

Cabinet report



7 September 2021

Fly-Tipping Action Plan 2021 -2023

Name of Cabinet Member	Councillor Lauren Townsend Public Realm
Report sponsor	Stuart Profitt Director of Environment and Property
Report author	Penny Fletcher Community Engagement Manager Penny.fletcher@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
Council Plan reference	Commitment 11: Produce a fly-tipping action plan by September 2021 to tackle national rising levels of fly-tipping, including funding for an additional Environmental Crime Officer to tackle abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping.
Wards affected	All wards

Executive summary

Fly-tipping comes with an economic cost to us all and is harmful to the environment. We recognise the negative impact that fly-tipping has on our urban and rural communities, but we also know that if we work together this will improve both the aesthetics and public health of our communities, as well as making individuals feel safer.

This new and inclusive fly-tipping action plan is the first of its kind for Milton Keynes, clearly setting out what MK Council will do. This paper outlines the holistic approach to be taken moving forward: addressing the root causes of fly-tipping; increased engagement and education efforts; ensuring that ample facilities and services are provided for the safe disposal of waste city-wide; but also recognising that a minority will inevitably continue to cause harm by fly-tipping, and making it clear that when they do we will pursue and take enforcement and/or legal action wherever we can, for the benefit of all.

1. Decision/s to be made

- 1.1 That the Fly-Tipping Action Plan 2021-2023 in Annex A be approved for implementation and delivery.
- 1.2 That reporting data for the fly-tipping action plan be received, monitored and reviewed by the newly formed officer led Fly-Tipping Action Group, which will meet on a monthly basis to ensure delivery of the action plan and can present findings to the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee as required.

2. Why is the decision needed?

- 2.1 During the 2020 - 2021, there were 5819 reports of fly-tipping recorded in Milton Keynes. This was the highest since 2015 and potentially an increasing trend of incidents occurring.
- 2.2 Fly-tips are not all the same in terms of size or environmental impact. They also occur in varying frequencies with a 'black sack' worth of waste occurring for a larger percentage of incidents than a commercial fly-tip scale (i.e. more than a car boot). The focus on tackling fly-tipping must be around engaging with the materials that cause the greatest issue in terms of impact of local amenity and environmental issues. Some residents and businesses would not consider single black bags as fly-tipping. The focus needs to be on single items of household waste that have been fly-tipped such as mattresses, furniture and larger scale fly-tips.
- 2.3 To tackle both the root causes of why people fly-tip and to have the greater impact in terms of the deterrent to fly-tip a balanced action plan with 15 clear action points has been produced. This is presented in Appendix A.

3. Implications of the decision

Financial	X	Human rights, equalities, diversity	X
Legal	X	Policies or Council Plan	X
Communication	X	Procurement	
Energy Efficiency		Workforce	X

a) Financial implications

£200k one off resource has been set aside to support the delivery of the fly-tipping strategy priority. £100k of this funding will be used over 2 years to invest in an additional enforcement officer to aid the delivery of this commitment within the Council Plan. This will be a permanent position within the Environmental Crime Unit, with permanent funding sought in the 2023/24 budget. The remaining £100k will be spent over 2 years on communications support. This will cover a dedicated campaign, and specialist communications support and resource to assist with engagement and education.

A further £100k additional resource was secured within the Council's 2021/22 base revenue budget to boost the CCTV capacity available for use by the Environmental Crime Unit.

b) Legal implications

The Council has a duty to maintain land it owns and keep safe the public on public open space. The Council has a duty to maintain public open spaces under the Open Spaces Act 1906.

Section 89 of the Environment Protection Act 1990 makes MKC responsible for keeping the land within our control clear of litter and refuse and our highways clean as far as is practicable.

The approval of the recommendation will facilitate the Council's compliance with these statutory provisions.

c) Other implications

Council Plan: This decision supports the Council Plan Commitment 11 to produce a fly-tipping action plan by September 2021 to tackle national rising levels of fly-tipping, including funding for an additional Environmental Crime Officer to tackle abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping.

Communication: A dedicated communications plan will be prepared and will play an important role in engagement, education with residents, businesses and community groups. We will work with Ward Councillors and Parish and Town Councils, who have continued to demonstrate their willingness to be involved.

Human rights, equalities, diversity: The inclusive approach of the Fly-Tipping Action Plan will ensure that waste disposal services remain accessible. This will be further supported by the additional reviews of the household waste recycling centres and the bulky waste collection service, which will both consider the accessibility of services for residents and businesses in the borough and ensure that they are inclusive and equitable for all

Workforce: An additional enforcement officer has been recruited and is now in place. Staff resources will be considered within the monthly Fly-Tipping Action Group meetings.

4. Alternatives

Option 1 – Do nothing

Do not adopt the holistic inclusive approach set out within the Fly-Tipping Action Plan. Fly-tipping will continue to be addressed by different Council departments, residents and community groups. Some results will continue to be achieved, but it may not address the root causes nor enable the action point approach outlined in the Fly-tipping Action Pan.

Option 2 – Consider an alternative approach

The Fly-Tipping Action Plan has been co-produced and extensively considered with input from multiple Council departments. The approach set out within the Action Plan is collaborative and is achievable by working together. An alternative approach could be considered.

Preferred Option 3 – Adopt the Fly-Tipping Action Plan

The new inclusive Fly-Tipping Action Plan has been produced to tackle national rising levels of fly-tipping. It has been co-produced and clearly sets out how fly-tipping will be tackled with 15 clear action points outlined to achieve this.

5. Timetable for implementation

September 2021 - Adopt the new approach set out within the plan with immediate effect. Thereafter, monthly monitoring meetings will be in place to ensure a clear focus on delivery using an evidence led approach across all 15 action points.

List of annexes

Annex A – Fly-Tipping Action Plan 2021-2023

List of background papers

None