

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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**Date of Meeting:** 14 July 2016  
**Report of:** Fly Tipping Task and Finish Group  
**Subject/Title:** Update Report

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group so far.

### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the progress be noted
- 2.2 That the timescale for the final report be extended in order for the group to monitor the success of the Wardens pilot scheme.

### **3.0 Wards Affected**

- 3.1 All

### **4.0 Local Ward Members**

- 4.1 All

### **5.0 Policy Implications**

- 5.1 Not known at this stage

### **6.0 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Not known at this stage

### **7.0 Legal Implications**

- 7.1 Not know at this stage

### **8.0 Risk Management**

- 8.1 Not known at this stage

## **9.0 Background and Options**

9.1 At its meeting held on 26 November 2015, the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to address the problems of fly tipping within Cheshire East, the scoping report is attached at appendix A. The group commenced its review by meeting with representatives from Ansa, the Commissioning Manager for Waste and Recycling, the Anti Social behaviour Team Leader and Environmental Wardens Team Leader to gain an understanding of the current situation and to hear their views. It became apparent that there is a rising level of reported fly tipping and side waste, with areas of Crewe being particularly affected with contaminated wheelie bins, black bags and bulky items littering the streets.

## **9.2 Environmental Wardens**

9.3 There are currently 5 full time equivalent members of staff which cover Crewe North, Crewe South, Central Macclesfield and the north of the Borough (Wilmslow, Knutsford and surrounding area). Their responsibilities include:

- Fly-tipping – investigation, prevention of and prosecution where possible
- Dog fouling – prosecution where possible, main focus prevention and education
- Littering – which can include general littering, and “side waste” at the side of black bins for instance.
- Duty of care – this includes waste that members of public may have paid an unlicensed van to dispose of their rubbish when is later found dumped elsewhere, vans/businesses operating in this way without the proper paperwork and trade waste
- Clear way forward – including advertising on the roadside/fences/roundabouts etc (advertisements that are not fixed/hoardings), shops and businesses that may place their goods for sale out on the street potentially obstructing pavements etc.
- Abandoned vehicles/vehicles for sale on the highway. Working with the DVLA and Police.
- Public Space Protection Orders and Community Protection Notices.

9.4 The Task and Finish Group has acknowledged that the current work load exceeds the staffing levels which, along with problems in collecting evidence is causing difficulties with enforcement and issuing fixed penalty notices.

## **9.5 Ansa**

9.6 It was reported to the group that fly tipping is expensive and not part of Ansa's contracted work. 85% of fly tipping reports are from the Crewe area, two

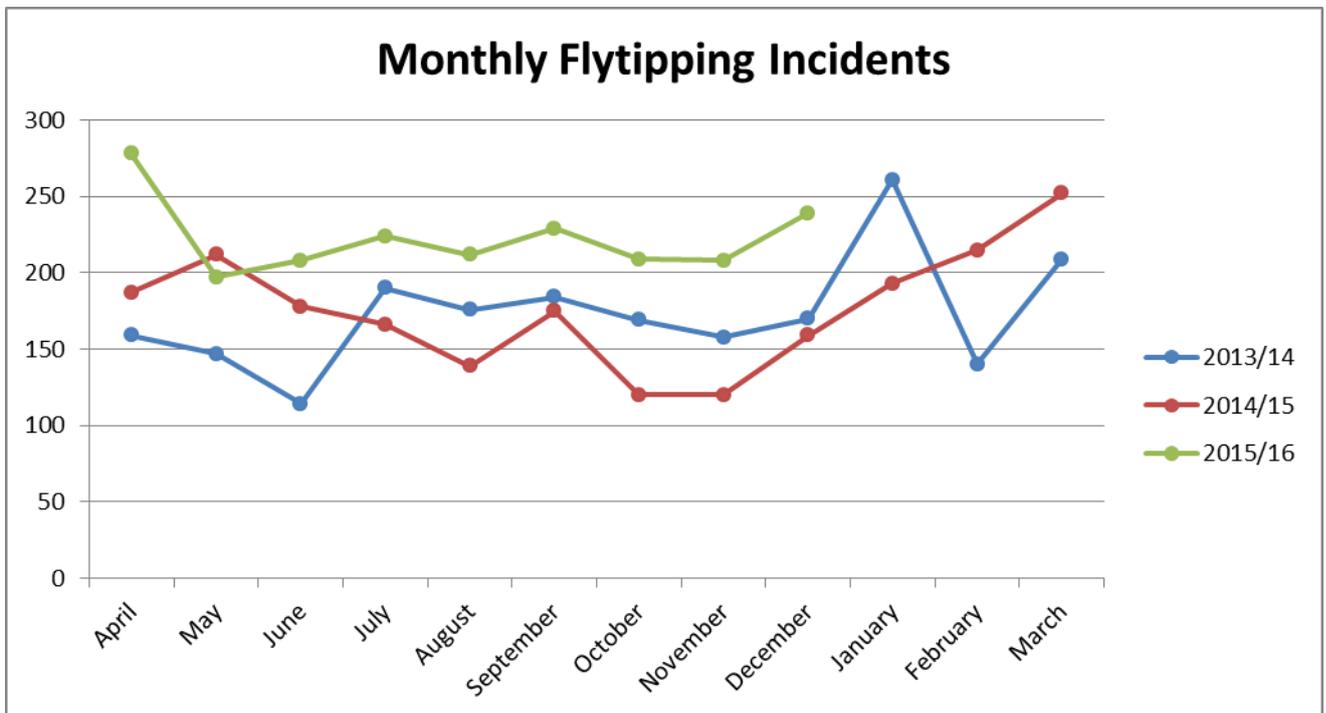
operatives and a vehicle carry out the removal of fly tipped waste and check the 76 hot spot areas in Crewe on a weekly basis. The annual total current cost to Cheshire East is estimated to be around £160,000 - £180,000

