

Fly-tipping and Fly-posting Enforcement

Legacy Authority Arrangements and Data

Legacy arrangements for enforcement of environmental crime, such as fly-tipping and fly-posting, varied across the 3 legacy Councils and accurate data is difficult to establish. Having undertaken research, engagement with current and previous colleagues and annual figures reported to Central Government, it is possible to better understand the previous service arrangements and it further highlights the need for a consistent and robust response to these harmful activities.

Bournemouth

1. No officer resource has been in place for some time, and therefore very limited enforcement action has taken place during the last five years. Reports have invariably resulted with the Waste teams clearing items from the highways and public areas only. Fly-tipping reports have been pursued only if a public health issue was present, or the issue led to untidy site complaints. Action has been limited to engaging and enforcement against the owner of the land to clear.

This does not deter an offender and causes discontent with landowners feeling they are being punished for having been victims of a crime. While this is understandable, individuals are responsible for protecting their own buildings or land as much as possible and deterrent measures are discussed in all cases.

Christchurch

2. Reports were passed to Dorset Waste Partnership for investigation and clearance whether on public or private land. Between 2018 and 2019, Government Data illustrates that 212 incidents were logged, leading to 42 investigations and 3 fixed penalty notices.

Poole

3. Whilst a process existed within legacy Poole, it was not always possible to pursue investigations into all fly-tipping offences due to other statutory demands including public health matters, nuisance from noise, smoke, light and odour, hoarding, pests, drainage and accumulations of waste. Returns submitted to Government for 2018-19 illustrate 623 incidents were logged, resulting in 45 investigations. However, no fixed penalty notices were issued, or prosecutions undertaken.

Summary

4. The logging of fly-tipping reports varies across the legacy authorities and paints a confused picture as to the severity of the issue. In Bournemouth where reporting seems to reflect the most accurate picture, 50 fly-tip incidents were logged in 2019 and 130 for the year of 2020. A true picture of the scale of the issue across BCP is therefore difficult to establish and a benefit of a pilot scheme as recommended will ensure a more accurate picture is available when considering future service plans.
5. Fly-posting reports or incidents do not appear to have been captured accurately in any of the legacy authorities and no formal enforcement has taken place. Anecdotally, the area has seen increases and ward members and the wider community have become frustrated that no resource exists to enforce against perpetrators. The Events teams

often engage parties where they can be identified from the literature posted, to advise that this should not be happening but beyond that nothing else can currently proceed and this has seen little or no positive impact.