

July 2024 – May 2025

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Contents

Chair's Foreword.....	3
1. Introduction.....	4
2. Recommendations.....	6
3. Scope of the review	15
4. Methodology	17
5. Analysis of evidence and key findings	19
5.1 Understand what Environmental Despoilment involves, the Council's statutory duty and enforcement powers and policies available to the Council.....	19
5.2 Analysis of the Current Data on Incidents of Environmental Despoilment Across the District.....	24
5.3 Review the current arrangements undertaken by Streetscene Services and Environmental Health to reduce or prevent Environmental Despoilment.....	31
5.4 Improve public information/education on environmental despoilment.	40
5.5 Identify benchmarking opportunities and areas for improvement; ensure there is a clear strategy of enforcement action to improve the quality of the environment across the District.	44
6. Conclusions	48
Appendix 1: Stakeholders	49
Appendix 2: Fly-Tipping Site, Bolsover District.....	50
Appendix 3: Fly Tipping Sign In Use	51
Appendix 4: Bibliography.....	52

Chair's Foreword

As Chair of Customer Service Scrutiny, I present this report as a summary of our research and recommendations for improvement.

This review was taken forward due to concerns about environmental despoilment in Bolsover District, including fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling. These issues not only pose risks to public health and the environment but also undermine the District's aesthetics and the Council's corporate goals for a cleaner, safer community. The review seeks to assess the effectiveness of current enforcement and education strategies, with the aim of improving the District's cleanliness and public perception.

It is important to note that, although this review initially sought to evaluate the issues of fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling, the focus has shifted predominantly to fly-tipping as the review has progressed. The evidence and data collected indicated that fly-tipping presents a more urgent issue, necessitating a more concentrated effort to address its prevalence and impact across the District.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director of Strategic Services and the Assistant Director (Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement) for their guidance and expertise throughout this review; the Community Safety and Enforcement manager and his team for their commitment and contribution towards this review; the Team Manager (Environmental Enforcement) and Service Manager (Environmental Health) for their contributions; the Scrutiny Committee for their excellent contribution; and our Scrutiny Officer and Governance Officers who have consistently worked effectively throughout the process of this review.

Cllr Ashley Taylor
Chair of the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee

1. Introduction

The Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee initiated this review to assess the effectiveness of Bolsover District Council's approach to addressing environmental despoilment, with a primary focus on fly-tipping. These issues not only degrade the aesthetic value of the District but also pose significant risks to public health, safety, and local biodiversity.

Environmental despoilment has increasingly become a focal point in national policy, with the UK Government and environmental organisations highlighting the need for stronger action to reduce waste crime and promote cleaner, healthier environments. Councils dealt with a record 1.15 million incidents of fly-tipping last year, an increase of 6 per cent on the year before. Councillor Adam Hug, LGA environment spokesperson, has pointed out that penalties from prosecution fail to match the severity of the offences committed. He stated: "We continue to urge the Government to review sentencing guidelines for fly-tipping so that offenders are given bigger fines for more serious offences to act as a deterrent." National initiatives, such as the mandatory digital waste tracking system set to launch in April 2025, aim to increase transparency and accountability in waste management, with the goal of reducing fly-tipping and enhancing enforcement against waste crime across the country.

In May 2025, the Environment Secretary announced further measures to tackle waste crime, including a review of local authority vehicle seizure powers to better support councils in dealing with fly-tipping. Reforms to the waste carriers, brokers and dealers regime, as well as tighter controls on waste permit exemptions, will provide councils and the Environment Agency with stronger tools to crack down on illegal waste activity. These national developments present new opportunities for Bolsover District Council to enhance enforcement and reduce environmental despoilment.

Local authorities are encouraged to adopt stronger enforcement measures and public education campaigns to tackle littering and other forms of environmental despoilment. This aligns with the Government's broader sustainability goals, as well as the Environment Act 2021, which sets clear targets for waste reduction, biodiversity enhancement, and pollution control. This review provides an opportunity for Bolsover District Council to evaluate its practices in light of these national objectives and explore how it can contribute to the UK's environmental targets, particularly in terms of waste reduction and improving public spaces.

At the local level, Bolsover District faces unique challenges. Despite its natural beauty and rich heritage, the District has struggled with persistent environmental despoilment, especially when compared to neighbouring councils. This issue has significant implications for the well-being of local communities, impacting both the physical environment and public perceptions of the area. The prevalence of environmental despoilment not only undermines residents' quality of life but also detracts from the District's appeal to visitors and potential investors. Furthermore, environmental despoilment in shared public spaces can harm wildlife, pose hazards to public health, and incur high costs for clean-up efforts.

Given these concerns, this review will examine the Council's statutory duties and enforcement powers relating to environmental despoilment. It will explore the current tools available for addressing these issues—such as Fixed Penalty Notices, Public Space Protection Orders, and community education programmes—and assess their effectiveness in tackling waste crime and encouraging responsible behaviour.

The review will also highlight best practices from other local authorities, aiming to identify opportunities for improvement and make recommendations for a more proactive, preventative approach to managing environmental despoilment in Bolsover. This is a critical issue for the Council, as it aligns with both local priorities—such as creating safer, cleaner neighbourhoods—and national objectives focused on waste reduction and environmental sustainability. By adopting a forward-thinking approach, Bolsover District Council can contribute to the broader goal of achieving a cleaner, healthier environment while enhancing the quality of life for all those who live in and visit the District.

This review will further ensure the Council is excellent and keeping the District clean, rather than being excellent and cleaning the District.

2. Recommendations

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response
CCCSC 24-25 2.1	That the Council undertakes a piece of work, led by the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, to explore alternative ways of working to improve the level and effectiveness of environmental enforcement activity across Bolsover District	Identify and implement more effective enforcement methods that lead to increased compliance and reduced environmental despoilment across the District.	Dec 2026 (18 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement	Staff resources	The Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community has already begun work on this project.
CCCSC 24-25 2.2	That the Council targets fly-tipping hotspots (such as top 5 most frequently visited from 2023/24 including Outgang Lane in Pleasley, Wood Lane in	To reduce fly-tipping and deter offenders in these areas.	June 2026 (12 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with all three teams	Staff resources Potentially additional Funding	Collaborative proactive effort with the Community Safety Team and the Environmental Health. Key focus on sharing intelligence between

	Shirebrook, and Talbot Street in Pinxton), through targeted patrols and installation of surveillance cameras where appropriate.			(Environmental Health, Community Safety and Streetscene).		<p>departments and partners.</p> <p>The Assistant Director will look to set up operational task and finish groups to look at certain areas (made up of members of different departments). To focus on what to do and who will play each part to improve ongoing issues - holding certain services to account for issues.</p>
CCCSC 24-25 2.3	That the Council prioritise completing the installation of the 15 metal signs and place additional signage in high-risk areas (such Outgang Lane in Pleasley, Wood Lane in Shirebrook, and Talbot Street in Pinxton) in lay-bys and secluded spots.	To deter and reduce rates of fly-tipping, increase awareness and encourage responsible behaviour.	June 2026 (12 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement.	Staff Resources Potentially additional Funding	Assistant Director: the deployment of the signs can be decided by the Task and Finish group referenced in service response of recommendation 2.2.

CCCSC 24-25 2.4	That the Council explores options for CCTV surveillance in fly-tipping hotspots.	To reduce fly-tipping and to catch and deter offenders.	Dec 2026 (18 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with all three teams (Environmental Health, Community Safety and Streetscene).	Staff resources Potentially additional funding	Env Health Team agree that CCTV options should be explored. Community Safety Team will work in collaboration to provide any support needed. Assistant Director: where incidents are caught on CCTV – the Council will consider potentially advertising the footage on social media to assist in identifying unknown offenders (where appropriate).
CCCSC 24-25 2.5	That the Council reintroduces regular quarterly meetings of the Corporate Enforcement Group (Streetscene, the Enforcement Team and Environmental Health).	To improve coordination, communication, and problem-solving between the departments to better address fly-tipping through shared insights and enhanced enforcement.	Dec 2025 (6 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with all three teams (Environmental Health, Community	Staff resources	Key to focus on aligning efforts, sharing insights on fly-tipping trends and enhancing evidence gathering and enforcement. Env health Team agree meetings should be revived.

				Safety and Streetscene).		<p>Community Safety Team agree meetings should be revived.</p> <p>Assistant Director: the regeneration of these meetings is now in progress from early 2025 following appointment of new AD. Meetings of the Corporate Enforcement Group is chaired by the new AD.</p>
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CCCSC 24-25 2.6	That the Council develops a clear process for evidence collection for fly-tipping sites that ensures evidence is properly managed.	To ensure the effective management and processing of evidence for fly-tipping incidents and increase the number of offenders caught.	June 2026 (12 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with Streetscene and Community Safety team.	Staff resources	Focus on ensuring the effective processing of evidence gathered by the Streetscene team and preventing delays or lost documentation. Assistant Director – a clear process will be developed, and training will be provided in house.
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CCCSC 24-25 2.7	That the Council organises joint training sessions for the Enforcement team, Streetscene workers and Environmental Health that focuses on improving understanding of each team's roles; as well as bi-annual training for evidence collection, ensuring there is a specific process for collecting physical evidence.	Enhance mutual understanding of each team's roles ensuring smoother collaboration and more effective handling of fly-tipping incidents.	June 2026 (12 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with all three teams (Environmental Health, Community Safety and Streetscene).	Staff resources	Env Health agree this would be beneficial to the collaborative effort Enforcement team agreed to assist in training for Streetscene on evidence collection/clean up processes. Assistant Director – training will be provided in house for evidence collection.
CCCSC 24-25 2.8	That the Council delivers public awareness campaigns to educate residents about the risks of hiring unlicensed waste collectors and provides clear, accessible guidance	To raise awareness among residents about the risks of hiring unlicensed waste collectors to reduce illegal fly-tipping and promote	June 2026 (12 months)	Team Manager (Environmental Enforcement) Communications Manager	Staff resources	Env Health agree this would be beneficial to the collaborative effort and will provide Comms with the appropriate educational material.

	on how to verify waste carrier licences.	responsible waste disposal practices.				
CCCSC 24-25 2.9	That the Council enhance public information on fly-tipping and littering by regularly featuring updates on enforcement actions and responsible bulky waste removal options through existing communication channels and the newly established social media platforms, including the Bolsover District Council Facebook page.	To increase awareness of the negative impact of fly-tipping and improve education on the correct and responsible methods of removing bulky waste as well as making the public aware of the legal repercussions and enforcement powers of the Council.	June 2026 (12 months)	Team Manager (Environmental Enforcement) Communications Manager	Staff resources	<p>The Council can implement comprehensive education and awareness campaigns to inform the public about the environmental harm and legal consequences of fly-tipping, while encouraging community involvement and promoting responsible waste removal practices.</p> <p>Env Health Team will continue to provide comms with info and education material.</p> <p>The Assistant Director stated that this is what the Council is hoping to achieve.</p>
CCCSC 24-25 2.10	That the Council enhance transparency by publishing meaningful data and	To improve transparency and inform future enforcement and cleanup efforts	June 2026 (12 months)	Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community	Staff Resources	Env Health agree this would be beneficial and can provide the Comms team with the data.

	information on fly-tipping activities on the website and through social media, that demonstrate what the Council is doing to tackle environmental despoilment.	while also benchmarking against other local councils' practices.		Safety and Enforcement, In collaboration with: Team Manager (Environmental Enforcement) Communications Manager		AD response – Agrees with the benefit of this. This should focus on the work that the Council does to improve fly tipping and data that people are actually interested in: how many sites have been cleared annually etc. Publishing the outcomes of serious offences – meaningful posts from the Council.
CCCSC 24-25 2.11	That the Council provide advice on how to handle hazardous items such as needles and syringes, ensuring residents are informed on the safe disposal of such materials and the risks associated with handling them improperly.	To ensure residents are informed about the safe disposal of hazardous items to promote safety and prevent harm while also benchmarking against other local councils' practices.	June 2026 (12 months)	Team Manager (Environmental Enforcement) Communications Manager	Staff Resources	Env Health agree this would be beneficial to the collaborative effort and will provide the Comms team with the appropriate guidance to publish.

