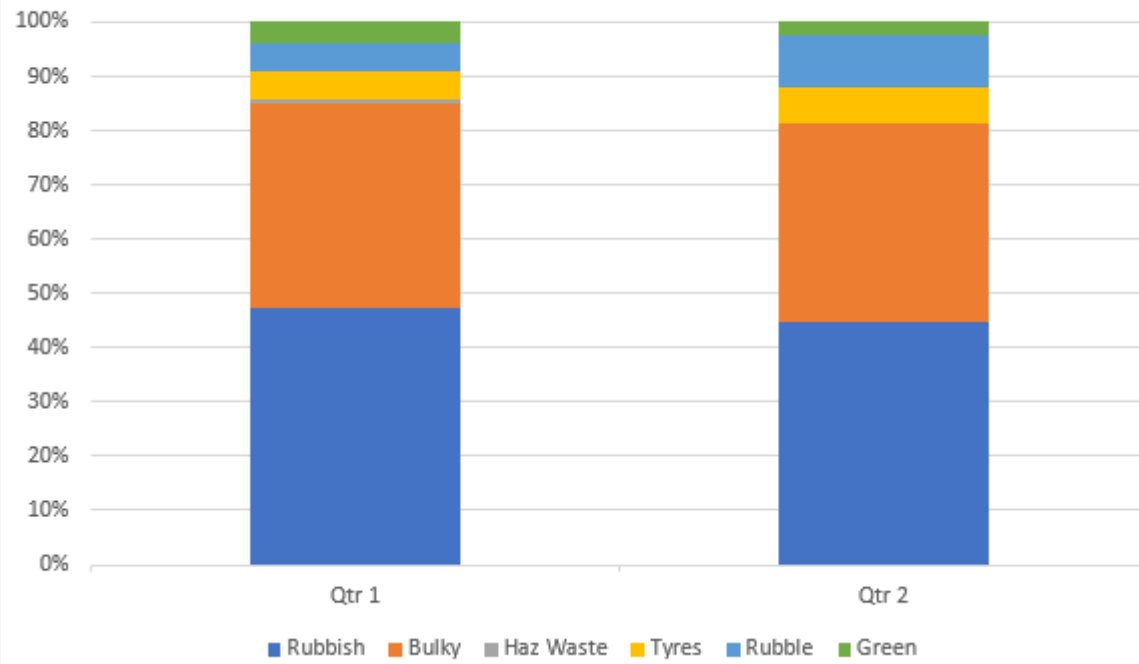
Period	Highway	Footpath/ Bridleway	Alleyway	Council Land	Agricultural	Private Residential	Commercial/ Industrial	Watercourse/ Banks	Other	Total
Q1 2022/23	97	18	1	1	0	1	1	2	128	249
Q2 2022/23	73	22	1	0	10	3	2	2	132	245
Total	170	40	2	1	10	4	3	4	260	
Q1 2023/24	95	10	1	3	2	12	1	0	109	233
Q2 2023/24	94	10	4	0	3	27	4	0	126	268
Total	189	20	5	3	5	39	5	0	235	

** 'Other' is when a person reports a fly-tip but does not indicate which type it falls in to.

Period	Highway	Footpath/ Bridleway	Alleyway	Council Land	Agricultural	Private Residential	Commercial/ Industrial	Watercourse/ Banks	Other	Total Incidents
Q1 2022/23	97	18	1	1	0	1	1	2	128	249
% of total incidents	38.96%	7.23%	0.40%	0.40%	0.00%	0.40%	0.40%	0.80%	51.41%	
Q2 2022/23	73	22	1	0	10	3	2	2	132	245
% of total incidents	29.80%	8.98%	0.41%	0.00%	4.08%	1.22%	0.82%	0.82%	53.87%	
Q1 2023/24	95	10	1	3	2	12	1	0	109	233
% of total incidents	40.77%	4.29%	0.43%	1.29%	0.86%	5.15%	0.43%	0.00%	46.78%	
Q2 2023/24	94	10	4	0	3	27	4	0	126	268
% of total incidents	35.07%	3.73%	1.49%	0.00%	1.12%	10.08%	1.49%	0.00%	47.02%	

** 'Other' and 'Highway' are the highest reported incidents with 'Footpath/Bridleways' and 'Private Residential' following

Fly Tips



Annex B

Initiative	Objectives	Achievements/Outcomes	Associated costs (additional)
Increase awareness around Duty of Care	<p>Improve the local environment by reducing fly-tips.</p> <p>Reduce financial burden on council with reduction in fly-tips.</p>		
Increase awareness of what to do 'if you encounter a fly-tip'	Ensuring fly-tips are reported as quickly and as accurate as possible and that any evidence is not tampered with, and public health is not a risk.		
Enhance enforcement in respect of waste transfer notices/licenses, working with local rubbish tips	Ensuring the safe management of waste to protect human health and the environment, and that enforcement action is taken when and where appropriate to increase deterrent.		
Work in partnership with TVP rural crimes taskforce	To support local farming community in defending against rural crimes and how to deter and address them on their land.		
Deploy Cameras	To act as deterrent against fly-tips. Provide a good source of evidence when investigating enviro-crime.		
Communications in respect of increases in FPN fines	Help deter fly-tips by making people aware of the increase in fines.		

With local businesses work to improve their waste handling and storage	Better engagement will enhance awareness which will help protect the local environment and reduce enviro-crime.		
Deliver early intervention to schools in partnership with TVP regarding ASB and Civic Pride	To help sustain the local environment, by being more responsible through early education/awareness and engagement.		
Improve processes for abandoned vehicles/caravans	Enhance enforcement options and support in improving the local environment.		
Enhance communication through available media channels and future publications in promoting enviro-crime achievements	To deter enviro-crime being committed. Increasing awareness to show 'crime does not pay'. Improve local environment.		
Develop relationships with conservation groups	To support in the up-keep of areas particularly affected or damaged by excessive waste/fly-tipping.		