

Report to Cabinet



Date of Meeting	23 November 2021
Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Environment and Facilities
Report Author	Jo Oliver
Public/Private Document	Public

Fly Tipping Strategy and Action Plan

Executive Summary

1. Fly tipping nationally and locally is a significant problem and a strategy has been prepared to tackle fly tipping in Rochdale along with an action plan. A number of initiatives are proposed and it is presented to members' for adoption.

Recommendation

2. a) That the fly tipping strategy is considered and adopted by the council.
b) That a working group comprising of six members is set up to monitor progress and agree schemes to be trialled.
c) That the fly tipping strategy is publicised in early 2022 and ideas from the public sought on how to best tackle the issue.

Reason for Recommendation

3. This committee has asked for a report on fly tipping to be presented to it for consideration and what actions can be taken by the council to reduce the incidents of fly tipping and where possible undertake suitable enforcement action against the perpetrators.

Key Points for Consideration

4. Within Rochdale council's area there were 5,342 incidents of fly tipping in 2020/21. This was decrease compared to the previous year but it is recognised that fly tipping blights our landscape and the local environment for residents and is a source of frustration for residents, officers and members alike. Clearing

fly tipping takes up a significant amount of resources and disposal costs alone are circa £167,000 a year.

- 4.1 The purpose of the strategy is to outline some key actions the council can take to tackle fly tipping. Actions centre on prevention, communication, enforcement, responding to and recording incidents and working with stakeholders and partners. Unfortunately there is no simple solution to fly tipping and it will take a concerted effort and resources to reduce the issue.

The action plan which was taken to Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee on 28 September 2021 is expected to take place over 18 months. A cross party members' working group is proposed to explore and trial new methods of working and evaluate their impact. The working group would comprise of five members representing each Township from the Labour party to be nominated by the Leader of the council and one from the Conservative party to be nominated the Leader of the Conservative group.

The strategy will be available for the public to view on the council's website in early 2022 and their ideas and views sought on how to reduce fly tipping. Updates on progress against the strategy and evaluation of any new working methods will also be posted there.

Community skips were trialled in two wards in the Borough in September and October. Data from this project is being evaluated and will be shared with the portfolio holder and fly tipping working group.

New approaches for tackling fly tipping in privately owned alleyways is being developed and will be trialled following approval by the working group.

Two temporary six month enforcement roles are being created to engage with residents in fly tipping hotspot areas about the correct way to manage their waste. An Invest to Save bid will be submitted to fund an officer post to check on compliance with business waste regulations.

Members have said they wish to provide free bulky waste collections for residents from April 2022 and this proposal will be developed and brought to Cabinet for approval shortly.

Alternatives Considered

The council could choose not to adopt the strategy and continue to remove fly tipping as it does currently. It is unlikely this will result in any significant improvement in levels of fly tipping.

Costs and Budget Summary

5. The majority of actions will be carried out using existing budget provision. Townships will be approached for funding for items such as CCTV cameras. The working group will be asked to prioritise and approve projects and if required funding identified or applied for.

Risk and Policy Implications

6. The council as a landowner has a duty to investigate fly tipping on its land and take action against private landowners where appropriate if they do not clear fly tipping on their land. It is important we continue to encourage households to minimise the amount of waste they produce and recycle items where appropriate.

Consultation

7. Operational staff who work on clearing fly tipping and the enforcement team were asked for ideas on how to tackle fly tipping and some of these have been included in the action plan.

A report and copy of the fly tipping strategy and action plan was taken to the Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee in September 2021 and the recommendation that the strategy be brought to Cabinet was approved.

If the strategy is adopted it will be published on the council's website and ideas and views sought from the public on how we can work together successfully as a community to tackle fly tipping.

Background Papers

Place of Inspection

8. Report and minutes for Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny committee 28 September 2021

www.rochdale.gov.uk

For Further Information Contact:

Jo Oliver, 01706 922097,
jo.oliver@rochdale.gov.uk