3. Scope of the review

The Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review of the Council's approach to environmental despoilment education and enforcement, as part of the 2024-25 Work Programme.

The issue was initially raised due to concerns about environmental despoilment in Bolsover District, including fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling. These issues not only pose risks to public health and the environment but also undermine the District's aesthetics and the Council's corporate goals for a cleaner, safer community. The review seeks to assess the effectiveness of current enforcement and education strategies, with the aim of improving the District's cleanliness and public perception.

The scrutiny review supports the Corporate Ambition of 'Environment' and 'Customers'. The review also supports the Council's Priorities of: 'Reducing our carbon footprint whilst supporting and encouraging residents and businesses to do the same'; 'Enhancing biodiversity across the District'; 'Working with stakeholders, regional and local partnerships to deliver shared strategies and priorities that support the local environment'; and 'Ensuring all areas, neighbourhoods and streets in the District, irrespective of housing tenure or type, are places where people want to live, feel safe and are proud to live'.

The review supports the Council's Target **ENV.06** – 'Reduce fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people in Bolsover District over the plan period' as well as the KPI goals **SS 01** – 'Remove 95% of hazardous Fly Tipping within 24 hours of being reported Quarterly)' and **SS 02** – 'Remove 95% of non-hazardous Fly Tipping within 5 working days of being reported (Quarterly)'.

The aims of the review were:

- That the Council reduces fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling to improve the aesthetical value of Bolsover District, to protect local wildlife and to reduce the cost of dealing with the unauthorised illegal depositing of waste by assessing the service's effectiveness in tackling environmental despoilment.
- That the Council becomes an excellent authority at 'keeping the District clean' rather than 'cleaning the District'.

The objectives agreed were:

1. Understand what Environmental Despoilment involves (fly tipping, littering and dog fouling), the Council's statutory duty and enforcement powers, and policies available to the Council.
2. Analyse the current data of incidents of environmental despoilment across the District.
3. Review the current arrangements undertaken by the Enforcement Team, Streetscene Services and Environmental Health to reduce or prevent Environmental Despoilment.

4. Improve public information/education on environmental despoilment.
5. Identify benchmarking opportunities and areas for improvement; ensure there is a clear strategy of enforcement action to improve the quality of the environment across the District.

The key issues identified for investigation included:

- Enforcement powers of the Council
- Types of land covered by the Council's statutory duties (Agricultural, Back Alley, Commercial/Industrial, Council, Footpath/Bridleway, Highway, Private Land, Railway, Watercourse)
- Public information and education
- Dog Fouling
- Fly Tipping
- Litter

The Committee comprised the following Members:

Councillor A Taylor (Chair)
Councillor M. Hinman
Councillor C. Jeffery

Councillor C. Tite (Vice-Chair)
Councillor E. Stevenson
Councillor C. Wood

Previous Members of the Committee who engaged with this review include Councillor R. Hiney-Saunders (Former Chair of the Committee)

Support to the Committee was provided by the Scrutiny Officer, Thomas Dunne-Wragg

4. Methodology

The Committee met on five occasions to consider the scope of the review, discuss key issues and potential recommendations, and review the evidence gathered.

The Committee adopted a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to gather evidence, utilising both qualitative and quantitative methods:

- **Document review:** A detailed analysis of key documents, including the Corporate Enforcement Policy, Environmental Health Service Reports, and service performance data, to assess current practices and effectiveness.
- **Informal presentations/briefings:** Engagement with stakeholders, such as the Enforcement Team, Environmental Health Services, the Strategic Director of Services, the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, and the Community Safety and Enforcement Team, to gather insights into operational challenges and the effectiveness of existing strategies.
- **Desktop research:** Conducting research on best practices through benchmarking with other local authorities to identify successful strategies and potential improvements.
- **Stakeholder consultation:** Collecting feedback from key stakeholders, including local authorities, the Portfolio Holder for Environment, and enforcement officers, to gain a deeper understanding of community needs and priorities.

This approach enabled the Committee to gather a broad range of evidence and perspectives to inform the review process.

A site visit took place by the former Chair of the Committee (before Council's political reshuffle in March 2025) and the Scrutiny Officer to fly-tipping hotspots with the Rangers and Enforcement Team to observe the impact of environmental despoilment and enforcement actions in real-time. Photographic evidence of fly tipping sites is included in Appendix 2 and 3.

A document review was completed of the following as part of the evidence gathering process:

- Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Defra - April 2006 Modified in September 2019)
- Bolsover District Council Environmental Enforcement Policy 2016
- The Bolsover District Council Corporate Enforcement Policy 2018
- Environmental Health Annual Report 2023
- House of Commons Research Briefing: *Fly-tipping: the illegal dumping of waste*

Equality and Diversity

Within the process of the review, the Committee has taken into account the impact of equalities by ensuring that the approaches and recommendations considered the diverse needs of all residents across the District. This involved reviewing how

environmental despoilment issues, such as fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling, affect different communities. The review also considered whether enforcement policies and strategies were equitable, ensuring that no group faced disproportionate penalties or barriers to accessing support services. By incorporating equalities and diversity considerations, the review aimed to ensure that solutions were inclusive and fair, promoting a clean and safe environment for all.

5. Analysis of evidence and key findings

5.1 Understand what Environmental Despoilment involves, the Council's statutory duty and enforcement powers and policies available to the Council.

Environmental despoilment refers to the illegal and irresponsible disposal of waste in both public and private spaces, encompassing behaviours like fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling. Among these, fly-tipping stands out due to its larger scale and the potential dangers it poses.

Fly Tipping

Fly-tipping involves the unlawful disposal of various types of waste, including household, industrial, commercial, and controlled waste such as garden refuse, furniture, and large domestic items like fridges and mattresses. It is crucial to differentiate fly-tipping from littering, as the latter typically involves smaller, everyday items, while fly-tipping involves larger volumes of waste that are often more hazardous.

Fly-tipping continues to be a significant issue across the UK. In 2022/23, local authorities in England managed 1.08 million fly-tipping incidents, a slight decrease of 1% from the previous year. Household waste accounted for 60% of these incidents, totalling 653,000, a 3% drop from 2021/22. Highways were the most common location for fly-tipping, representing 40% of incidents, with a 7% decrease in highway-related cases. The most frequent size category for fly-tipping was equivalent to a small van load, while large-scale incidents (tipper lorry load or more) increased by 13%, leading to a £13.2 million clearance cost. Enforcement actions rose by 5%, with 532,000 actions taken, although Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) fell by 25%. Court fines grew in value, but the total number and combined value of fines decreased by 17% and 6%, respectively. Despite this decrease, fly-tipping remains a major concern for local authorities, especially in both urban and rural areas.

Fly-Tipping Management and Responsibility

The responsibility for addressing fly-tipping is shared between local authorities and the Environment Agency, depending on the scale of the incident. Local authorities are responsible for investigating, clearing, and enforcing actions against small-scale fly-tipping occurring on public land. For larger-scale fly-tipping, or incidents involving hazardous waste or organised criminal activity, the Environment Agency takes over. If fly-tipping occurs on private land, the landowner is generally responsible for clearing the waste, although both local authorities and the Environment Agency have the legal power to require landowners to do so and may seek reimbursement for any associated costs.

Legal Penalties and Enforcement Measures

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, fly-tipping carries severe penalties. While there is no minimum fine prescribed by law, the maximum fine for illegal waste disposal can be substantial. Offenders may also face imprisonment for up to five years. In addition to these penalties, enforcement measures include the issuance of FPNs), vehicle seizures, and fines of up to £600 for households that pass waste to unlicensed carriers, especially if the waste is subsequently fly-tipped. Local authorities also employ various methods to investigate fly-tipping, such as collecting witness statements, using CCTV footage, and conducting surveillance. In serious cases, particularly those involving large quantities or hazardous materials, incidents may be referred to the Environment Agency for further action.

Government Reforms to Combat Fly-Tipping

To address the persistent issue of fly-tipping, the UK Government has introduced several reforms. One of the key measures is the mandatory digital waste tracking system, set to be implemented by April 2025. This system will require the digital logging of information about waste production, handling, and disposal, enabling better regulatory oversight and making it easier to track illegal activities, including fly-tipping. This reform aims to ensure that waste is managed only by authorised individuals and organisations, thereby reducing fly-tipping across communities.

Furthermore, consultations are underway to revamp the waste carrier, broker, and dealer registration system. Proposed changes include mandatory environmental permits for waste management professionals, ensuring that waste handling is carried out by those with the proper credentials and in a safe, legal manner.

In addition, the Government has recently indicated, through proposed revisions to the Crime and Policing Bill currently progressing through Parliament, that councils will soon be provided with statutory guidance on how to deal with fly-tipping. These revisions also encourage councils to adopt a tougher enforcement approach, including the potential seizure of vehicles involved in fly-tipping offences.

Fly-Tipping in Local Communities

Fly-tipping remains a significant challenge, impacting local communities, public health, and the environment. While the recent decline in incidents is encouraging, continued efforts are needed to address the root causes and reduce the frequency of fly-tipping. The proposed reforms, including digital waste tracking and stricter regulations for waste carriers, are important steps toward tackling the issue. Local authorities, the Environment Agency, private landowners, and the public must continue to work together to ensure that waste is disposed of properly, minimising the negative impact of fly-tipping on communities and the environment.

