

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL FLY-TIPPING ACTION PLAN 2023-28

To create a clean, healthy, and safe environment for all members of our community by effectively reducing and preventing fly-tipping in our neighbourhoods.

Contents

Executive Summary	1
Our approach	2
Our Focus	3
Setting the scene	4
Objective 1: Reduce incidents of fly-tipping	10
Objective 2: Increase the number of people seeing fly-tipping as unacceptable	11
Objective 3: Increase the rate of successful prosecutions	13
Delivering our Action Plan	15
Appendix 1	16
Appendix 2	21

Executive Summary

Southampton City Council is dedicated to reducing fly-tipping offences across the city. This Fly-Tipping Action Plan collates all the council activity tackling fly-tipping in Southampton. The Action Plan is designed to allow the council to progress strategically when addressing fly-tipping in the future.

This document provides the basis of the council's response and outlines its approach. It highlights the current data on fly-tipping in Southampton, showing the key areas to be improved upon. It outlines the three key objectives that the council is setting out to achieve. These objectives are to:

1. Reduce incidents of fly-tipping.
2. Increase the number of people seeing fly-tipping as unacceptable.
3. Increase the rate of successful prosecutions.

To achieve each of these objectives, we have set out what we will do and how we will achieve this.

Appendix 1 builds upon the Fly-Tipping Action Plan, providing a more comprehensive understanding of all the activity that the council is carrying out to tackle fly-tipping. This records the status of each action, timescales, and the services within the council that are responsible for carrying out each activity.

Together, the Fly-Tipping Action Plan and the Activity Log set out the Council's proactive response to tackling fly-tipping for the next five years. These documents will be live. Therefore, the Council may amend or add to the plan, in line with our priorities and available funding.

Our approach

Fly-tipping is the top environmental challenge faced by many local authorities in this country. It is a crime, a nuisance and a hazard, with significant costs, both financial and environmental.

Southampton City Council is responsible for keeping streets and public land clear of litter and waste. The Council also has delegated authority to investigate and take enforcement action for small scale fly-tipping on public land. Larger scale dumping, hazardous waste and dumping by organised gangs is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Fly-tipping dumped on private land must usually be removed by the landowner at their own cost. Whilst clearance is an important function, the money spent on clearing could be better spent on other community services such as parks, healthcare and education. [Research conducted by Keep Britain Tidy](#) reveals that just clearing fly-tipping is not an effective strategy. It can actually make the situation worse, by appearing to minimise the impact fly-tipping actually has, and sets expectations for fly-tippers that dumped items will be cleared away quickly and without repercussion. This perpetuates the cycle of fly-tipping. Therefore, this action plan includes, education, engagement, and enforcement, as well as clearing fly-tips.

The council have identified three objectives for tackling fly-tipping:

1. Reduce incidents of fly-tipping.
2. Increase the number of people seeing fly-tipping as unacceptable.
3. Increase the rate of successful prosecutions.

Our approach to tackle fly-tipping is focused on three key areas:

- Prevention.
- Enforcement.
- Clearance.

Our Focus

1) Reduce incidents of fly-tipping

- a. Deliver an effective bulky waste collection service.
- b. Ensure bring sites and other waste drop off sites provide customer with effective alternative to Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)/Bulky collections.
- c. Improve access to the HWRC.
- d. Support Southampton's businesses to dispose of their waste lawfully.

2) Increase the number of people seeing fly-tipping as unacceptable

- a. Build an effective whole-system response to fly-tipping in Southampton by working with agencies across the city.
- b. Engage effectively with our customers and our communities to change attitudes and perceptions towards waste disposal.

3) Increase the rate of successful prosecutions

- a. Use legal powers most effectively to deal with fly-tipping offenders.
- b. Gather and use data more effectively to improve our service provision and our pursuit of offenders.

Setting the scene

What is fly-tipping?

Fly-tipping is the illegal deposit of waste. It can be liquid or solid, and dumped on land or in water. This could include large household appliances like washing machines, black sacks, or discarded materials from construction sites.