9.7 Estimate of annual cost of the clean-up team;

- Employment of two person team - £46,000
- Vehicle costs - £14,840
- Cost of landfill – c£75,000

9.8 Therefore based on a single 2.5 tonne load per day the estimated annual total cost of dealing with fly-tipping/side waste just for Crewe is around £136,000 (excluding administration, supervision and wardens time)

9.9 The chart below shows the numbers of fly-tipping incidents reported per month for the past three years up to December 2015.



9.10 Visit to Hot Spot Areas in Crewe

The Task and Finish Group, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Open Spaces and Cabinet Support Member for Communities, visited 6 of the hot spot areas in Crewe to gain an understanding of current situation, see the depth of the problems first hand and what would be required to improve the situation.

### **9.11 Pilot Scheme**

Since the Task and Finish group was established, it has been acknowledged by the Council that the current situation is unsustainable. Therefore a 12 month pilot scheme has been approved to employ 2 additional wardens in the Crewe area to concentrate on education and enforcement. The group intends to monitor the success of the scheme over the next 12 months and make recommendations accordingly.

### **9.12 Stoke-on-Trent City Council**

9.13 Stoke-on-Trent has a dedicated Environmental Crime Unit which has made a significant difference to the waste management team. The waste management team operate a 24hr service on a 3x8 hour shift. There is also a large volunteer group that help with litter pick up and clean up days. A volunteer co-ordinator has been employed to ensure recruitment of volunteers and generate income through schools and colleges.

9.14 Waste Minimisation Officers provides education to residents, schools, community groups, landlords and students. They also provide students and landlord packs. A Fly Tipping Task Force has been introduced to reduce the demand of the reactive team.

### **9.15 Procurement of a Private Company**

9.16 The Task and Finish Group visited Halton Borough Council to discuss how fly tipping and enforcement is dealt with. Members were informed that Halton has outsourced its enforcement service at zero cost to the Council. The private company deal with all aspects of issuing Fixed Penalty Notices including the preparation of prosecution files, a 56% pay rate is required to break even, however the pay rate is currently 70%. The additional income is reinvested into environmental issues, which enables resources to be released to deal with fly tipping.

9.17 Subsequently the Task and Finish group has also met with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Health, who informed that group that in addition to the Councils own Environmental Wardens, the Council intend to procure a private company to deal with fly tipping, litter and dog fouling across the borough. The contract is currently going through the procurement process, will be implemented on 1 September 2016 and reviewed after 12 months. Similar to Halton Borough Council the company will deal with all aspects of FPN, apart from the appeals process.

### **9.18 Household waste and Recycling Centres/ bulky items**

9.19 The task and finish group has found that the costs of collecting bulky waste is not comparable to other local authorities, which may be encouraging fly tipping and will therefore be recommending that the cost be reduced.

9.20 The group also feel that the permit scheme at Household Waste and Recycling Centres is overly bureaucratic and rules should be relaxed to ensure that customers are not turned away from a centre as this may also encourage fly tipping.

### **10.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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