Bolsover District Council's Role and Responsibilities

As a District Council, Bolsover is classified as a 'litter authority', responsible for keeping public spaces free from litter and refuse. This responsibility extends to land that is open to the air on at least one side, under the Council's direct control, and

accessible to the public, such as parks, streets, and highways. Councils must ensure that litter is cleared from these spaces in a timely manner, as outlined in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.

Littering and Dog Fouling

Littering is a criminal offence, and offenders may be prosecuted and fined up to £2,500. For less serious incidents, local authorities may issue FPNs. However, FPNs are not appropriate for repeat offenders or individuals involved in serious littering behaviour, who should be prosecuted instead.

Councils have the power to issue Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to address ongoing Anti-Social Behaviour and dog fouling problems in specific public spaces. PSPOs can make it an offence for dog owners to fail to clean up after their dogs or allow their dogs to enter designated areas, such as playgrounds or sports fields. This legislative tool helps ensure that public spaces are kept clean and safe for all users.

Dog fouling, while a common issue in many urban and rural areas, is also subject to penalties under local authority regulations. In areas where dog fouling is a persistent problem, councils may introduce PSPOs, requiring dog owners to clean up after their pets. Failure to comply with these orders can result in fines and other enforcement actions.

Council's Enforcement Powers and Legal Framework

The Council's statutory duties and enforcement powers in relation to environmental depoilment are governed by several key pieces of legislation and policy frameworks. The review of fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling highlights the significant role that local authorities play in maintaining clean and safe public spaces. Bolsover District Council, in particular, must continue to develop and enforce policies that address these environmental issues effectively, while also engaging with the public to promote greater awareness and responsibility.

Environmental Enforcement Partnership and Performance Overview

Bolsover District Council currently holds a partnership working arrangement with North East Derbyshire District Council for the joint delivery of Environmental Health services which includes environmental enforcement such as littering, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, waste duty of care and dog fouling.

Environmental Enforcement can consist of a variety of interventions, including but not limited to, education, issuing of fixed penalty notices, seizing vehicles, and prosecution of offenders. The joint service currently issues all environmental related fixed penalty notices on behalf of Bolsover District Council, albeit Bolsover's Legal Services Team undertake prosecution case work.

The following table demonstrates a selection of the key environmental enforcement matters that were investigated on behalf of Bolsover District Council. The data within the table is from 1st April 2024- 31st March 2025.

Type of Environmental Issue	No of reports received by BDC	Investigations carried out by joint service	FPNs Issued	Percentage of reports resulting in investigations	Percentage of reports resulting in FPNs issued	Percentage of investigations resulting in FPNs issued
Fly tipping investigation	1374	88	8	6.40%	0.58%	9%
Dog fouling	136	58	4	42.64%	2.94%	6.90%
Abandoned vehicle	211	211	2	100%	0.94%	0.94%
Duty of care investigations	22	22	3	100%	13.00%	13%
Littering reports received	200	18	10	9%	5%	56%
		Total FPNS	27			

The above data demonstrates there is a need to improve and deliver more effective outcomes for Bolsover District and develop the opportunities to carry out productive enforcement, particularly relating to fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering

The table above illustrates the number of reports received by the Council in comparison to the resulting enforcement outcomes. It is important to note that reports of abandoned vehicles almost always trigger an investigation in order to formally close the case, which explains why the number of reports and investigations for this issue are consistently equal. Further analysis of environmental despoilment data is examined in chapter 5.2 from pages 24-30.

Future Service Improvement

In light of this performance data, it is recommended that the Council undertakes a piece of work to explore how alternative models or methods of environmental enforcement could improve outcomes in the Bolsover District. Specifically, it is proposed that the Assistant Director for Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement be tasked with undertaking this review, assessing whether revised practices, new enforcement tools, or structural changes could enable the Council to respond more effectively to environmental offences, particularly in high-impact areas such as fly tipping and dog fouling. The findings of this review should inform future decision-making and service planning, with the aim of delivering stronger enforcement outcomes and improved environmental quality across the District.

Conclusions

Environmental despoilment remains a persistent challenge, with issues like fly-tipping, littering, and dog fouling significantly impacting communities and the environment. Local authorities play a crucial role in addressing these problems through enforcement actions, public education, and collaboration with various stakeholders. Bolsover District Council's current joint service arrangement with North East Derbyshire District Council supports a broad range of environmental enforcement activity; however, recent data highlights the need for more effective outcomes. To address this, it is recommended that the Council undertakes a piece of work, led by the Assistant

Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, to explore alternative ways of working that can enhance the level and impact of enforcement across the District. With continued vigilance, strategic review, and evolving approaches, the Council can strengthen its efforts to tackle environmental crime and create cleaner, safer spaces for local communities.

Recommendation:

That the Council undertakes a piece of work, led by the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, to explore alternative ways of working to improve the level and effectiveness of environmental enforcement activity across Bolsover District.

5.2 Analysis of the Current Data on Incidents of Environmental Despoilment Across the District

The data presented below reflects the effectiveness of the Council's environmental enforcement services, examining response times, removal costs, prosecution rates, and trends over the course of three years.

Fly-Tipping Data (2021-2022)

Month	Incidents Reported	Completed	Completed Within Target	Hazardous	Confirmations	Duplicates	Removal Cost (Large Flytips)	Average Response Time	% Completed Within 5 Day Target	% Completed Within 24 Hour Target
April	209	209	200		1	39	£ 214.17	1.9 Days	96%	
May	122	122	119		3	18	£ 443.65	1.6 Days	98%	
June	99	99	96		2	1	£ 275.37	1.6 Days	97%	
July	106	106	103			14	£ 1,132.07	1.9 Days	97%	
August	106	106	104			8	£ 367.16	1.6 Days	98%	
September	153	153	142	1	1	28	£ 1,095.46	2.5 Days	91%	100%
October	139	139	137	3		30	£ 489.54	1.7 Days	98%	100%
November	117	117	115			18	£ 61.19	1.7 Days	98%	
December	104	104	98			24	£ 951.77	1.7 Days	94%	
January	147	147	142			26	£ 1,101.47	2.0 Days	96%	
February	92	92	88	1	8	10	£ 214.17	1.9 Days	95%	100%
March	116	116	112			13	£ 5,561.78	1.9 Days	97%	
Total	1510	1510	1456	5	15	229	£ 11,907.80	1.9 Days	96%	100%

	Total Incidents	Total - Performance	Total - 5 Day Target	5 Day Target Met	Total - 24 Hour Target	24 Hour Target Met	Removal Cost (Large)
Quarter 1	430	366	366	97%	0		£ 933.19
Quarter 2	365	314	313	95%	1	100%	£ 2,594.68
Quarter 3	360	288	285	97%	3	100%	£ 1,502.50
Quarter 4	355	298	297	96%	1	100%	£ 6,877.43

Overall: 96% Completed Within Target (0 Currently Outstanding)

Note: The total for performance does not include duplicate reports. It does include flytipping found by crews that would be reported by the public if not picked up (Confirmations)

During the 2021/2022 period, a total of 1,510 fly-tipping incidents were reported across Bolsover District. Of these incidents, 96% were successfully removed within the targeted timeframe, with an average response time of 1.9 days. The highest number of reported incidents occurred in April, with 209 incidents recorded, while February saw the fewest, with only 92 incidents. These fluctuations in monthly incidents highlight the varying challenges faced by the Council throughout the year.

The data reveals that while most fly-tipping incidents were resolved promptly, March saw a particularly high cost associated with large fly-tips, amounting to £5,561.78. This indicates that, while the removal process was efficient, there were months where the scale of fly-tipping required substantial resources. Furthermore, the response time consistently remained well within expectations, with a peak performance of 98% of incidents resolved within the 5-day target in several months. The lowest recorded response was 94% in December, indicating that the majority of incidents were dealt with efficiently.

Quarterly performance data from 2021/2022 shows strong results in fly-tipping removal. In Quarter 1, 97% of incidents were resolved within the 5-day target, with no incidents exceeding the 24-hour response time. By Quarter 2, the performance slightly dipped to 95%, though still remained within acceptable limits. Quarter 3 showed a return to the higher completion rates of 97%, while in Quarter 4, the overall completion rate was 96%. These figures demonstrate consistent and effective fly-tipping removal efforts, with few major discrepancies throughout the year.

The total removal cost for large fly-tipping incidents in 2021/2022 amounted to £11,907.80, with significant fluctuations in cost across the months. The considerable removal cost in March highlights the need for focused action in managing large-scale fly-tipping incidents that often incur higher financial costs for the Council.

Fly-Tipping Hotspots: 2021/22:

Rank	Incidents	RoadTown	Area
1	28	Outgang Lane Pleasley	South
2	22	Syday Lane Spinkhill	North
3	14	Deep Lane Hardstoft	South
4	19	Field Lane Rowthorne	South
5	15	Model Village Creswell	North
6	18	New Bolsover Bolsover	North
7	20	Saw Pit Lane Tibshelf	South
8	18	Whaley Road Whaley	North
9	19	Wood Lane Shirebrook	South
10	15	Balkham Lane Shirebrook	South
11	12	Hilcote Lane Hilcote	South
12	14	Welbeck Street Creswell	North
13	14	Gapsick Lane Clowne	North
14	11	Hickinwood Lane Clowne	North
15	14	Highwood Lane Whitwell	North
16	13	Oxcroft Lane Bolsover	North
17	14	Slayley Lane Barlborough	North
18	11	Bondhay Lane Whitwell Common	North
19	12	Brunner Avenue Shirebrook	South
20	13	Duke Street Creswell	North
21	10	Elmton Road Creswell	North
22	11	Green Lane Stony Houghton	South
23	10	Newtonwood Lane Newton	South
24	9	South Avenue Shirebrook	South

In 2021/22, Outgang Lane, Pleasley was the top flytipping hotspot with 28 incidents, followed by significant activity in the South, including Wood Lane, Shirebrook and Saw Pit Lane, Tibshelf, while the North had hotspots like Syday Lane, Spinkhill and Model Village, Creswell. The data shows a consistent issue across the District, especially in the South.