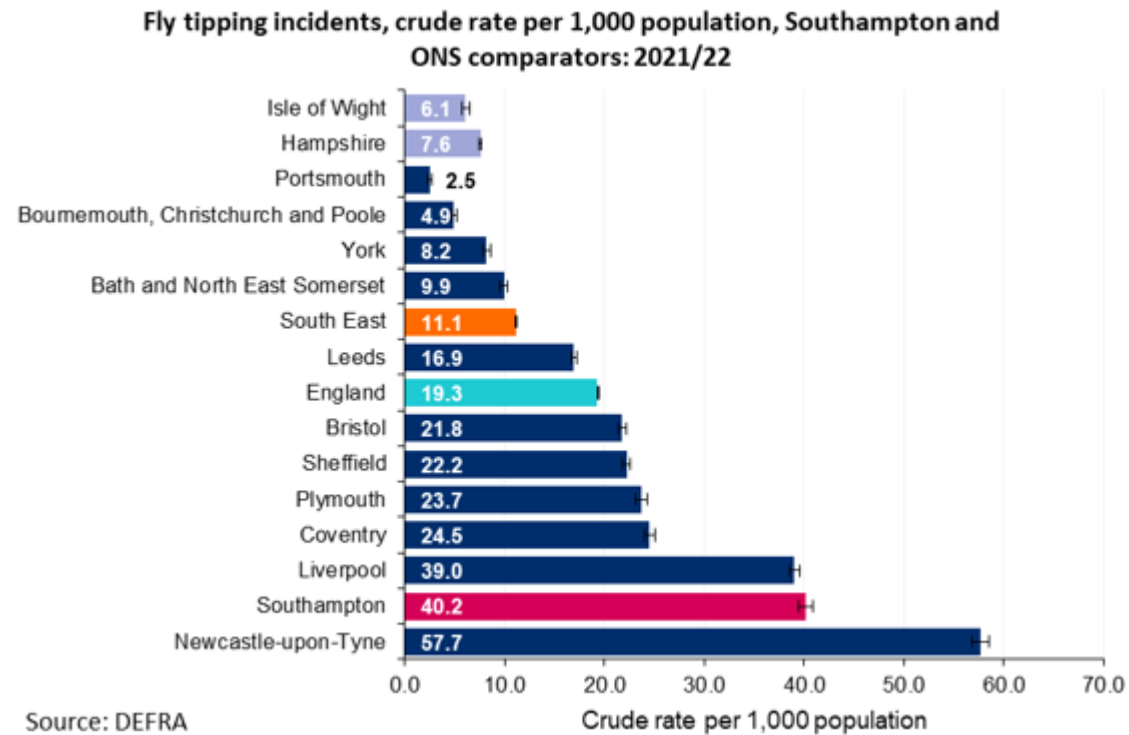
Fly-tipping can have significant negative impacts, such as:

- Contamination of soil and water: Fly-tipped waste can contain hazardous materials, such as chemicals and electronics, which can harm wildlife and pollute soil and water.
- Public Health risks: Fly-tipped waste can attract pests, such as rats and flies, which can carry diseases. It can also create a physical hazard for people. Discarded items, such as broken glass or sharp objects can cause injury.
- Air pollution: Waste that is illegally dumped can release harmful gases into the air, such as methane and carbon dioxide, which can contribute to air pollution and climate change.
- Degradation of natural habitats: Waste that is illegally dumped can harm natural habitats, such as forests and wetlands, by interfering with the growth and reproduction of plants and animals. This can lead to the loss of biodiversity and the destruction of valuable ecosystems.
- Damage to property: Waste that is illegally dumped can damage property, such as buildings, roads, and public spaces, and can make these areas unsightly and unsafe for residents and visitors.
- Financial impact on residents: Southampton City Council spends an estimated £420,000 per year on clearing and disposing of illegally dumped waste, which is paid for by the residents and businesses of the city through local taxation.
- Quality of life: Fly-tipping can negatively impact the quality of life in a community by creating an unsightly and potentially dangerous environment. It can also discourage people from using public spaces

Overall, fly-tipping can have a negative impact on the local environment, public health, and the quality of life in our communities. It is important that Southampton City Council takes steps to reduce and prevent fly-tipping in order to protect the environment and the health of our residents.

