

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

**Response to Audit and Corporate Governance Committee to queries for Executive Director of Place & Community**

**Fly tipping -number of prosecutions, fines and advisory letters that have been issued now service fully staffed**

The Resilience and Enforcement team have a number of statutory responsibilities, for which fly tipping is just one. Since April 2020 the team have received **6967** reports, of which **1458** were fly tipping related.

<b>Reports to SBC – April 2020 – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>	
<b>Fly tipping/Side waste</b>	<b>1458</b>
ASB	1690
Statutory noise	1102
All other statutory	307
Vehicle/Abandoned/Nuisance	1195
Animal complaints	288
Freedom of Enquiries	72
Licensing/Planning responses	138
Public burials	18
Pest/Insect	225
Misc	474
<b>Total</b>	<b>6967</b>

From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 the team has received **1,458** complaints of fly tipping.

These reports consist from your single mattress, white goods left on pavements, side waste in bin areas, unwitnessed fly tips and then there will be fly tips where evidence has been found, witnessed and CCTV footage. You will see that the number of complaints is considerably higher than the outcomes noted below. This is due to the nature of fly tipping in that it is very difficult to gather evidence for investigation and prosecution.

**Number of fly tipping cases since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020**

Total number of cases recorded on Council systems **1,458**

- **24** fixed penalty notices issued of which,
  - 3 payments of £200
  - 8 payments of £120
  - 7 withdrawn

- 3 unpaid
- 2 to still chase
- 1 still has time to pay

Taking these cases to prosecution relies on passing the evidential test of proportionality and public interest.

- 1 case to legal, but the advice was not to pursue as it would not be in the public interest.
- 1 case with legal and it is listed for a court hearing.
- 3 successful prosecutions for fly tipping.

**Current investigations**

- The team are investigating 27 individual cases of fly tipping – due to these being ongoing investigation we are unable to provide details.

**Q2 internal audit report - negative opinions relating to Stephen Gibson’s area – update to be provided at the next scheduled meeting**

**Asset register (19.20/21)**

Outstanding management actions reported in the Q2 report have been closed or are being addressed:

<p>The Principle Asset Manager will undertake a review of the current Asset Management Procedure to determine the responsibilities of all involved departments and staff. The procedure will be updated to outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to identify assets;</li> <li>• Responsibility of staff in reporting new assets and disposals to the Finance team, the Legal team and the Asset Management team;</li> <li>• Documentation to be held for assets owned by the Council;</li> <li>• Timeliness and responsibility of reconciliations between the asset values in the Asset Register and the general ledger;</li> <li>• Timeliness and responsibilities for all involved teams within the asset revaluation process and updating of results; and</li> <li>• The process for disposals and acquisitions of assets.</li> <li>• Upon review the document will be made available to members of the Asset Management, Finance and Legal Teams</li> </ul>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Development Procedures with regards updating property records has been updated</p>
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<p>The Principle Asset Manager will ensure periodic reconciliations are performed around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reconciliation between the Land Registry and the Asset Register; and</li> <li>• Legal notices and the Asset Register.</li> </ul>	High	Complete	Exercise has shown around 40 properties unregistered with Land Registry. Programme of registering land will now be undertaken.
<p>The Group Accountant Corporate will fully document the verification / valuation process performed on Council assets. This will include documentation around the frequency with which various asset classes are verified / revalued, roles and responsibilities of key individuals as well as any other asset verification processes.</p>	Medium	Overdue	This will be progressed as part of the work related to the Council's Statement of Accounts

### **Section 106 Funds 38.20/21**

The query regarding section 106 funds was answered at the committee meeting on 30.09.2021

Clarification relating to S106 funds – (S151 Officer stated figure of £1.35m but report states £6.75m outstanding)

Data has been extensively reviewed and it is not £6.75m and 50 invoices but £1.35m and 15

invoices. This is where the trigger point for payment had been reached. £80k has been received to date and the remainder has been invoiced.

The section 106 monitoring group has been formed and terms of reference agreed for the remit of the group

### **Temporary accommodation –details of how many residents have been evicted since ban was lifted and does the council have register of landlords for residents and asylum seekers**

1. Details of how many residents have been evicted since ban was lifted:

Two households in total this financial year evicted 24.11.21 and 27.9.21.

2. Does the council have register of landlords for residents and asylum seekers:

The Housing Regulation Team will have a register of licensed Private Sector Landlords and a record of other Private Sector Landlords known to them. However there is no register as such of every Private Sector Landlord in operation in Slough.

In addition if a Private Sector Landlord is not operating a licensable property then there is no legal duty placed upon them to make themselves known to the council.

Individuals and families housed who are seeking asylum are registered with and by the Home Office and are placed by them. Sourcing and management of these properties then is undertaken by their own appointed private contractor.