Fly-Tipping Data (2022-2023)

Month	Incidents Reported	Completed	Completed Within Target	Hazardous	Confirmations	Duplicates	Removal Cost (Large Flytips)	Average Response Time	% Completed Within 5 Day Target	% Completed Within 24 Hour Target
April	145	145	136		1	42	£ 1,273.03	2.0 Days	95%	
May	101	101	100	1	3	16	£ 397.75	1.7 Days	100%	100%
June	101	101	101			14	£ 624.22	1.4 Days	100%	
July	116	116	115			14	£ 795.51	1.9 Days	99%	
August	130	130	129	1		18	£ 563.30	1.5 Days	100%	100%
September	130	130	125		3	34	£ 673.12	2.0 Days	96%	
October	97	97	93		1	17	£ 350.36	1.8 Days	95%	
November	117	117	113		6	21	£ 330.55	1.8 Days	98%	
December	72	72	71		8	7	£ 152.98	1.4 Days	98%	
January	152	152	147	2	1	47	£ 597.72	2.0 Days	96%	100%
February	178	178	150		14	78	£ 917.89	3.3 Days	86%	
March	129	129	123	1	1	22	£ 183.58	2.4 Days	94%	100%
Total	1468	1468	1403	5	38	330	£ 6,860.00	2.0 Days	96%	100%

	Total Incidents	Total - Performance	Total - 5 Day Target	5 Day Target Met	Total - 24 Hour Target	24 Hour Target Met	Removal Cost (Large)	Overall: 96% Completed Within Target (0 Currently Outstanding)
Quarter 1	347	271	270	98%	1	100%	£ 2,295.00	Note: The total for performance does not include duplicate reports. It does include flytipping found by crews that would be reported by the public if not picked up (Confirmations)
Quarter 2	376	308	306	98%	1	100%	£ 2,031.93	
Quarter 3	286	229	229	97%	0		£ 833.89	
Quarter 4	459	312	309	92%	3	100%	£ 1,699.19	

In 2022/2023, 1,468 fly-tipping incidents were reported. Despite the increased volume of incidents compared to the previous year, the Council maintained an impressive performance, resolving 96% of the incidents within the 5-day target, although the average response time increased to 2 days. A noteworthy trend was observed in February, when 178 incidents were reported, marking the peak of the year. In contrast, December recorded the lowest number of incidents, with only 72 reports.

Despite the high volume of incidents in February, performance remained strong in the earlier months of the year. May and June had 100% of incidents resolved within 24 hours, indicating a well-functioning enforcement process during these months. However, as the year progressed, particularly in the third and fourth quarters, performance showed signs of strain, with February experiencing the longest average response time at 3.3 days and a dip in performance with only 86% of incidents resolved within the 5-day target.

The removal cost for large fly-tips in 2022/2023 totaled £6,860.00, which was significantly lower than in the previous year. This reduction could be attributed to more efficient fly-tipping responses or fewer large-scale incidents. However, the cost still varied month by month, indicating that large fly-tips continue to present a financial challenge for the Council.

Fly-Tipping Hotspots: 2022/23

Rank	Incidents	RoadTown	Area
1	38	Outgang Lane Pleasley	South
2	35	Wood Lane Shirebrook	South
3	21	Talbot Street Pinxton	South
4	17	Brookhill Lane Pinxton	South
5	15	Balkham Lane Shirebrook	South
6	14	Gapsick Lane Clowne	North
7	14	Model Village Creswell	North
8	14	Sheffield Road Clowne	North
9	14	Slayley Lane Barlborough	North
10	13	Batley Lane Pleasley	South
11	12	Gipsyhill Lane Whitwell Common	North
12	12	Highwood Lane Whitwell	North
13	12	Mansfield Road Scarcliffe	North
14	12	Market Street Shirebrook	South
15	12	Prospect Drive Shirebrook	South
16	11	Dale Lane Rowthorne	South
17	11	Station Road Shirebrook	South
18	11	Woodhouse Lane Bolsover	North
19	10	Meadow Lane Shirebrook	South
20	10	Syday Lane Spinkhill	North
21	10	Whaley Road Whaley	North
22	9	Deep Lane Hardstoft	South
23	9	Duke Street Creswell	North
24	9	Mill Lane Stainsby	South
25	9	New Bolsover Bolsover	North

In 2022/23 fly-tipping hotspots were concentrated in areas such as Outgang Lane in Pleasley, which had 38 reported incidents and Wood Lane in Shirebrook, with 35 incidents. These areas represented some of the highest frequencies of incidents, suggesting a recurring issue that may require focused intervention, such as enhanced monitoring and enforcement efforts. It is important to note that despite these hotspots, the overall completion rate remained consistently strong at 96% for the year, with minor fluctuations in performance.

Fly-Tipping Data (2023-2024)

Month	Incidents Reported	Completed	Completed Within Target	Hazardous	Confirmations	Duplicates	Removal Cost (Large Flytips)	Average Response Time	% Completed Within 5 Day Target	% Completed Within 24 Hour Target
April	141	141	134			48	£ 1,273.03	2.4 Days	92%	
May	139	139	130			31	£ 1,828.13	2.4 Days	94%	
June	133	133	130	1	2	32	£ 999.85	2.0 Days	97%	100%
July	94	94	90		4	13	£ 428.35	2.2 Days	95%	
August	114	114	109	1	1	17	£ 1,746.18	1.9 Days	96%	0%
September	121	121	117			23	£ 832.66	2.2 Days	96%	
October	120	120	111			30	£ 1,444.59	2.4 Days	93%	
November	103	103	98	2		23	£ 489.54	1.9 Days	97%	100%
December	56	56	53			15	£ 783.49	2.1 Days	93%	
January	136	136	128	2	3	18	£ 673.12	2.2 Days	95%	100%
February	145	145	135	1	1	27	£ 644.71	2.8 Days	93%	0%
March	90	90	85	1		10	£ 767.09	2.5 Days	94%	100%
Total	1392	1392	1320	8	11	287	£ 11,910.72	2.3 Days	95%	75%
	Total Incidents	Total - Performance	Total - 5 Day Target	5 Day Target Met	Total - 24 Hour Target	24 Hour Target Met	Removal Cost (Large)	Overall: 95% Completed Within Target (0 Currently Outstanding)		
Quarter 1	413	300	299	95%	1	100%	£ 4,101.00	Note: The total for performance does not include duplicate reports. It does include flytipping found by crews that would be reported by the public if not picked up (Confirmations)		
Quarter 2	329	271	270	96%	1	0%	£ 3,007.18			
Quarter 3	279	211	209	95%	2	100%	£ 2,717.61			
Quarter 4	371	312	308	94%	4	75%	£ 2,084.92			

In 2023/2024, a total of 1,392 fly-tipping incidents were reported, with 95% of these incidents successfully removed within the 5-day target. However, the average response time slightly increased to 2.3 days, reflecting the growing challenge of managing fly-tipping in the District. April recorded the highest number of incidents for the year, with 141 reports, while December saw the lowest with just 56 incidents.

The first quarter of 2023/2024 performed strongly, with 95% of fly-tipping incidents resolved within 5 days. Notably, June was an outstanding month, with 97% of incidents meeting the 5-day target and 100% completed within 24 hours. However, performance in February showed significant deterioration, with only 75% of incidents resolved within the 24-hour target. This drop in performance could be attributed to seasonal variations or specific operational challenges faced during that period.

The quarterly breakdown for 2023/2024 shows that while performance remained strong in the early part of the year, there were noticeable dips in Quarter 4, particularly in February, where only 94% of fly-tipping incidents were resolved within the 5-day target. This suggests that, while the Council's overall response to fly-tipping has been effective, there are certain periods of the year where the service experiences challenges that impact its performance.

The total cost for removing large fly-tips in 2023/2024 amounted to £11,910.72, a figure almost identical to the previous year's total. However, the cost fluctuated monthly, with higher removal costs in May and August, which could be indicative of larger or more difficult-to-remove incidents during those months.

Fly-Tipping Hotspots: 2023/24

Rank	Incidents	RoadTown	Area
1	37	Outgang Lane Pleasley	South
2	14	Whaley Road Whaley	North
3	24	Wood Lane Shirebrook	South
4	14	Deep Lane Hardstoft	South
5	13	Oxcroft Lane Bolsover	North
6	9	Alexander Terrace Pinxton	South
7	14	Balkham Lane Shirebrook	South
8	6	Duchess Street Creswell	North
9	12	Sheffield Road Clowne	North
10	12	Blind Lane Bolsover	North
11	4	Elmton Lane Bolsover	North
12	9	Fox Hill Scarcliffe	North
13	10	Gipsyhill Lane Whitwell Common	North
14	14	Highwood Lane Whitwell	North
15	7	Sheffield Road Barlborough	North
16	6	Woodfield Road Pinxton	South
17	13	Dale Lane Rowthorne	South
18	9	Duke Street Creswell	North
19	5	Elmton Close Creswell	North
20	6	French Terrace Whaley Thorns	North
21	5	Hickinwood Lane Clowne	North
22	7	Skinner Street Creswell	North
23	5	Springfield Avenue Shirebrook	South
24	3	Welbeck Street Whitwell	North

The flytipping incident hotspots in Bolsover District for 2023/24 show that Outgang Lane, Pleasley (South) is repeatedly the most used hotspot with 37 incidents, followed

by Wood Lane, Shirebrook with 24 incidents. The South generally has more incidents than the North. The areas with the highest frequencies should be specifically targeted by the Council for improvement.

Outgang Lane in Pleasley remains the top hotspot consistently from 2021-2024. This one site recieved 28 incidents in 2021/22, 38 incidents in 2022/23 and 37 incidents in 2023/24, showing invariable high levels of repeating offences. Wood Lane, Shirebrook also stays high on the list, with 35 incidents in 2022/23 and 24 in 2023/24. Other recurring hotspots include Balkham Lane, Shirebrook and Highwood Lane, Whitwell. Overall, the South area continues to have higher incident numbers than the North, indicating a more significant fly tipping issue in southern parts of the District. Regular monitoring and targeted interventions are needed in these areas.

Prosecution and Enforcement – FPNs

32 FPNs were issued during 2023/2024 for offences such as littering, breach of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO), failure to produce documents, and fly-tipping. Of these, 26 fines were paid, while 6 remain unpaid. The high number of unpaid fines, particularly for littering and fly-tipping offences, suggests that more robust follow-up actions may be necessary to improve compliance.