Local picture:

- The rate of fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people is significantly higher in Southampton (40.2 per 1,000 population) compared to England (19.3).
- There had been a sustained increase in fly tipping incidents in Southampton between 2014/15 and 2019/20, yet in 2020/21 Southampton saw a significant decrease; this was sustained in 2021/22 seeing no significant change compared to 2020/21.
- Cleaner streets/less litter/graffiti was among the top 10 responses on what would make people feel safer in Southampton (2022 Southampton Community Safety Survey).



Types of fly-tipped waste

- Household waste, especially in black bags, is the most frequently recorded fly-tipped waste over the last financial year (2021/22) which accounts for 39.7% (3,971) of all recorded incidents.
- Other household waste is second, accounting for 23.8% (2,379) of incidents, followed by commercial waste in black bags, accounting for 10.3% (1,029) of incidents.
- The dominant types of fly-tipped waste remain unchanged over the last 5 years, however, there has been a notable change in the proportion of waste classified as other household waste, with 23.8% classified as other household waste in 2021/22, compared to the 5-year average of 31%.

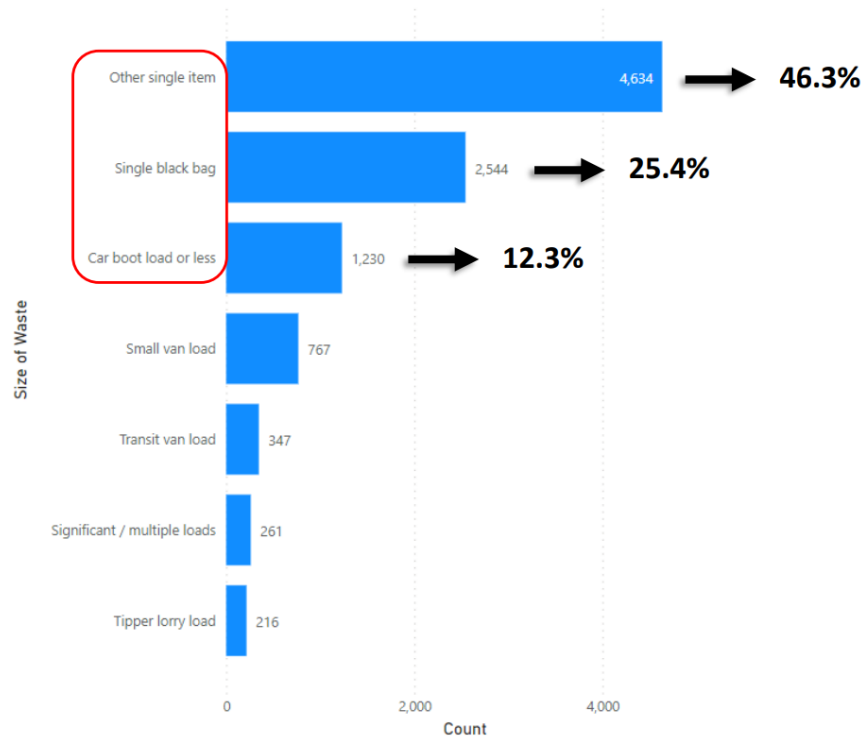
Types of land

- In the last financial year, fly-tipping on Footpath / Bridleway (35.3%, 3,531 incidents) was the most common type of land type category incident.
- This was closely followed by council land (34.1%, 3,408 incidents) and highway (29.4%, 2,941 incidents).
- This is a notable change compared to the five-year average, where highway (43.4%) was the dominant land type, followed by footpath / bridleway (30.1%) and council land (23.2%).
- However, despite changes in the percentages, the top 3 land types remain unchanged.

