



REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
DATE:	22 MARCH 2022
SUBJECT:	MEMBER FLY-TIPPING WORKING GROUP
PURPOSE:	TO REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE THE OUTCOMES FROM THE WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE FLY-TIPPING WORKING GROUP
KEY DECISION:	N/A
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR EVANS, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
REPORT AUTHOR:	VICTORIA BURGESS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – NEIGHBOURHOODS
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

In response to the 140% increase in fly-tipping experienced across the Borough, the Environment and Performance Committee asked for a Member Working Group to be set up to identify any actions that could be taken reduce the number of fly tips. This report presents the council's data on fly-tipping incidents and the outcomes from meetings held by the Member Working Group on fly-tipping in 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Environment and Performance Committee:

- receives the report and notes the work undertaken and outcomes achieved by the Member Working Group for incorporation with the committee's annual report of its activity.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- to update the Environment and Performance Committee on the work of the member Working Group
- to enable this activity to be included in the Committee's annual report.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Having experienced a 140% increase in the number of incidents of fly-tipping between 2019/20 and 2020/21, the Environment and Performance Committee asked for a Member Working Group to be set up to identify any actions that could be taken to reverse the trend.
- 1.2. The MWG met virtually on three occasions, with the first meeting of this Member Working Group was held on the 4th February 2021. Subsequent meetings were held on 12th March 2021 and 11th May 2021. The MWG comprised of Cllr Bedford, Cllr Dani, Cllr Evans, Cllr Goodale, Cllr Hastie, Cllr Stevens, Cllr Welbourn, Cllr Watson, Cllr Woodliffe, and chaired by Victoria Burgess. Cllr Welbourn provided verbal updates to the E&P Committee.

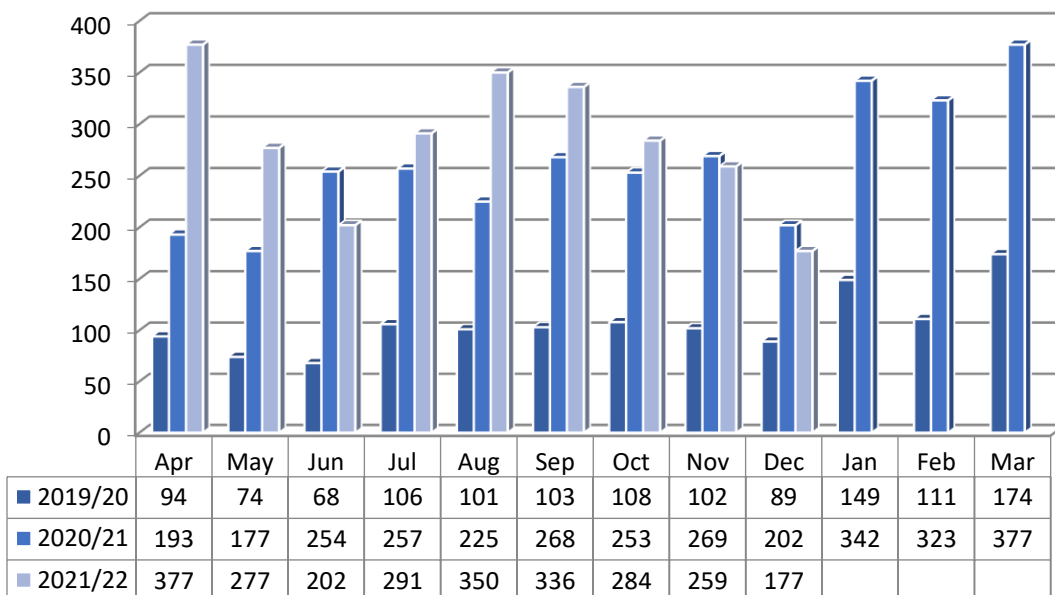
2. REPORT

- 2.1. There has been an increase in the incidents of fly-tipping nationally since the country went into lockdown in March 2020. The increase in Boston has been substantial with a 140% increase between the financial years 2019/20 (1211 fly tips) and 2020/21 (2937 fly tips).
- 2.2. However, since May 2021, the number of fly tips reduced, and although the number increased again in July 2021 this number has been reducing since September 2021.

2.3. Chart 1 shows the trend in numbers:

Chart1: Fly-tips within the Borough April 2019 to December 2022

Number of fly tip incidents (by month)



- 2.4.** This increase was due primarily to the fly tipping of black bagged domestic waste, and other household waste, such as furniture and mattresses.
- 2.5.** Members received information on fly-tipping types and number of incidents across the Borough, relevant legislation and enforcement, the role of Lincolnshire County Council and the provision of its Household Waste Recycling Centre, and the responsibilities of residents and landlords in terms of waste storage and presentation. Members discussed likely reasons for the increase in fly-tipping and identified areas for potential intervention.
- 2.6.** Outcomes of the Member Working Group were:
- Increased fixed penalty notice to £400 for fly tipping offences
 - Establishment of effective cross departmental arrangements within the Council to co-ordinate enforcement actions which targeted waste related anti-social behaviour and involved the Council's environmental health, housing standards, and waste enforcement teams. A cross departmental case review meeting meets weekly.
 - Engagement with landlords and tenants, which included writing to all landlords and letting agents reminding them of their responsibilities to address waste related anti-social behaviour at rented properties. This also included visits to individual properties reported to the council as requiring support.
 - Extended enviro-crime contracts to target fly tipping and deployment of overt cameras in hot spot areas
 - Improved communication with the public including new signage and proportionate enforcement at recycling bring sites, significantly reducing fly tipping incidents.
 - Increased use of social media to publicise successful enforcement action, and responsible waste management.
 - Use of pictorial communications messages around waste introduced.
 - Soft market test conducted for a new enviro crime contract; national interest received
 - Trial to test impact of free bulky collections on fly tipping
 - To investigate the potential for caught on camera initiatives.
 - Liaison with the County Council to suggest options for improving access to the Household Waste Recycling Centre
 - Enforcement services provided business as usual publishing monthly performance information published on the website at [Environmental Crime | Boston Borough Council \(mybostonuk.com\)](https://www.environmental-crime.gov.uk/).

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1.** The work undertaken by the Member Working Group has supported officers in delivering a number of positive outcomes in tackling the incidence of fly tipping across the Borough.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

Learning from actions taken by Boston Borough Council to reduce the incidence of fly-tipping is shared with the other councils in the partnership.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP

Shared learning between the councils.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The work undertaken by the Member Working Group meets the Council's corporate priority of environmental awareness and accountability, in particular the Council's commitment to proactively educate and enforce against environmental crime such as fly-tipping and littering, to both protect the environment and keep the Borough clean and tidy.

STAFFING

None

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

DATA PROTECTION

None

FINANCIAL

None

RISK MANAGEMENT

None

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

No consultation undertaken

REPUTATION

Taking proactive actions to reduce the number of fly-tips, and responding to residents' requests with positive outcomes, improves the reputation of the council.

CONTRACTS

None

CRIME AND DISORDER

Reducing the amount of fly-tipped waste improves the appearance of the borough and reduces the potential for anti-social behaviour.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Reducing the amount of fly-tipped waste improves the appearance of the borough and improves the appearance of hot spot areas, contributing to the wellbeing of residents in areas of the Borough.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

ACRONYMS

None

APPENDICES

None

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Victoria Burgess
Signed off by:	
Approved for publication:	Cllr Evans