DATE OF OFFENCE	DATE ISSUED	OUTSTANDING	DISTRICT	FPN REF	OFFENCE
23/03/2023	04/04/2023	NO	BDC	23/02468/DOGST	BREACH OF PSPO
14/04/2023	14/04/2023	NO	BDC	5901	LITTERING
14/04/2023	14/04/2023	No	BDC	23/03437/PROPAT	LITTERING
18/04/2023	18/04/2023	NO	BDC	5902	BREACH OF PSPO
11/04/2023	04/05/2023	NO	BDC	23/03404/DOGST	BREACH OF PSPO
21/03/2023	12/05/2023	NO	BDC	23/02662/ACCMIS	LITTERING
18/05/2023	18/05/2023	NO	BDC	5852	LITTERING
18/05/2023	18/05/2023	NO	BDC	5853	LITTERING
18/05/2023	18/05/2023	NO	BDC	5904	LITTERING
18/05/2023	18/05/2023	NO	BDC	5905	LITTERING
30/05/2023	12/03/2023	NO	BDC	5951	HOUSEHOLDER DUTY OF CARE
04/06/2023	12/06/2023		BDC	5952	FAILURE TO PRODUCE
12/06/2023	12/06/2023	NO	BDC	5753	Littering
12/06/2023	12/06/2023	NO	BDC	22/11026/ACCMIS	FAILURE TO PRODUCE
12/06/2023	12/06/2023	Yes	BDC	5808	Littering
08/06/2023	16/06/2023	NO	BDC	5953	HOUSEHOLDER DUTY OF CARE
16/06/2023	20/06/2023	NO	BDC	5954	HOUSEHOLDER DUTY OF CARE
	28/05/2023	NO	BDC	5809	LITTERING
15/07/2023	15/07/2023	NO	BDC	5955	FLY TIPPING
	18/07/2023	YES	BDC	23/05379/ACCCAR	ABANDONED VEHICLE
26/07/2023	28/07/2023	NO	BDC	23/07333/PROPAT	LITTERING
18/07/2023	03/07/2023	YES	BDC	5957	ABANDONED VEHICLE
04/08/2023	21/08/2023	YES	BDC	23/06970/ACCCAR	ABANDONED VEHICLE
30/06/2023	12/09/2023	NO	BDC	23/06505/ACCLIT	LITTERING
21/09/2023	22/09/2023	NO	BDC	23/09317/PROPAT	LITTERING
22/09/2023	22/09/2023	NO	BDC	5906	LITTERING
26/09/2023	26/09/2023	NO	BDC	5855	LITTERING
26/09/2023	26/09/2023	No	BDC	5907	LITTERING
13/11/2023	14/11/2023	NO	BDC	5959	LITTERING
16/11/2023	17/11/2023	NO	BDC	5960	LITTERING
30/10/2023	22/11/2023	NO	BDC	23/10693/FLYINV	FLY TIPPING
30/10/2023	04/12/2023		BDC	23/10558/FLYINV	FLY TIPPING
05/12/2023	07/12/2023	NO	BDC	5962	LITTERING
14/03/2024	27/03/2024	NO	BDC	5966	BREACH OF PSPO

During 2023/24, two fly-tipping cases were referred to the legal team, with one going to trial but resulting in a mistrial due to insufficient evidence, while the other was discontinued because it was too old. No cases for dog fouling were referred for prosecution, and in the case of littering, one referral was made, but the defendant was found not guilty due to a lack of evidence.

Challenges and Areas for Improvement

The data on fly-tipping incidents over the past three years highlights that while the Council's enforcement services have been effective overall, there are clear areas for improvement. The removal of fly-tips is generally completed within the 5-day target, and response times have been consistently within an acceptable range. However, there are specific challenges in certain months, particularly in February of 2023 and 2024, where performance dips were noted. The continued identification of hotspots like Shirebrook and Pinxton will be crucial for more targeted enforcement actions, while addressing staffing shortages and improving follow-up on unpaid FPNs will be key to enhancing the Council's overall performance in tackling environmental despoilment. Additionally, the fluctuating removal costs, particularly for large fly-tips, point to the need for a more consistent approach to managing larger-scale incidents, which continue to place significant financial strain on the Council's resources.

Financial Impact

The removal cost for large fly-tips in 2023/2024 amounted to £11,910.72, a figure almost identical to the previous year's total. However, the cost fluctuated monthly, with higher removal costs in May and August, which could be indicative of larger or more difficult-to-remove incidents during those months.

Conclusions:

The Council has shown strong overall performance in fly-tipping removal, maintaining high completion rates within the targeted response times. However, there are several challenges to address, including fluctuating performance in specific months, hotspots that require focused action, unpaid FPNs, and limited success in legal actions. Addressing these areas, particularly by tackling staffing issues, improving evidence collection for prosecutions, and enhancing follow-up on fines, will be crucial to further improving the effectiveness of environmental enforcement efforts in the District.

Recommendations:

That the Council targets fly-tipping hotspots (such as top 5 most frequently visited from 2023/24 including Outgang Lane in Pleasley, Wood Lane in Shirebrook, and Talbot Street in Pinxton), through targeted patrols and installation of surveillance cameras where appropriate.

That the Council explores options for CCTV surveillance in fly-tipping hotspots.

5.3 Review the current arrangements undertaken by Streetscene Services and Environmental Health to reduce or prevent Environmental Despoilment.

Environmental Despoilment and Fly-Tipping in Bolsover District

Environmental despoilment, particularly through fly-tipping, littering, and other waste management issues, remains a significant concern for Bolsover District Council. The Council has implemented several strategies to address this problem, involving multiple teams such as Streetscene and Environmental Health. These teams work together to manage waste, investigate offences, and educate the public on responsible waste disposal. However, despite these efforts, challenges persist in achieving more effective prevention and enforcement.

Relevant Council Policies

The Bolsover District Council Environmental Enforcement Policy 2016 outlines the procedures and criteria used by the Council to determine when prosecution is warranted for environmental offenses. This policy is guided by two primary tests: the Evidential Test and the Public Interest Test. The Evidential Test ensures that there is sufficient reliable evidence to warrant a realistic prospect of conviction. Factors such as the credibility of the evidence and the context surrounding the defendant are taken into account. The Public Interest Test, evaluates whether prosecuting the offense serves the public interest by considering the severity of the offense and its broader impact on the community.

Additionally, the policy addresses the review and potential revocation of licenses issued by the Council. It ensures that regulated entities comply with the terms and conditions of their licenses. The enforcement policy places a strong emphasis on legal compliance, fairness and transparency, promoting consistency and accountability in all enforcement actions. The Council is committed to collaborating with various agencies and adhering to relevant legislation, including human rights and data protection laws. Ultimately, the policy seeks to protect public safety while encouraging compliance among regulated entities.

The Bolsover District Council Corporate Enforcement Policy 2018, established in partnership with North East Derbyshire District Council, is designed to safeguard the well-being of residents, workers, visitors, and the environment. The policy is in alignment with the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 and the Regulators Code, reinforcing the commitment to a proactive and fair approach to enforcement. It sets out key principles, including proportionality, accountability, and transparency, which underpin the Council's enforcement activities.

The policy outlines a wide range of enforcement options available to the Council, from informal advice and warnings for minor breaches to formal prosecution for more serious offenses. The document emphasises the importance of well-trained authorised officers in making enforcement decisions, ensuring that they are supported by adequate training and working in partnership with other regulatory bodies. It also highlights the importance of adhering to data protection laws while making

enforcement decisions. Furthermore, the policy provides a framework for prioritising enforcement matters, ensuring that statutory requirements and regulatory codes are met. It promotes the adoption of core principles that guide decision-making and the selection of appropriate enforcement actions. The overarching goal of the policy is to foster a regulatory environment that upholds safety, legal standards, and community well-being while encouraging compliance across the District. Through its strategic approach to enforcement, the policy aims to create a safe and compliant environment for all Council stakeholders.

Role of Community Enforcement Rangers

The Enforcement Team, which includes the Community Enforcement Rangers, plays a crucial role in ensuring community safety and addressing environmental concerns. The Community Enforcement Rangers, previously known as the CAN Rangers, have undergone a rebranding as part of a wider initiative to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of the Enforcement Team. This rebranding includes the introduction of a highly visible vehicle scheme aimed at promoting community reassurance and deterring criminal behaviour. The Rangers provide a uniformed, highly visible presence in a range of settings, including residential areas, town centres and high-crime locations, making them a key deterrent against anti-social behaviour.

The core mission of the Community Enforcement Rangers is to improve the quality of life in the areas they patrol by serving as the "eyes and ears" of the community. Their work extends beyond simply patrolling these areas—they actively assist in resolving anti-social behaviour issues at the early stages and support community regeneration. Additionally, the Rangers act as a vital link between local residents and key agencies such as the local authority and the police, providing guidance on tackling environmental issues like littering, graffiti, and dog fouling. They also have the authority to issue FPNs for such offences, helping to ensure that these issues are properly managed.

A significant aspect of the Rangers' work is their collaboration with the Environmental Health Department in addressing environmental crimes. The Rangers work closely with the department to tackle various issues, including fly-tipping, noise nuisance, the burning of waste, littering, and dog fouling. The Rangers are instrumental in identifying and reporting these environmental offences, contributing to the overall management of public spaces. Fly-tipping, in particular, is a key concern for the Enforcement Team. Rangers undertake both daytime and nighttime patrols to spot fly-tipping incidents. When waste is discovered, the Rangers either remove it themselves by loading it into their vehicles and transporting it to a depot, or they mark the site with yellow crosses, indicating that the waste has been logged by the team. Rangers document each incident on a self-service portal, providing details such as location, date, and time. If the waste is too large or numerous for the Rangers to remove, they report it to the Streetscene Team for further action.

During this review, a site visit was conducted where the Scrutiny Officer and the original committee Chair spent the morning with one of the Council's Enforcement Rangers. They patrolled the District in the Ranger's van, visiting six fly-tipping hotspots reported the previous day. The visit provided an opportunity to observe the Rangers' cleanup and reporting processes in action. Photographs were taken as evidence at

one of the sites by the Scrutiny Officer (Appendix 2) and of an outdated fly-tipping deterrent sign (Appendix 3), which was located near the fly-tipping site. Members noted that this sign was ineffective and poorly placed. They agreed that improved signage is needed, recommending the use of the more visible metal signs already procured by the Council to better deter offenders (see recommendation **2.3**).

One of the critical roles of the Rangers is to search for evidence in the waste that could identify the perpetrator of the fly-tipping. Items such as CCTV footage, receipts, bank statements, or documents with personal information may provide crucial evidence. If such evidence is found, the Rangers refer the case to Environmental Health for investigation and potential legal action. Although the police are not directly involved in fly-tipping cases, they may report incidents to the Enforcement Team when encountered during their own duties.

The focus of the Enforcement Team remains on investigating and managing fly-tipping incidents, as environmental offences such as these typically fall outside the remit of the police. Despite the team's effectiveness in cleaning up after such incidents, the greater challenge lies in preventing them from occurring in the first place. While efforts to deter offenders continue through increased monitoring and enforcement, fly-tipping remains a persistent issue that the team is working hard to combat.

In terms of organisational structure, the Enforcement Team previously reported to the Housing Department. However, following the appointment of the new Assistant Director for Streetscene, Community Safety, and Enforcement in December 2024, the team now reports directly to this position. This restructuring is intended to improve coordination and streamline the team's efforts in tackling both community safety and environmental enforcement.

The Community Enforcement Rangers are a vital part of the Enforcement Team, offering a visible presence that helps deter crime and tackle environmental issues. Through their work in collaboration with other agencies and their focus on community engagement, they play a critical role in improving public spaces. With the recent structural changes, the team is well-positioned to continue enhancing its efforts in promoting community regeneration and addressing environmental crime in a more coordinated manner.