Size of waste

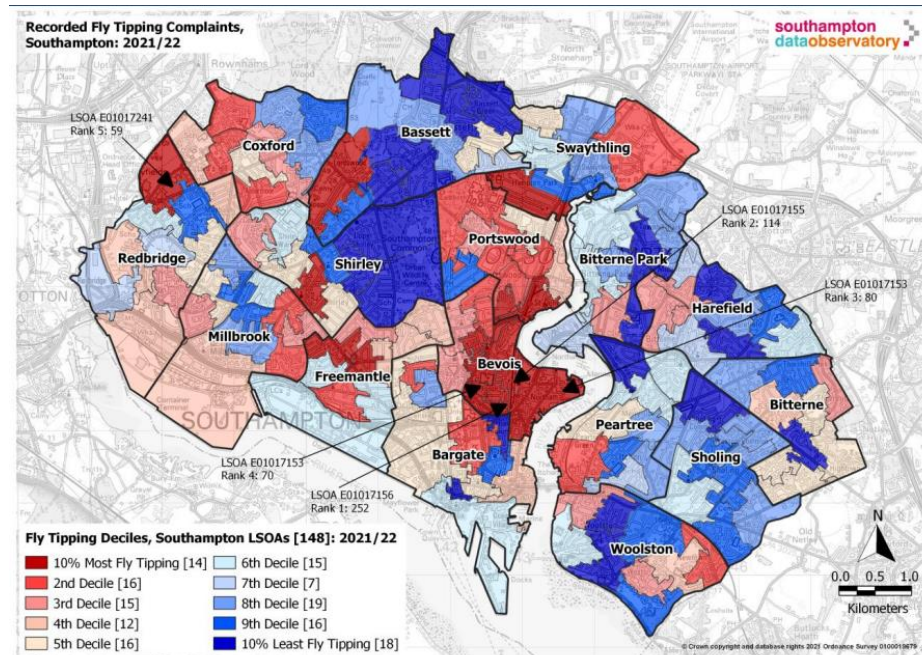
- 'Other single item' is the most common size of fly-tipping waste in 2021/22, followed by single black bag (25.4%, 2,544 incidents) and car boot load or less (12.3%, 1,230 incidents).
- The dominant types of fly-tipping waste sizes remain unchanged over the last 5 years, with large fly-tipping incidents remaining less frequent than small loads or individual objects.

Size of fly tipping Waste recorded by crews, Southampton: 2021/22



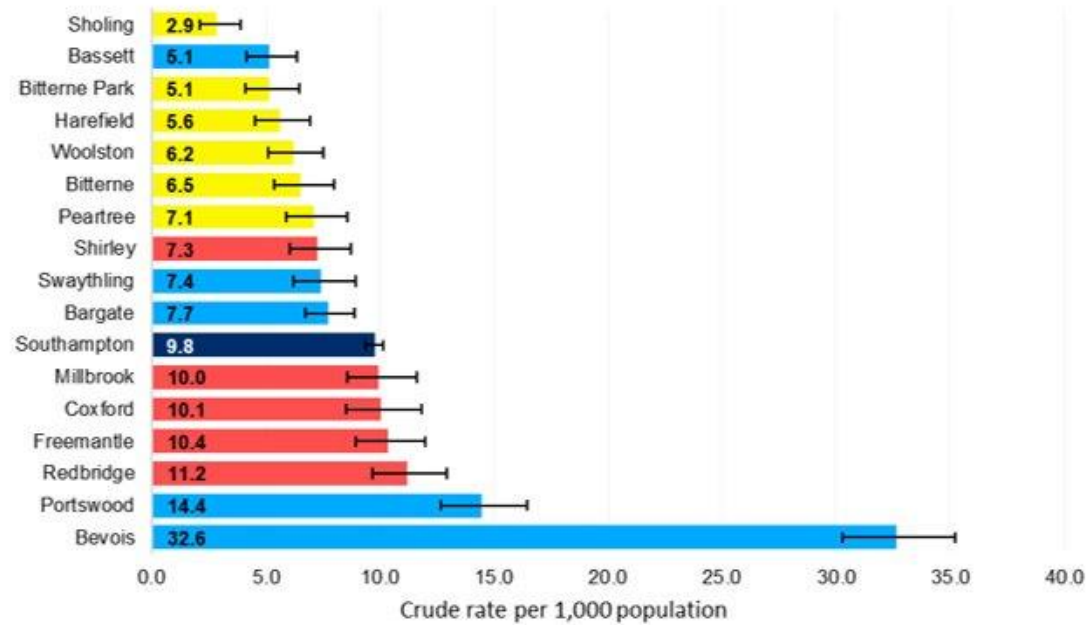
Ward statistics:

