

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the City of Edinburgh. The crest includes a crown with four thistles, a shield divided into four quarters (top-left: saltire, top-right: stag's head, bottom-left: ship, bottom-right: eagle), and a motto scroll at the bottom.

Agenda Item 5

Fly Tipping Scrutiny Panel 6 month Update Report

Falkirk Council

Title: Fly Tipping Scrutiny Panel 6 month Update Report
Meeting: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 6 June 2019
Submitted By: Director of Development Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the implementation of the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations on fly tipping.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the progress being made towards achieving the associated recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 A Fly Tipping Scrutiny Panel was established in June 2018 with a remit to examine the causes, affects and responses to fly tipping across the Falkirk Council area.
- 3.2 Following consultation with Zero Waste Scotland, Keep Scotland Beautiful, North Ayrshire Council and West Lothian Council on their approaches towards tackling fly tipping as well as consultation with the local community, the Fly Tipping Scrutiny Panel drew up a number of recommendations which were subsequently agreed by the Scrutiny Committee and sent to the Executive for approval. At the Executive meeting on 15 January, it was agreed that an update to these recommendations be provided after 6 months and 1 year.

4. Update on Scrutiny Panel Recommendations

- 4.1 The 6 monthly update on the Fly Tipping Scrutiny Panel's recommendations and progress to date is detailed below.
- 4.2 **Recommendation:** The Council undertake a 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 charging for removing fly tipping which should be at full cost recovery including an additional fine.

Progress: A new coding system is now in place to capture actual weights of fly tipping to ascertain more accurate data on true costs of fly tipping to the Council. The Committee is asked to note that it is not always possible to identify the perpetrator of fly tipping, and therefore the full costs associated in these circumstances would be covered by the Council.

- 4.3 **Recommendation:** That residents including tenants are reminded of their obligations to dispose of rubbish and waste appropriately. For tenants this can be achieved through reminders of their tenancy obligations under the

housing tenancy agreement particularly those who live in flats. The issue of supporting tenants needs to be considered along with how we deal with fly tipping in urban areas. This issue needs to be considered by both Development Services and Housing Services.

Progress: Officers from Waste Management Services and the Housing Services have had initial discussions to agree a way forward, highlighting the problems associated with fly tipping to ensure a consistent approach is taken across Council and private housing stock, focus will initially be placed upon areas that have jointly been agreed. Residents living within Council owned properties will be reminded of their obligations through their tenancy agreement. Early indications suggest that this type of intervention is having a positive impact around bin storage areas, and will continue to be monitored.

Joint visits will continue to be undertaken between Waste Management and Housing staff to positively interact with tenants to identify and resolve any issues.

Between end June – November 2019, the Council will introduce an additional recycling bin for the collection of paper and cardboard. The introduction of this container will help improve the quality and value of the material collected from the kerbside, including multi-occupancy properties. A comprehensive communications campaign will accompany the roll-out, advising householders on how to use their bins, including a specific information guide for householders living in flatted property.

- 4.4 **Recommendation:** A report 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.

Progress: Further work to be done on this recommendation however there is currently a Buy with Confidence scheme advertised on the FC website but very little take up with local providers. There is also a Trustys.co.uk website based out of Grangemouth which offers local services but is not accredited by FC.

Following roll out of the additional recycling container as detailed under 4.3 of this report, it is proposed to review options for the establishment of a dedicated Trusted Traders Scheme. The Scheme would specifically include the responsible collection and disposal of waste, with the aim of having this in place for the start of next financial year.

In the meantime, the Council's website will be updated shortly with a link to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, which lists those traders that hold the appropriate licences, including detail of their waste carriers registration documents.

- 4.5 **Recommendation:** Officers review access to civic amenity centre to ensure it is available to those who require to use it, that people can pay where appropriate at the site, that budget options are understood in terms of their consequences on small businesses, people without transport etc.

Progress: A permit system is in place for small businesses with a charge of £40 for recyclable items and £100 for non-recyclable waste (per visit). Internet connectivity at both Roughmote and Kinneil Recycling Centres is currently being progressed, to allow commercial customers to pay for disposal of waste via electronic means at point of entry, improving customer convenience and control at the sites. The Council's Technology and Infrastructure team is currently investigating options to improve internet connectivity at these locations. An update to this recommendation, including timescales for delivery will be provided within the next update report.

The recent introduction (from 1 April 2019) of the van permit system at our Recycling Centres has seen a significant reduction in the number of vans attempting to enter these sites (612 less van movements in April 2019 vs April 2018), and a positive increase in the sale of commercial waste permits.

For those householders whose only mode of transport is a van looking to dispose of their own domestic waste, the free permit system allows 10 visits to the Council's Recycling Centres per year (April – March).