Streetscene's Role and Limitations

Streetscene is responsible for responding to fly-tipping incidents across the region, with a dedicated two-person crew working full-time on this issue. The team is highly efficient, clearing approximately 95% of reported fly-tipping within five days. Each year, Streetscene receives around 1,400 fly-tipping reports, which are tracked through a spreadsheet to ensure efficient management, meet corporate targets and avoid duplication. These reports are categorised based on the type, size and land type for tracking purposes and auditing, allowing the team to assess the scale of the problem and inform future strategy.

The majority of the waste cleared by Streetscene consists of household waste, although some construction waste—typically from businesses—and green waste is also dealt with. Streetscene works to clear waste from land within the Council's responsibility, but if the waste is found on private land or if there is evidence suggesting

a need for further investigation, the matter is referred to Environmental Health for further action.

In terms of evidence gathering, Streetscene previously used surveillance cameras to monitor fly-tipping hotspots, but this practice was discontinued approximately nine years ago due to limitations in time and resources. While cameras remain in place, they are no longer actively monitored. However, there is potential for Streetscene workers to receive training on gathering better evidence, particularly through photographic documentation. For example, capturing images of identifiable items such as letters found among the fly-tipped waste could help trace the offenders responsible. In the past, when evidence was sent to Environmental Health, there were instances where no feedback or follow-up was received, leaving Streetscene uncertain about the outcome of investigations.

The division of responsibilities between the Streetscene and Environmental Health presents some challenges. While Streetscene is focused on waste clearance, Environmental Health, specifically the Environmental Enforcement and Pest Control team, is responsible for finding evidence and enforcing action against offenders. This separation of priorities can result in difficulties in obtaining the evidence needed to support enforcement actions. Quarterly meetings between the two teams were held in the past to discuss fly-tipping issues and improve collaboration, but these meetings ceased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now strongly recommended to reinstate these meetings to enhance communication and coordination.

The recent appointment of a new Assistant Director, who oversees both the Streetscene and Community Safety/Enforcement teams, offers a significant opportunity to improve collaboration. With this leadership change, there is potential to enhance the evidence-gathering capabilities of Streetscene by empowering them to take more proactive steps, such as documenting fly-tipping with photographs that could assist in tracing offenders. This could ultimately lead to more effective enforcement and better outcomes for tackling fly-tipping.

To support this effort, it is recommended that Streetscene workers receive training on how to collect evidence more effectively, particularly through photographic documentation. This training should cover best practices for data collection, evidence handling and working collaboratively with the Enforcement Team. By equipping the Streetscene team with these skills, they will be better positioned to address fly-tipping incidents in a more proactive and efficient manner.

Furthermore, the new Assistant Director has the opportunity to foster closer collaboration between Streetscene and Environmental Health, which would streamline the process of handling fly-tipping incidents and improve enforcement actions. A more coordinated approach would help ensure that all aspects of fly-tipping cases—ranging from waste clearance to investigation and prosecution—are handled in a more timely and effective manner.

By implementing these recommendations—reviving regular meetings between Streetscene and Environmental Health, providing training on evidence gathering, and promoting greater collaboration between departments—Bolsover District Council can significantly improve its approach to tackling fly-tipping. These steps would help

enhance the efficiency of waste clearance, increase enforcement capabilities, and contribute to a cleaner and safer environment for the local community.

Environmental Health: Environmental Enforcement/Pest Control team (EEPC)

The Environmental Enforcement and Pest Control (EEPC) team plays a pivotal role in ensuring the cleanliness and safety of public spaces through the enforcement of various regulations. The team consists of four Enforcement Officers, one Trainee Environmental Health Officer and two Pest Control Officers. Their responsibilities span a wide range of environmental health issues, including managing fly-tipping, littering, dog control, stray dogs, abandoned vehicles and ensuring business waste compliance.

In 2023, Environmental Health effectively managed and addressed a variety of incidents and service requests. The team handled 432 service requests and issued 58 FPNs for offences related to fly-tipping, littering, and waste disposal violations. They also monitored four hotspots using CCTV technology, which aided in deterring fly-tipping and littering. Additionally, they responded to 185 reports of abandoned vehicles, tackled 112 fly-tipping incidents and managed 1,115 pest control requests. Moreover, Environmental Health conducted 195 proactive enforcement initiatives and patrols, issued four microchipping notices to ensure proper dog control and secured one prosecution for fly-tipping.

The EEPC team is responsible for enforcing regulations concerning public health and environmental cleanliness, including issues related to waste disposal, dog control and pest management. However, they do not handle waste on private property or commercial land, which is under the purview of Streetscene. Furthermore, the team does not engage in waste clearance operations but instead focuses on investigating and enforcing regulations on waste disposal violations. When it comes to fly-tipping, the EEPC team only investigates incidents where evidence is available and pursues enforcement actions such as issuing fixed penalties or initiating legal proceedings.

The enforcement policy used by the team is a zero-tolerance approach, meaning that fixed penalties are issued without prior warning. Each report is handled using a standardised script and an online form is available for the submission of evidence, though the usefulness of evidence varies. The team occasionally receives reports that lack substantive evidence, such as residents providing statements without actual proof of fly-tipping. The team has emphasised the importance of educating the public about the dangers of using unlicensed waste collectors. Residents are encouraged to verify the credentials of waste disposal services, as failing to do so could leave them liable for illegal waste disposal.

The investigation process begins once an incident report is received. The team aims to visit the site within three days, collecting evidence and where applicable, issuing FPNs for minor cases of waste disposal violations. In more serious cases, such as large-scale fly-tipping, the team invites individuals for interviews as part of the investigation. If the individual refuses to cooperate, this refusal could be seen as a negative factor in their case if it goes to court. The team also utilises Section 108 notices, which allow them to ask key questions regarding waste disposal, such as

identifying who was hired to collect the waste and when the waste was disposed of. Non-compliance with these questions can lead to prosecution.

The EEPC team keep a comprehensive register of all offences, which helps track and monitor the effectiveness of their enforcement efforts. They also utilise an electronic processing system to manage prosecutions. Proactive patrols are a key part of the team's strategy, with around 40 patrols conducted each quarter to monitor littering and dog fouling in the District. In addition, the team conducts proactive patrols targeting small businesses to ensure compliance with waste disposal regulations. Businesses are legally required to have a commercial waste contract, and if they cannot produce the necessary documentation, they face a fixed penalty. Business waste investigations are jointly managed by the Community Safety/Enforcement team and the EEPC/Environmental Health teams. EEPC also sets a target of 15 enforcement initiatives each year, with monthly patrols aimed at addressing environmental violations in the main towns.

The EEPC team's use of technology to deter environmental violations has been met with mixed success. Initially, wildlife cameras were deployed in car parks to monitor fly-tipping, but these cameras proved ineffective at night due to poor low-light performance and limited battery life. As a result, the team shifted away from relying on cameras and focused on more practical solutions, such as proactive patrolling and issuing FPNs. However, the team has explored newer camera technologies, though these systems require heavy car batteries, making them less practical for continuous use.

Additionally, the effectiveness of camera-based enforcement has been limited, as no prosecutions have been secured in the past two years based solely on camera evidence. The team is currently assessing the feasibility of increasing the number of cameras, but considerations include the number of cameras needed, staffing requirements to monitor them, and the possibility of creating a dedicated role for overseeing camera operations. The team also employs deterrent tactics, such as using signage to signal the presence of CCTV in hotspots even when no cameras are installed.

To further deter fly-tipping, the team has invested in metal signage, with 15 signs already purchased for installation in targeted hotspots. However, the installation of these signs has not been completed, as the Streetscene team has not yet put them up in the designated areas. The EEPC team has also placed paper signs in some hotspots but is planning to expand this effort. The implementation of additional signage in key areas such as laybys is seen as a crucial step toward raising awareness and deterring illegal waste dumping.

While the EEPC team is committed to addressing environmental health issues within their resource constraints, there are several areas for potential improvement. Public engagement and outreach could be enhanced through targeted social media campaigns to raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage public participation in reporting violations. Additionally, expanding the team's capacity by reallocating or increasing resources would enable more proactive enforcement, particularly in hotspot areas. The EEPC team has also highlighted the need for training Streetscene workers to improve their ability to identify, document, and address fly-

tipping incidents and gather evidence at the scene. Furthermore, the EEPC manager has identified the need to complete the installation of the remaining metal signs and increase signage in key hotspots.

The recent leadership change with the appointment of a new Assistant Director overseeing Streetscene, Community Safety, and Enforcement presents an opportunity to improve collaboration between departments. Enhanced cooperation with Streetscene could help improve evidence gathering, especially when it comes to documenting fly-tipping incidents. The close collaboration between Streetscene and Environmental Health could lead to more effective enforcement and better outcomes for tackling environmental crimes.

The EEPC has shown a strong commitment to maintaining public health and environmental cleanliness. Despite facing resource limitations and staffing shortages, the team has successfully tackled a range of issues related to fly-tipping, littering, and waste disposal. However, there is room for improvement in areas such as staffing, technology, and public engagement. By increasing resources, enhancing training, and fostering collaboration between departments, Environmental Health can further strengthen its efforts to protect the environment and maintain a cleaner, safer community.

Challenges with Evidence Collection

Evidence collection remains a significant challenge for both teams. Current camera technology has limitations, especially in poorly lit areas, and surveillance efforts have been insufficient to deter offenders. Recommendations have been made to upgrade existing camera systems, particularly with solar-powered cameras for 24/7 monitoring. Additionally, there is a need for better training for Streetscene staff in evidence collection, particularly in photographing and documenting fly-tipping sites, which could help build stronger cases for prosecution. It is also recommended that both teams increase proactive patrols in fly-tipping hotspots to catch offenders in the act and deter future incidents.

Public Awareness and Engagement

Public awareness campaigns are another area that could be improved. The Council has used social media in the past to raise awareness about fly-tipping and its consequences, but there is potential for more targeted campaigns. Educating residents about the risks of hiring unlicensed waste collectors and promoting legal disposal options could reduce the instances of fly-tipping caused by irresponsible waste disposal. Additionally, encouraging residents to report incidents of fly-tipping can help the council respond more quickly and effectively.

Resource Allocation and Technology Investment

Resource allocation is another key consideration in addressing fly-tipping. Environmental Health, for example, could benefit from additional enforcement officers dedicated to more proactive patrols and investigations. Similarly, dedicated staff to manage and process evidence could help streamline operations and prevent delays.

Investing in technology, such as apps or databases to track and manage fly-tipping incidents, could improve efficiency and response times.