- Consistently there are significantly less fly- tipping complaints recorded in wards in the east of the city.
- In 2021/22, Bevois (32.6 per 1,000 persons) and Portswood (14.4 per 1,000 persons) had significantly higher rates of fly- tipping complaints than the city average (9.8 per 1,000 persons), both in the North and Central locality.



- Main hotspot of recorded fly-tipping complaints is in Bevois ward; particularly Northam, although the decile map above also highlights pockets with recorded higher volumes of fly-tipping complaints in a number of neighbourhoods across the city.
- The majority of fly-tipping complaints recorded are in industrial parts of Bevois (Northam), it could be possible that industrial locations are more vulnerable to fly-tipping or businesses in these areas are more likely to report fly-tipping to the council.
- There is a similar spatial distribution to previous financial years, but a greater density of complaints in Bevois for 2021/22.
- It is important to emphasise that complaints data only covers around a quarter of fly-tipping incidents reported by crews, therefore does not provide a complete picture of the spatial distribution of fly-tipping in the city.

Recorded fly tipping complaints, crude rate per 1,000 population, Southampton wards: 2021/22



Source: SCC Customer Services - Fly Tipping Complaints & HCC SAPF

Objective 1: Reduce incidents of fly-tipping

The council is aware of the severity of the harm that fly-tipping causes to our communities, both locally and nationally. For the 2021/22 year, local authorities in England dealt with **1.09 million fly-tipping incidents**, a decrease of 4% from the 1.14 million reported in 2020/21.

In Southampton, 9,999 incidences of fly-tipping were recorded in the year of 2021/22. Most of the fly-tipping incidences resulted from household waste such as black bags or other household items (5,000 incidences). This is consistent with [Keep Britain Tidy's findings](#) that almost two-thirds of all recorded fly-tips are made up of household waste. This indicates the need promote and improve some of the services that the council provides to support residents in disposing of their waste.

The Household Waste and Fly-tipping Policy consultation indicated that some residents have experienced some barriers to using both the bulky waste collection service and Southampton's HWRC. Consequently, the action plan seeks to address these issues by delivering an effective bulky waste collection service, and to improve access to HRWCs.

The council understands that reducing incidents of fly-tipping requires a consistent and joined-up approach. By working to achieve each action within this section of the plan, the council believes that we can strive to reduce fly-tipping across the city.

<u>What we will do</u>	<u>How we will achieve this</u>
<u>Deliver an effective bulky waste collection service</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Housing Operations to clear bulky waste from SCC housing. • Promote the bulky waste collection service. • Review and make improvements to the bulky waste collection service. • Promote bulky waste collection to landlords/property management. • Promote the council's bulky waste collection service within cost-of-living comms.
<u>Ensure bring sites and other waste drop off sites provide customer with effective alternative to HWRC/Bulky collections</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and re-distribute bring banks across the city (if necessary). • Explore options for mobile household recycling centres. • Partner with charities and re-use markets.
<u>Improve access to the HWRC.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the barriers for use (survey).
<u>Support Southampton's businesses to dispose of their waste lawfully.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the Council's commercial waste service. • Engage with and educate businesses to ensure they comply with Duty of Care regulations.

