

## BRIEFING NOTE

### MOTION: Action on Fly Tipping

Lancaster City Council notes:

- a) Fly tipping instances are a growing concern of residents across the District.
- b) In response to a question from Cllr Whitaker in December 2021, the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Cllr Brookes, stated “We also attended a Keep Britain Tidy webinar on fly-tipping, highlighting a programme of evidence-based interventions KBT developed and tested in the London Borough of Newham. KBT is offering to deliver this programme with a limited number of other councils around the country, and we are pursuing bringing this to Lancaster district, with a focus on hotspots in Morecambe. In the meantime we have joined the Keep Britain Tidy Network which gives us access to resources, learning events, best practice guidance etc.”
- c) This Council meeting marks the week in which the six-week trial (from 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022) ends, where different measures to combat fly tipping were tested in Poulton, Harbour, Overton, Skerton East and Skerton West Wards.
- d) The trial interventions in the selected Wards were promised to be “... robustly monitored and evaluated with a view to understanding how effective they are in reducing illegal dumping, both in the short term and over a longer period.”
- e) The recent success reported by Newham LBC working collaboratively with Keep Britain Tidy on initiatives to address Fly Tipping.
- f) Newham LBC’s five fly tipping interventions piloted since 2018, namely:

Crime scene tape – placement of high-visibility tape and stickers on fly tips and leaving these for three days before removal, plus local communications about responsible ways to deal with waste. – Reducing fly tipping by an average of 67%

Social impact stencils – stencilling the spots where fly tipping had been cleared, with messages about the fact resources are drawn away from the community when spent on clearing fly tipping, and to show that fly tips haven’t just ‘disappeared’. – Reducing fly tipping by an average of 64%

No waste on streets – installation of specially designed units to ‘containerise’ and remove from view waste that is put out for collection at a specified time on a busy high street where it tended to attract fly tipping and litter. – Reducing fly tipping by an average of 24%

Empowering schools – educating young people in four schools about fly tipping and its impacts. – Resulting in a 79% increase in students reporting that they know a lot about fly tipping after the project

Love your ward weekends – pop-up community events including an on-the day collection of bulky waste, as well as educational activities and beautification of the area through resident created murals and planters. – Resulting in four events attended by 430 residents. 70% of attendees surveyed agreed the events made them think twice about fly tipping in future. 68% of attendees agreed the events made them realise the lasting effect fly tipping can have on the community. One tonne of bulky waste was collected.

Lancaster City Council resolves to:

1. Provide a report to all members within three months of this meeting on the impact of the implementation social impact stencils six-week trial in Poulton and Harbour Wards; and crime scene tape trial on instances of fly tipping in the Wards of Harbour, Overton and Skerton East and Skerton West; and

2. Provide quarterly updates to our community on all initiatives being trialled or implemented to further reduce fly tipping across the district to commence no later than November 2022.

**PROPOSERS:**

Cllrs Whitaker, Wood, Hartley, and Redfern

**OFFICER BRIEFING NOTE**

As reported nationally, fly tipping is the top environmental challenge faced by many local authorities which leads to large financial and environmental costs.

Lancaster City Council's Public Realm team and leading environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy started the above-mentioned fly tipping interventions on the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 with the key aim of educating residents around waste disposal.

Interventions on stencils and crime scene tape have been trialled in different wards as an educational tool to show residents that current behaviour methods are unacceptable and ultimately illegal.

The intervention period is currently still active, with door knocking, leaflet engagement and public perception surveys yet to be undertaken. Therefore, it is very early to draw a full conclusion of the overall success of the trial.

Early indications suggest that the district is seeing a reduction in cases of illegal dumping across all intervention areas, with individual case numbers and tonnage of waste reducing.

The frontline teams are reporting a high level of resident engagement, with some cases of illegal dumping being removed or taken back into properties prior to collection. Many residents have commented on an increased presence and there have been a small number of individual days when there has been no dumping of waste in in some intervention areas.

A full evaluation will be undertaken by Public Realm and Keep Britain Tidy in due course, and this will form part of our future consideration around a strategy moving forward. This will be reported within three months of the end of the intervention period.

Officers intentions were always to offer quarterly updates to report on the success of the interventions, to facilitate with workload planning and to assist with the monitoring of any ongoing fluctuations in illegal dumping across the district.

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.