Strengthening Enforcement and Deterrence Measures

To improve enforcement and deterrence, it is recommended that the council highlight successful prosecutions more widely, both through local media and social media channels. Publicising these successes would serve as a deterrent to potential offenders and reinforce the importance of following environmental regulations. In addition, increasing patrols in known fly-tipping hotspots, installing more effective signage, and using surveillance cameras could create a stronger deterrent effect. Such measures would not only help address existing incidents but also reduce the likelihood of future fly-tipping in these areas.

Strengthening Licensing and Compliance Checks

Finally, strengthening licensing and compliance checks for waste collectors is another recommendation. By educating residents on the risks of hiring unlicensed waste collectors and providing easy access to resources for checking waste carrier licences, the council can help prevent fly-tipping caused by improper waste disposal practices (this is examined further in chapter 5.4 – see recommendation 2.9). Encouraging businesses and residents to report fly-tipping incidents and incentivising these reports could also help create a culture of responsibility and vigilance in the community.

Conclusions

While Bolsover District Council has made strides in addressing environmental despoilment, there are still areas for improvement. By enhancing collaboration between teams, improving evidence collection methods, increasing public awareness, and allocating additional resources to enforcement and technology, the Council can more effectively reduce fly-tipping and create a cleaner, safer environment for residents. The integration of these strategies, coupled with stronger deterrence measures, will hopefully reduce the incidence of environmental despoilment in the District.

Recommendations:

That the Council prioritise completing the installation of the 15 metal signs and place additional signage in high-risk areas (such as Outgang Lane in Pleasley, Wood Lane in Shirebrook, and Talbot Street in Pinxton) in lay-bys and secluded spots.

That the Council reintroduces regular quarterly meetings of the Corporate Enforcement Group (Streetscene, the Enforcement Team and Environmental Health).

That the Council develops a clear process for evidence collection for fly-tipping sites that ensures evidence is properly managed.

That the Council organises joint training sessions for the Enforcement team, Streetscene workers and Environmental Health that focuses on improving understanding of each team's roles; as well as bi-annual training for evidence collection, ensuring there is a specific process for collecting physical evidence.

That the Council commissions a piece of work, led by the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, to explore alternative ways of working to improve the level and effectiveness of environmental enforcement activity across Bolsover District.¹

¹ N.B – It is relevant to repeat here the recommendation previously raised in Chapter 5.1 (page 23) as this is also relevant to the issues discussed in Chapter 5.3.

5.4 Improve public information/education on environmental despoilment.

Effective public information and education on environmental despoilment are crucial in fostering community engagement, promoting responsible behaviour, and supporting the Council's broader environmental goals. Bolsover District Council currently employs a range of communication channels to inform residents about environmental offences. These include the Council's website, the InTouch magazine, and educational messaging embedded in its enforcement and service delivery operations. While these efforts are significant, there are several areas where the Council can strengthen its approach to improve public understanding and reduce incidents of environmental crime.

Current Educational Materials and Communication Channels

The Council's website is the principal platform for conveying detailed and accessible information to the public about fly tipping, littering, and related offences; it provides clear definitions of what constitutes fly tipping. The site reinforces that such behaviour is a criminal offence, and explicitly outlines the penalties associated with it. Offenders may face fines of up to £50,000 and/or 12 months of imprisonment. The website also makes clear that while the Council is responsible for clearing fly tipping from public land, the responsibility for waste deposited on private land falls to the landowner. Importantly, it notes that failure by landowners to address waste on their property may result in enforcement action, particularly if the waste poses a risk of further tipping or causes visual blight.

Residents are actively encouraged to report incidents of fly tipping via the Council's Self-Service portal, which is accessible through the website. The portal allows users to submit reports and pay fixed penalty notices (FPNs) online, making the process efficient and straightforward. The website also contains detailed information about littering, identifying common forms of litter such as cigarette ends, food containers, plastic bottles, and chewing gum. It emphasises that the absence of nearby bins or signage does not excuse littering behaviour and outlines the Council's zero-tolerance policy in this area.

The Council has established a clear and structured system of FPNs for various environmental offences, and these are also listed on the website. Penalties include £400 for fly tipping (reduced to £300 if paid within 10 days), £150 for littering (reduced to £100), and £100 for breaches of Public Space Protection Orders, including dog fouling. Additional penalties apply for offences such as abandoning a vehicle, transporting waste without authorisation, and failing to comply with waste receptacle notices. This list not only clarifies the financial consequences of offending but also acts as a deterrent. To support enforcement, the Council has equipped its officers with body-worn cameras, helping to ensure transparency and credibility in their operations.

It is key to note, however, that these FPN levels are relatively low in comparison to neighbouring authorities and many Metropolitan or City Councils. As such, the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement has indicated that a review is necessary. A further paper will be presented to Members outlining

potential options for adjusting FPN levels moving forward, to ensure they remain a robust and effective deterrent.

In addition to the website, the Council communicates with residents through InTouch magazine, a quarterly publication distributed across the District. Historically, the magazine has been used to raise awareness of environmental crimes and highlight the Council's enforcement successes. For example, the April 2022 issue included coverage of three asbestos fly tipping incidents on country lanes and detailed the successful seizure of a vehicle involved in illegal dumping in Shirebrook. This enforcement action, conducted in partnership with the Police under Section 34B of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, led to the identification and prosecution of those responsible. The same issue also introduced the Council's new (2022) CCTV capabilities, noting that cameras had been deployed in fly tipping hotspots and were already contributing to prosecutions.

The October 2022 issue provided further educational content by announcing significant increases to FPN rates, including the rise in fly tipping penalties from £200 to £400, and for littering from £65 to £150. These announcements helped to reinforce the Council's tougher stance on environmental crime and demonstrated transparency around the use of enforcement powers. The January 2023 issue also featured an article highlighting the work of the Enforcement Team in addressing anti-social behaviour, graffiti, dog fouling, and fly tipping. However, since January 2023, there has been no substantive mention of fly tipping or environmental despoilment across eight consecutive issues up to July 2024. This decline in coverage may have diminished public visibility of the Council's environmental enforcement efforts.

Despite this, InTouch has continued to promote responsible waste disposal through its advertisement of the Council's bulky waste collection service. For example, the July 2024 issue featured a reminder that bulky waste can be collected for as little as £10. The advertisement is shown below.



This is an important preventive measure, as it provides residents with a legal and affordable alternative to fly tipping. However, further detail on how to access this service, including item eligibility and step-by-step booking instructions, could improve uptake and reduce illegal disposal.

The Council's bulky waste collection service is a useful mechanism for reducing illegal dumping, but public awareness of the service could be improved. Residents may not be fully aware of how to use the service or may be unclear about what items are accepted, the costs involved, or how to book a collection. By enhancing the availability and clarity of this information—through regularly promoting the service through platforms like InTouch and Facebook—the Council could make the service more

accessible and reduce reliance on informal or illegal disposal methods. The Council should more regularly and effectively promote its Bulky Waste Collection Service through existing communication channels and the newly established social media platforms, including the Bolsover District Council Facebook page.

Positive Efforts of the Council's Current Strategy

The Council's public education strategy benefits from a multi-channel approach that includes both digital and print media. The website provides easily navigable, well-structured, and informative content that explains legal definitions, reporting processes, and penalties in plain language. The use of technology, such as the Self-Service portal and body-worn enforcement cameras, improves accessibility and builds confidence in Council operations. Furthermore, InTouch magazine allows the Council to reach audiences who may not engage with digital media.

Another key strength is the Council's consistent emphasis on enforcement. The detailed publication of FPN charges and legal consequences for environmental offences sends a clear message to the public and reinforces a strong deterrent. This zero-tolerance approach, combined with publicised enforcement action and investment in surveillance technology, illustrates a commitment to upholding environmental standards and safeguarding the local landscape.

Opportunities for Enhancing Public Engagement and Environmental Education

While the Council has built a strong foundation for public education on environmental crime, there are clear opportunities for improvement. One such area is the InTouch magazine, which has seen a noticeable reduction in coverage of fly tipping and environmental despoilment since early 2023. The Council should consider reinstating regular content on environmental issues in each edition. This could include features on recent enforcement outcomes, interviews with enforcement officers, updates on hotspot activity, or community stories highlighting local clean-up initiatives. Consistent visibility of these issues would help sustain public awareness and encourage proactive engagement from residents.

In addition, the Council could enhance its educational efforts by embracing more interactive and visually engaging content. While static website text and print articles serve an important informational purpose, they could be supplemented with accessible formats such as infographics, short animations, or video explainers. These could cover topics such as what constitutes fly tipping, its environmental impact, how to report it, and the consequences of illegal disposal. The recent launch of the Council's official Facebook page in February 2025 offers a valuable new platform for distributing this type of content. Social media provides an excellent opportunity to reach a wider demographic, engage with residents in real time, and deliver ongoing educational messages in a more dynamic and shareable way.

Another opportunity lies in expanding direct engagement with communities most affected by fly tipping. The consideration of the deployment of CCTV at hotspot locations is a key step; however, this could be complemented by outreach initiatives

that foster two-way communication and local ownership of the issue. For example, the Council could organise public information sessions, distribute locally targeted leaflets, or collaborate with schools, youth groups, and community organisations to raise awareness. Hosting community clean-up days—combined with educational talks or demonstrations on proper waste disposal—could build trust, encourage participation, and reinforce shared responsibility for the local environment. Additionally, the Council's recently launched Facebook page (active since February 2025) presents a valuable platform for enhancing communication. By using social media to share updates, promote local events, highlight enforcement outcomes, and engage residents in dialogue, the Council can reach a broader audience and strengthen public awareness around environmental responsibilities.

Conclusions

Bolsover District Council has taken important steps to inform and educate the public on environmental despoilment, particularly in relation to fly tipping. Through the website, enforcement practices, and prior use of the InTouch magazine, the Council has demonstrated a clear commitment to tackling these issues. To maximise the effectiveness of its public education strategy, the Council should consider more frequent and engaging content in its publications, increased use of interactive media, targeted community outreach, and clearer guidance on legal waste disposal options. The recent launch of the Council's Facebook page presents an exciting new avenue to modernise and amplify its educational efforts. By adopting a more integrated and responsive communication approach, the Council can better equip residents to contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more environmentally responsible Bolsover District.

Recommendation:

That the Council enhance public information on fly-tipping and littering by regularly featuring updates on enforcement actions and responsible bulky waste removal options through existing communication channels and the newly established social media platforms, including the Bolsover District Council Facebook page.

That the Council delivers public awareness campaigns to educate residents about the risks of hiring unlicensed waste collectors and provides clear, accessible guidance on how to verify waste carrier licences.

5.5 Identify benchmarking opportunities and areas for improvement; ensure there is a clear strategy of enforcement action to improve the quality of the environment across the District.