Objective 2: Increase the number of people seeing fly-tipping as unacceptable

The organisation [Keep Britain Tidy has conducted research](#) that indicates that many people perceive fly-tipping to be low impact. Therefore, it is important that the council addresses the perception of fly-tipping within Southampton.

The recent Fly-tipping Survey issued to the People’s Panel from the 13th to the 22nd of December, identified one third of respondents were not aware of the requirement to check the waste collection licences of those they allow to collect their waste.

It also highlighted some barriers that some residents experience in supporting the council to tackle fly-tipping. 43% of respondents who witnessed fly-tipping but did not report it were unsure of how to report cases. Additionally, 16% said that reporting made no difference whilst 13% noted that the case was not serious enough to report. In this action plan we have made a commitment to ensure the website is intuitive and easy to use, to make reporting fly-tipping as easier for residents.

The Fly-tipping Survey equally identified that some residents were not aware of the services that the council provides which could help to reduce incidences of fly-tipping. 13% of respondents were unaware of the bulky waste collection service, 21% were unaware of the ability to request a larger bin size, whilst 21% were unaware of the fly-tipping reporting tool.

The fly-tipping action plan aims to address these issues by engaging effectively with customers and communities.

<u>What we will do</u>	<u>How we will achieve this</u>
<u>Build an effective whole-system response to fly-tipping in Southampton by working with agencies across the city.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to collaborate with external stakeholders across Hampshire on the issue of fly-tipping.
<u>Engage effectively with our customers and our communities to change attitudes and perceptions towards waste disposal.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey residents and businesses to understand the reasons/enablers fly-tipping occurs. • Deliver the Communications strategy which includes engagement in different languages. • Use Safer Neighbourhoods Funds for targeted communication. By raising awareness about the environmental and health impacts of fly-tipping, and by providing information on how to dispose of waste properly, the Council can help to change attitudes and behaviours around waste management. • Ensure website is intuitive and easy to use. Undertake website improvements such as adding a tick box on the report fly-tipping website to ask residents if they want fly-tipping they report to be investigated.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to monitor volumes of fly-tipping across the city and report to the relevant cabinet member on a monthly basis.• Support community initiatives to clean up neighbourhoods.• Promote positive social attitudes through our schools activities where possible, and explore how we can promote the ECO schools programme to schools across Southampton.• Continue to communicate with all landlords to confirm their waste management responsibilities.• Learn from partners and peers and explore innovative ideas.• Host 'Love Where You Live' events in areas of deprivation, delivered with local communities, focused on addressing local needs.• Establish task and finish groups to address fly-tipping in specific areas across the city where fly-tipping is problematic.
--	--

Objective 3: Increase the rate of successful prosecutions

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, householders whose waste is found to be fly-tipped, or who are caught fly-tipping could receive a fixed penalty notice of up to £400. The Fly-tipping Enforcement team will use the full scope of their enforcement powers where possible, appropriate and necessary. This can result in the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), the seizing of vehicles and prosecution. For serious or persistent offences, penalties can be issued by the courts.

Due to the damage that fly-tipping causes to Southampton’s neighbourhoods, the council is determined to increase the rate of successful enforcement activity. In 2022, the council’s Fly-tipping Enforcement team completed 553 enforcement actions. This ranges from using community resolutions, issuing warnings, FPNs and court proceedings to tackle fly-tipping offences. By imposing fines and other penalties on individuals and organisations that engage in fly-tipping, the council aims to deter this behaviour and send a clear message that it will not be tolerated in Southampton.

This action plan includes a number of measures to help increase the rate of successful prosecutions, such as showcasing investigations and enforcement action and increasing the use of CCTV across the city.