Tonnage information shows an increase in waste and recycle coming into the Recycling Centres comparing April 2018 (1,797 tonnes) to April 2019 (1,891 tonnes), indicating that some householders that once used the bulky uplift service are bringing their waste and recycle directly to the sites themselves.

From 1 April the opening times at Recycling Centres was reviewed, with Roughmote being closed on Tuesday and Wednesday and Kinneil being closed Thursday and Friday. In addition late night opening at Roughmote on Friday and Kinneil on Wednesday evenings (8pm) is in operation between April – September.

To date there have been very few complaints relating to the service changes detailed above.

- 4.6 **Recommendation:** 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 small traders.

Progress: The enforcement element of the Community Safety Team has recently been incorporated into the Waste Strategy Team. This transfer provides a more cohesive approach towards fly tipping prevention through education, promotion within local communities and enforcement where required.

The Council reviewed its charging structure for bulky waste, through the introduction of a £30 charge for up to 5 items (effective 1 April 2019). The range of accepted items was broadened to simplify disposal of larger items such as windows and doors, car tyres (up to 2), kitchen units, bathroom units

and timber. The £30 charge was designed to have full cost recovery, this will be reviewed later in the year, based upon service uptake.

The number of bulky uplifts in April – May 2018 totalled 2,164, of which 84% were unpaid (uplifted free of charge). The number of bulky uplifts in April – May (23rd) 2019 totalled 599, 100% of which were paid. To date there has been very few complaints relating to this service change.

Prior to processing a request for a bulky uplift, residents are encouraged to consider making items in good condition available to reuse organisations.

The Council has engaged with Community Recycling Network for Scotland (CRNS) to identify further opportunities of working with the third sector, to promote reuse and identify increased reuse scope at civic amenity sites (Household Waste Recycling Centres).

- 4.7 **Recommendation:** The Council adopts a one Council approach to fly tipping. This would include utilising MyFalkirk as the platform for reporting and managing the service. In addition, it is recommended that there is a review of management of the various elements of the service into one designated team and this is reported back to Members in due course.

Progress: Co-ordination of issues relating to fly tipping has been fully brought in to the Waste Management Service, with assistance provided by Environmental Health. This a one point of contact for fly tipping and a joint approach as and when required.

Progress towards utilising MyFalkirk as the platform for reporting and managing fly tipping is included within the Council of the Future digital work stream. A definitive timeline on when the system “goes live” will be reported within the next update.

- 4.8 **Recommendation:** 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.

Progress: A cross Council officer working group has had initial discussions, with a view to identify and progress opportunities of working alongside third party organisations, promoting reuse, and directly benefitting Falkirk residents – linking directly to alleviation of poverty.

An initial meeting has been organised with relevant community organisations to take this forward via the Fairer Falkirk Partnership.

- 4.9 **Recommendation:** The Council reviews its engagement with the communities to enable them to support the Council in tackling fly tipping and general litter picks.

Progress: Waste Strategy actively support and work with a growing network of community groups by providing litter picking equipment, collection of materials, resource and advice.

A meeting with local community groups took place at the end of May, which highlighted the Council's responsibilities in regards to fly tipping and litter management, and ways in which local groups can proactively engage and support Council activity, including Participatory Budgeting.

Additionally, the Council is working with private landowners (e.g. Scottish Canals) to minimise litter and fly tipping on their ground, assisting them towards meeting their own legislative requirements.

- 4.10 **Recommendation:** That there is an update on progress on the recommendations made above to the Scrutiny Committee at six months and then a year following the Executive's consideration of the report dated 15 January 2019.

Progress: This report fulfils the first obligation.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There has been no consultation on this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 A review of bulky uplift charges across Scotland, indicates that the Council's charge of £30.00 for up to 5 items is consistent with other authorities, being neither the most expensive (£65.25 Argyll & Bute) or the least expensive (no charge, East Lothian).

7. Legal

- 7.1 The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (CoPLAR) to:
- Keep the land clear of litter and refuse; *and*
 - Keep the roads clean
- 7.2 CoPLAR details what the duties for responsible landowners are (both public and private) and identifies likelihood of arising issues on land and roads with land zoned into categories based on footfall and/or vehicle movement and/or potential number of litter sources.
- 7.3 The zoning of Falkirk Council land is currently on-going, due to be finalised end of June 2019.

8. Risk

- 8.1 Nil.

9. Equalities

- 9.1 Any changes to service as a result of the recommendations in this report will be equality and poverty impact assessed and the outputs of that reported to Members prior to decisions being taken on enacting those changes.

10. Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 10.1 It is anticipated that the outcome from recommendations made by the Scrutiny Panel are/will positively contribute towards the environmental sustainability objectives of the Council.

11. Conclusions

- 11.1 The Scrutiny Panel are invited to note the work undertaken and ongoing in relation to the recommendations endorsed by the Executive on 15 January 2019.

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Date: 27 May 2019