Comparative Benchmarking: Bolsover District Council and Other Local Authorities

The information currently available on Bolsover District Council's website regarding fly-tipping and responsible waste disposal is brief and limited. While it provides a basic definitions and education, it offers little in terms of practical advice for residents on how to dispose of waste legally. The guidance advises that waste should remain within an individual's boundary or garden until it can be legally disposed of.

The site encourages the public to report incidents of fly tipping through the Council's Self Service portal, which allows the relevant teams to investigate and take appropriate action. It also clarifies responsibilities by explaining that the Council will remove fly tipping from public land, but that it is the responsibility of private landowners to clear waste from their own property. Furthermore, it highlights the legal consequences of fly-tipping, identifying it as a criminal offence that can result in fines of up to £50,000 and/or 12 months' imprisonment.

In summary, the website's current content covers the basics: it defines fly tipping, encourages residents to report incidents, outlines responsibility for waste clearance, and warns of legal penalties. However, several key areas of information are notably absent. There is no guidance on how to dispose of waste responsibly, such as checking whether a waste carrier is licensed. This is a significant omission, as residents can be held legally responsible if waste they pass to an unlicensed collector is later found fly tipped, with potential consequences including Fixed Penalty Notices or prosecution.

Additionally, the website does not promote or explain the Council's bulky waste collection service, which is an important alternative to illegal dumping for disposing of large household items. Nor does it provide publicly accessible data or statistics on fly tipping incidents across the District, which could help raise awareness of the scale of the issue. Finally, there is no advice on dealing with hazardous waste such as needles or drug-related litter—critical safety information for residents who may encounter these items in their communities.

Enhancing the depth and accessibility of information on the Council's website is a low-cost yet highly effective way to support public education, encourage responsible behaviour, and reinforce the Council's broader environmental enforcement strategy.

Chesterfield Borough Council Website

Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) demonstrates a proactive and transparent approach to tackling fly-tipping through the comprehensive data it provides on its website. The Council publishes detailed records of fly-tipping incidents across the

Borough, updating this information quarterly and submitting it to the national Waste Data Flow management system. In addition, CBC makes monthly fly-tipping data from the past five years publicly available, with each record broken down by waste type, land type, and the size of each incident.

Fly-tipping data

We report information about fly-tipping cases in the borough to the government, along with details of other waste related services.

Every quarter we upload detailed information to the national [WasteDataFlow](#) management system.

You can [register on WasteDataFlow](#) and access the information we have provided.

You can also see data about the fly-tipping cases we have dealt with since 2012-2013 on [Gov.uk](#).

Fly tipping facts and figures by year

[+ Expand all](#)

Fly-tipping data 2023

Fly-tipping data 2022

Fly-tipping data 2021

Fly-tipping data 2020

Fly-tipping data 2019

Fly tipping facts and figures by year

[+ Expand all](#)

Fly-tipping data 2023

Monthly fly-tipping data for 2023 broken down by waste type, land type and incident size.

This data is also available as accessible a PDF document below the tables.

Fly-tip by primary waste type 2023

Waste type	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Dec
Animal carcass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Green	2	0	4	3	2	3	2	3	4	1	0	
Vehicle parts	2	1	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	
White goods	3	14	4	3	1	3	2	6	4	3	3	
Other electrical	3	3	1	0	1	2	4	0	0	0	4	
Tyres	1	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	
Asbestos	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	
Clinical	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Construction / demolition	5	6	3	3	3	7	3	7	3	4	6	
Black bags / commercial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Black bags / household	4	9	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	5	4	
Chemical, oil fuel	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	
Other household	18	28	28	14	18	26	18	23	21	17	20	
Other commercial	2	4	0	0	1	7	4	0	1	1	1	

The categorisation is extensive, covering a wide range of materials including animal carcasses, green waste, vehicle parts, white goods, electrical items, tyres, asbestos, clinical waste, construction and demolition debris, black bags (both commercial and household), chemicals, and other miscellaneous household or commercial waste. This level of detail allows the Council and the public to track trends in illegal dumping, better understand which waste types are most frequently fly-tipped, and identify seasonal patterns or high-incidence periods. Such insights can inform future enforcement strategies, resource allocation, and targeted public education campaigns, making CBC's data-driven approach a model of good practice that Bolsover could consider.

Derbyshire Dales District Council Website

Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) provides clear and practical guidance on its website to help residents dispose of waste responsibly and legally. The Council offers advice on how to verify the legitimacy of waste carriers, encouraging residents to ask for the necessary licenses or credentials before allowing someone to remove waste on their behalf. This is accompanied by a strong warning that individuals may face Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) or prosecution if their waste is found fly-tipped and traced back to them, even if it was disposed of by a third party such as a "man with a van" service.

DDDC emphasises that residents remain legally liable when their waste is handled improperly. In addition to this legal guidance, the Council also provides important safety advice on handling hazardous items, particularly needles, syringes, and other drug-related litter. The website explains the risks associated with these materials and advises the public to avoid contact, ensuring that residents are better informed and protected when encountering such waste in their communities. This combination of legal accountability and personal safety information represents a thorough and responsible approach to public education on environmental cleanliness.

Evaluation of Benchmarking Approaches

This chapter highlights both best practices and areas for improvement in how Bolsover District Council communicates its environmental enforcement strategy to the public. By comparing the Council's website content with that of neighbouring authorities, such as CBC and DDDC, it is evident that while Bolsover District Council provides basic information on fly-tipping, there are significant gaps in the advice and resources offered to residents. Chesterfield's data-driven approach to transparency, where detailed and categorised fly-tipping figures are regularly published, shows how clear communication and public accountability can inform strategic enforcement and raise community awareness. Derbyshire Dales, on the other hand, offers practical advice on how residents can verify the legitimacy of waste carriers, as well as providing important safety information on handling hazardous items, such as needles and syringes. This approach ensures residents are better informed and protected.

In contrast, Bolsover's website lacks this level of detail, particularly in offering preventative advice or promoting its own bulky waste collection services. These omissions present missed opportunities to educate the public, reduce environmental crime, and reinforce the collective responsibility of the community.

To strengthen its approach, Bolsover District Council could benefit from making more visible the actions it is already taking to tackle environmental despoilment, particularly by sharing meaningful updates through its website and social media channels. This should focus on the types of information that residents are genuinely interested in—such as the number of fly-tipping sites cleared each year, trends over time, and the outcomes of serious offences. Sharing this data in an accessible format would not only enhance transparency but also reinforce public confidence in the Council's enforcement efforts.

Additionally, providing practical guidance on the safe handling and reporting of hazardous waste—such as needles or drug-related litter—would help residents stay informed and protected, while contributing to a more engaged and responsible community. Collectively, these steps would support a clearer, more proactive enforcement strategy aligned with best practice examples seen elsewhere.

Ensuring a Clear Enforcement Strategy to Improve Environmental Quality Across the District

Part of the fifth objective of this review, as agreed by the Committee, is to ensure there is a clear and effective strategy of enforcement action to improve the quality of the environment across the District. As previously mentioned in Chapter 5.1 (pages 21–23), Bolsover District Council operates a joint Environmental Health service with North East Derbyshire District Council, covering enforcement areas such as fly-tipping, littering, abandoned vehicles, waste duty of care, and dog fouling. Performance data from April 2024 to March 2025 (see the table on page 22) highlights low enforcement rates for key issues—particularly fly-tipping—indicating a need for stronger, more effective action. Therefore, a more effective strategy for a specific Environmental Enforcement Policy will be developed by the Council, led by the Assistant Director of Streetscene, Community Safety and Enforcement, which is detailed in recommendation 2.1 of this report, to improve environmental despoilment outcomes and better address environmental offences across the District.

The need for improvement and benchmarking reinforces the need for a clearer and more proactive enforcement strategy that both drives improved outcomes and responds to public expectations. Enhancing transparency, increasing the visibility of enforcement data, and strengthening public-facing guidance are key elements of this wider strategic approach—helping not only to deter offending, but to engage residents in supporting a cleaner, safer environment across the District.

Recommendations:

That the Council enhance transparency by publishing meaningful data and information on fly-tipping activities on the website and through social media, that demonstrate what the Council is doing to tackle environmental despoilment.

That the Council provide advice on how to handle hazardous items such as needles and syringes, ensuring residents are informed on the safe disposal of such materials and the risks associated with handling them improperly

6. Conclusions

The Committee have put together 11 recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council in improving the effectiveness of its response to environmental despoilment across Bolsover District.

The key findings arising from the review are:

- Environmental despoilment, particularly fly-tipping, remains a significant and persistent issue across the District, impacting both the quality of the environment and residents' sense of place.
- Current enforcement outcomes are limited, with performance data showing a low percentage of reports leading to fixed penalty notices or prosecutions, particularly for fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering.
- The joint Environmental Health service with North East Derbyshire District Council offers a useful foundation, but there is a clear need to explore alternative models or tools that could enhance enforcement capability and effectiveness.
- Hotspot locations for fly-tipping require targeted action, including surveillance, signage, and operational task groups to focus efforts and improve accountability across departments.
- The coordination between departments—Streetscene, Community Safety and Environmental Health—must be strengthened through revived Corporate Enforcement Group meetings, structured evidence processes, and shared training opportunities.
- Public engagement and education are essential components of any long-term solution, with the Council needing to amplify its communications, provide clear guidance on waste disposal, and increase the visibility of enforcement actions to deter offending.
- Improved transparency and performance benchmarking through accessible, meaningful data and public updates will help build community trust and demonstrate the Council's commitment to tackling environmental offences.

The Committee recognises that a strategic and joined-up approach is required to deliver sustained improvements. The recommendations in this report aim to support that goal by enhancing enforcement activity, strengthening interdepartmental coordination, increasing public awareness, and improving the visibility and responsiveness of the Council's actions. If implemented effectively, these measures will help reduce environmental crime, promote civic responsibility, and create a cleaner, safer Bolsover District for all residents.

Appendix 1: Stakeholders

Stakeholders engaged during the Review:

- Cllr Rob Hiney-Saunders (Portfolio Holder for Environment)
- Strategic Director of Services
- Assistant Director, Streetscene Community Safety and Enforcement
- Director of Governance and Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)
- Communications, Marketing and Design Manager
- Environmental Enforcement and Pest Control Manager
- Enforcement Officers / Rangers
- Streetscene Manager

Stakeholders impacted by the Review:

- Bolsover District Council tenants
- Assistant Director, Streetscene Community Safety and Enforcement
- Enforcement Manager and Team
- Environmental Health Manager
- Streetscene Manager and Team

Appendix 2: Fly-Tipping Site, Bolsover District



(12/10/2024)

Appendix 3: Fly Tipping Sign In Use



(12/10/2024)

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