<u>What we will do</u>	<u>How we will achieve this</u>
<p><u>Use our powers effectively to reduce fly-tipping</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overt monitoring using mobile CCTV in hotspots. • Map fly-tipping hotspots and anti-social behaviour hotspots against CCTV coverage once more robust data is available from crews. • UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be used to fund five CCTV cameras in large scale fly-tipping areas across the city that are not currently monitored. • Showcase investigations and enforcement activity on the street using social media and local press, naming and shaming offenders where appropriate. • Carry out checks with businesses to ensure they are complying with duty of care. • Target unlicensed waste carriers in collaboration with the police through operations such as Operation Wolf. • The Council’s Planning team impose planning conditions on new HMOs to ensure off-street refuse is provided. • The Fly-tipping Enforcement team will use the full scope of their enforcement powers where possible, appropriate and necessary. This can result in the issuing of FPNs, the seizing of vehicles and prosecution. • Explore hardening measures in different locations across the city. • Use any revenue gained from fly-tipping Fixed-Penalty Notices (FPNs) to support further enforcement activity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply for relevant funding opportunities to bolster the Council's ability to respond to fly-tipping• Improve our fly-tipping processes to reduce the amount of time it takes to clear fly-tipping off relevant council land
--	--

Delivering our Action Plan

This action plan sets out a series of top-level objectives to achieve the objectives of reducing fly-tipping, increase in the number of people seeing fly-tipping as unacceptable and an increased rate of successful prosecutions.

It will be accompanied by a detailed action plan that identifies the key tasks and actions necessary to achieve these objectives over the life of the action plan.

Southampton City Council will monitor a range of indicators that will be available on our [data observatory](#). This data and other analysis will be used to monitor progress and inform the ongoing development of actions to achieve the strategic objectives.

The following topics are examples of where we will use data to monitor and understand the city's position (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Number of fly-tipping incidents.
- Where these incidents are occurring.
- What types of items are most commonly fly-tipped.
- The size of fly-tipped loads.

Appendix 1

Fly-tipping Activity Log 2022-27

Reference	What we will do	Action	Status	Date/Time Frame	Team Responsible
FT01a	Deliver an effective bulky waste collection service	Work with Housing Operations to clear bulky waste from SCC housing	In progress	2022 -ongoing	City Services
FT01b		Promote the bulky waste collection service.	Not started	TBC	Commercial Comms
FT01c		Review and make improvements to the bulky waste collection service.	Not started	2024-25	City Services
FT01d		Promote bulky waste collection to landlords/property management.	Not started	TBC	Commercial Comms
FT01e		Promote the council's bulky waste collection service within cost-of-living comms.	Not started	TBC	Stronger Communities
FT02a	Ensure bring sites and other waste drop off sites provide customer with effective alternative to HWRC/Bulky collections	Review and re-distribute bring banks across the city (if necessary).	In progress	TBC	Data team and City Services
FT02b		Explore options for mobile household recycling centres.	Not started	2024-25	City Services
FT02c		Partner with charities and re-use markets.	TBC	TBC	City Services
FT03a	Remove barriers to accessing HWRC.	Understand the barriers for use (survey).	In progress	December 2022	Data team
FT04a	Support Southampton's businesses to dispose of their waste lawfully	Promote the Council's commercial waste service.	In progress	March 2024	City Services

Reference	What we will do	Action	Status	Date/Time Frame	Team Responsible
FT04b	Support Southampton's businesses to dispose of their waste lawfully	Engage with and educate businesses to ensure they comply with Duty of Care regulations.	In Progress	Ongoing	Fly-tipping Enforcement /Environmental Health Commerical
FT05b	Build an effective whole-system response to fly-tipping in Southampton by working with agencies across the city.	Continue to collaborate with external stakeholders across Hampshire on the issue of fly-tipping.	In progress	Ongoing	Fly-tipping Enforcement Team
FT06a	Engage effectively with our customers and our communities to change attitudes and perceptions towards waste disposal	Survey residents and businesses to understand the reasons/enablers fly- tipping occurs.	In progress	December 2022	Data Team
FT06b		Deliver the Communications strategy which includes engagement in different languages.	In progress	2022 - 23	Comms and Stronger Communities
FT06c		Use Safer Neighbourhoods Funds for targeted communication. By raising awareness about the environmental and health impacts of fly-tipping, and by providing information on how to dispose of waste properly, the Council can help to change attitudes and behaviours around waste management.	In progress	2023- 24	Comms and Stronger Communities
FT06d		Ensure website is intuitive and easy to use. Undertake website improvements such as adding a tick box on the report fly-tipping website to ask residents if they want fly-tipping they report to be investigated.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Comms and Stronger Communities

