

## DWP Joint Committee Meeting 23 March 2017

### Item 11: Questions from Councillors

#### **Questions received from Cllr Phipps on 15 March 2017:**

#### **How many fly tipping incidents have been reported in the DWP area so far this financial year and how much has it cost to clear them up?**

From April 16 until the end of February 17 there have been 2349 fly tips reported (January and February data for Purbeck yet to be verified).

The total estimated clearance and disposal costs of these fly tips, based on the size of each incident, is £126,787\*.

#### **How many of these were in the Christchurch area and what was the cost of clearance in Christchurch?**

233 of these incidents were reported to the Christchurch Depot. The estimated cost of clearance and disposal of these 233 incidents was £11,611\*.

#### **Has the number of fly tips increased since we introduced charges at our HRCs and has there been an increase in fly tips containing the materials for which we now charge?**

When looking at total number of fly tips for this year compared to last year the DWP has not seen an increase in number that can be linked to the introduction of charges at our HRC's. What we have experienced however, is an increase in flytipping generally when compared to previous years, but no spikes in number of incidents from September that is any higher than the background increase in fly tipping.

We do not have data for all the specific material types. The only data we have in relation to items we now charge for is asbestos, as we use a private contractor to collect this material. In July 2016 the DWP saw the highest number of fly tipping asbestos incidents recorded to date (15). Since the introduction of charges, the number of asbestos fly tips has decreased from 8 in September to 3 in January.

This data set is so small in relation to the total number of fly tips it is not a representative sample, nonetheless it doesn't show any links to the introduction of charges at the HRCs.

#### **How much is the DWP saving by the introduction of charges at HRCs, and how does this compare with the cost of clearing the additional fly tips?**

The DWP is saving £250k a year from the introduction of charges at HRC's. This financial year (7 months of charging, less a one-off set up cost of 25K) there was a saving in the budget of £145k. The total estimated cost of fly tipping this financial year from April to the end of February was £126,787\*.

Last calendar year (2016) the cost of fly tipping was estimated to be £130,813\*. This year we predict the annual cost to be around £150k.

In 2015, the estimated cost of fly tipping was higher than in 2016 at £140,115\* even though the incidents were lower, this is because the cost of clearing and disposing of

fly tips relates to the size of them, so in 2015 there were fewer incidents in total but they were larger in size.

**Where is the cost of clearing fly tips shown within DWP budgets reported to the Joint Committee?**

Fly tipping is not separated in the budget. This is because most fly tips are collected on street cleansing vehicles, so the tonnage collected isn't separated out. This tonnage is included in the disposal budget and similarly the staffing costs in relation to fly tipping are included in the operations staffing budget.

All of the figures reported around the costs of fly tipping, in these answers and in the media, are estimated costs from WasteDataFlow (a web-based system for all Local Authorities from all UK regions to enter data relating to waste arisings)

**What is DWP doing to counter fly tipping?**

The DWP has 2 enforcement officers. In the new financial year we will be conducting a review of enforcement which will include looking at the level of resource we have, any possible use of contractors and reviewing our enforcement procedures.

The aim of the review is to enable the DWP to be more proactive in tackling fly tipping and littering, so we can explore the potential use of CCTV cameras in hotspot locations for example.

The DWP's education and communication teams also play a role in making residents aware of their legal duty of care in relation to waste, which in turn should reduce the number of flytipping incidents.

Furthermore, the DWP has been instrumental in setting up the Litter Free Dorset (LFD) Project. LFD is an umbrella for a broad range of stakeholders involved in litter prevention, providing an independent network and mechanism for partnership working on littering issues where new and existing resources can be coordinated for greater impact. Although LFD is focused on littering, there are many similarities in messaging around fly tipping and littering. Therefore this project will further aid the quest of countering flytipping.

***\* Source of data is WasteDataFlow. The estimated clearance and disposal costs are estimated by the size of the fly tip.***