

S26. Report of the Fly Tipping Scrutiny Panel

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting the report and recommendations of the scrutiny panel review of fly tipping.

Councillor Black, as convener of the panel, summarised the work of the panel and highlighted the key recommendations of the panel. Councillor Black thanked the officers who had supported the panel and praised the members of the panel, Councillor Coleman and Patrick for their commitment and contribution to the review. In addition Councillor Black thanked the contribution from community groups, such as Communities along the Carron, Grangemouth Litter Team and partner organisations (Zero Waste Scotland and Keep Scotland Beautiful) to the panel's work. She also recognised the valuable insight provided by officers from North Ayrshire Council and West Lothian Council who had provided overviews of their respective approaches to dealing with fly tipping.

The panel's recommendations were that:

- the Council undertakes comprehensive review of the cost and charging for fly-tipping to ensure the Council is covering all costs including disposal. This in turn should inform charges for removing fly tipping which should be at full cost recovery and include an additional fine.
- residents, including tenants, are reminded of their obligations to dispose of rubbish and waste appropriately. For tenants this could be achieved through reminders of their tenancy obligations under the housing tenancy agreement, particularly those who live in flats. The issue of supporting tenants needed to be considered along with how we deal with fly tipping in urban areas. This issue to be considered jointly by Development Services and Housing.
- a report is presented to a future Executive on the potential for establishing a trusted trader's scheme taking account of the discussions that took place within the panel.
- officers review access to the civic amenity centre to ensure it was available to those who required to use it, that people could pay, was where appropriate, at the site, that budget options were understood in terms of their consequences on small businesses, people without transport etc.
- officers review enforcement, the fee structure and bulky uplifts policy to encourage public to use this in conjunction with the civic amenity site and report back to the Executive on this in due course. This should include an approach to education, advice and support for community organisations, younger people, tenants including private sector and for small traders.

- Council adopts a 'one Council' approach to fly tipping. This would include utilising My Falkirk as the platform for reporting and managing the service. In addition, it was recommended that there is a review of management of the various elements of service into one designated team and this is reported back to the Executive in due course.
- officers investigate and report back on establishing a freecycle/reuse scheme for items of furniture etc., to be developed in conjunction with the 3rd sector.
- Council reviews its engagement with the communities to enable them to support the Council in tackling fly-tipping and general litter picks.
- there is an update on progress on the recommendations made above to scrutiny committee at six months and then a year following the Executive's consideration of this report.

Councillor Black commended the recommendations highlighting in particular the recommendations that the Council investigate the setting up of a Freecycling scheme for furniture and carpets, and that the Council adopt a 'one Council' approach to tackling Fly Tipping backed by visible enforcement.

Members of the committee thanked the panel for its work and commended the report. The committee then asked a number of questions in regard to the recommendations.

In regard to the process for alerting the Council to instances of fly tipping and the Council's subsequent response to deal with the waste. Carl Bullough, Head of Environmental Services stated that currently there were multiple points of access to the Council and the Council's processes for dealing with waste were not joined up. The Council did work with community groups and offered support and materials. However again this was fragmented.

In response to a question Councillor Black confirmed that the panel had considered the difficulties faced by the Council in engaging with private land owners. However the general recommendation that they adopt a One Council approach to fly tipping encompassed issues concerning private land owners.

The recommendations, Councillor Black stated, pointed officers to areas of concern and provided an opportunity to review all factors. If agreed then service would be tasked with identifying solutions and reporting these back to the Executive. The panel had also recommended that update reports be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis.

Members discussed the potential to introduce a furniture and carpet Freecycle scheme. Again Councillor Black stated that the panel had proposed this in order to allow further, detailed, consideration. It did not have a fixed idea of a model although it had considered that while supported by the Council any scheme would be run by the voluntary sector. Although

there were practical issues, such as health and safety and the viability of such a venture, the committee fully endorsed the proposal.

The committee discussed the recommendation that fees and charges at the Waste Recycling Centres (WRC) be reviewed. There was a balance between the cost of permits for traders, uptake of permits and of fly tipping if the cost was prohibitively expensive. Councillor Black agreed but stressed that it was important that a balance was struck so that traders used the WRC. She highlighted the proposal that the Council consider introducing a 'trusted trader' scheme. This would give the public confidence that waste would be disposed of correctly and could include benefits for the traders.

Members of the committee highlighted examples of community based initiatives, such as litter picks and commended the panel's recommendations that the Council structures itself to engage with and support community groups.

Decision

Agreed the recommendations from the scrutiny panel review of fly tipping and to refer the recommendations to the Executive.