Reference	What we will do	Action	Status	Date/Time Frame	Team Responsible
FT06h	Engage effectively with our customers and our communities to change attitudes and perceptions towards waste disposal	Continue to monitor volumes of fly-tipping across the city and report to the relevant cabinet member on a monthly basis.	In progress	Ongoing	Data Team
FT06i		Support community initiatives to clean up neighbourhoods.	In progress	Ongoing	City Services and Stronger Communities
FT06j		Promote positive social attitudes through our schools activities where possible, and explore how we can promote the ECO schools programme to schools across Southampton.	In progress	Ongoing	Green City and Education
FT06k		Continue to communicate with all landlords to confirm their waste management responsibilities.	In progress	Ongoing	City Services
FT06l		Learn from partners and peers and explore innovative ideas.	Not started	2024-25	City Services
FT06m		Host 'Love Where You Live' events in areas of deprivation, delivered with local communities, focused on addressing local needs.	In progress	Ongoing	Stronger Communities
FT06n		Establish task and finish groups to address fly-tipping in specific areas across the city where fly-tipping is problematic	In progress	Ongoing	City Services and Stronger Communities
FT07a		Use our powers effectively to reduce fly-tipping	Overt monitoring using mobile CCTV in hotspots.	In progress	Ongoing
FT07b	Map fly-tipping hotspots and anti-social behaviour hotspots against CCTV coverage once more robust data is available from crews.		Not started	TBC	Data Team

Reference	What we will do	Action	Status	Date/Time Frame	Team Responsible
FT07c	Use our powers effectively to reduce fly-tipping	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will be used to fund five CCTV cameras in large scale fly-tipping areas across the city that are not currently monitored.	In progress	Begins March 2023	Fly-tipping Enforcement Team
FT07d		Showcase investigations and enforcement activity on the street using social media and local press, naming and shaming offenders where appropriate.	In Progress	Ongoing	Comms and Fly-tipping Enforcement Team
FT07e		Carry out checks with businesses to ensure they are complying with duty of care.	In progress	Ongoing	Fly-tipping Enforcement Team
FT07f		Target unlicensed waste carriers in collaboration with the police through operations such as Operation Wolf.	Developing	Ongoing	Fly-tipping Enforcement Team
FT07g		The Council's Planning team impose planning conditions on new HMOs to ensure off-street refuse is provided.	In progress	Ongoing	Planning
FT07h		The Fly-tipping Enforcement team will use the full scope of their enforcement powers where possible, appropriate and necessary. This can result in the issuing of FPNs, the seizing of vehicles and prosecution.	In progress	Ongoing	Fly-tipping Enforcement Team
FT07i		Explore hardening measures in different locations across the city.	Developing	February 2023	All
FT07j		Use any revenue gained from fly-tipping Fixed-Penalty Notices (FPNs) to support further enforcement activity.	In progress	Ongoing	Fly-tipping Enforcement Team
FT07k		Apply for relevant funding opportunities to bolster the Council's ability to respond to fly-tipping	In progress	Ongoing	City Services and Fly-tipping enforcement team

FT07L		Improve our fly-tipping processes to reduce the amount of time it takes to clear fly-tipping off relevant council land	In progress	Ongoing	All
--------------	--	--	-------------	---------	-----

Appendix 2

Fly-tipping Survey results attached in a separate document