

# A report of the Overview and Scrutiny Enviro-Crimes working group

## A review of environmental crimes



*“The working group felt that the most significant enviro-crimes to affect communities within the borough were dog fouling and fly-tipping”*

May 2014

## Executive Summary

The Members of the working group received a presentation from officers on the legislation and procedures currently used for the investigation of environmental crime and additional legislation available to the Authority for adoption. The working group felt that the most significant enviro-crimes to affect communities within the borough were dog fouling and fly-tipping. There is currently no enforcement action taken against fly-tippers due to a lack of resource at Direct Services, and there have been few dog fouling prosecutions due to the lack of evidence in relation to the offenders.

The group received an overview from Lloyd Griffiths, Environmental Services Manager from Gloucester City Council, on how they have been dealing with enviro-crimes since adopting the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. He reported that in the city, they had served around 50 fixed penalty notices in the last 4 years, and only 5 of these were served by the Police, despite spending a considerable amount of time training and authorising Police personnel. Gloucester City Council has recently adopted a new approach where officers are encouraging people to have more pride in the area they live through education and awareness raising, rather than taking active enforcement action.

The group felt there should be more education on dog fouling including:

- Clearer and more prominent signs advising that enforcement officers are in the area.
- Paws on Patrol to be launched in the summer.
- Further training for the Police on dog fouling.
- Harder hitting campaigns.
- Contact to parish councils to ensure all complaints are reported to ensure reporting is accurate.
- School Campaigns.

The group wanted preventative action to be taken in relation to fly-tipping. This would involve the transfer of a resource from Direct Services to Environmental Health. Environmental Health staff are trained and proficient at taking enforcement action. It was also thought that abandoned vehicles should be dealt with by Environmental Health.



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“Environmental crime is defined as crime that  
**adversely affects the environment.**  
Any action that has a negative effect on surroundings”.

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## Introduction

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5th November 2013, it was agreed that a working group be formed to carry out a review of the way that Tewkesbury Borough Council investigates environmental crimes (“enviro-crimes”). The Committee requested the working group examine how enviro-crimes were being investigated and if more could be done to address the issues.

The points to be considered were as follows;

- What types of crime are categorised as ‘enviro crimes’ and which are perceived to significantly impact upon the Borough?
- What is the extent of the problem within the Borough and the effect upon communities?
- How robust is the intelligence gathering e.g. logging of complaints, identification of hotspots?
- To consider the council’s current approach in tackling enviro crimes in particular the effectiveness of prevention measures and educational initiatives.
- To consider what legislative powers are available to the council and the impact of adopting any new legislation.
- To look at practice elsewhere.

The Members of the working Group included:

- Councillor Mrs G F Blackwell
- Councillor Mrs J E Day
- Councillor B A Jones
- Councillor M H Rowcliffe-Quarry (Resigned from the Council on 28 March 2014)
- Councillor P D Surman
- Councillor M G Szymiak

- Councillor M J Williams
- Councillor J R Mason (in his capacity as Lead Member for Clean and Green Environment)
- David Steels (Environmental Health Manager)
- Kathryn Griffiths (Environmental Health Officer)
- Nick Firkins (Direct Services Manager)
- Graeme Simpson (Group Manager Policy and Performance)

## Background

Environmental crime is defined as crime that adversely affects the environment. Any action that has a negative effect on surroundings is considered an environmental crime. Although local authorities have been enforcing legislation related to environmental matters since Victorian times, the phrase “enviro-crime” has become more common parlance in recent years to describe a group of crimes as defined by statutory guidance and legislation in the last 20-30 years.

Environmental crime can include:

- littering
- fly-tipping
- fly-posting
- graffiti
- abandoned vehicles
- dog fouling
- noise (it was decided by the working group, that noise would not be reviewed as there are suitable and sufficient powers and resources in place)

The visual impact of environmental crimes, such as litter in the streets and graffiti on buildings, can alter the perception people have of the area, potentially devaluing neighbourhoods and

“...most significant environmental crimes were **fly-tipping and dog fouling** and therefore these would be their main focus.”

encouraging other crime. There is a direct link between the state of the environment we live in and our overall happiness (Harvard, School of Public Health).

From speaking to officers and members, it is clear that fly-tipping and dog fouling are consistently at the top of residents’ concerns and impact on their quality of life. The working group investigated what Tewkesbury Borough Council does to tackle these issues, how resources are allocated and how current actions affect open spaces and ‘street scene’.

The current resource allocation for investigating environmental crimes is split between staff working at Direct Services at Swindon Lane, Cheltenham and the Environmental Health department. Direct Services staff deal with abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping, littering, fly-posting and graffiti, and the Environmental Health team investigates dog fouling.

The staffing provisions within Direct Services, have been in a transitional phase since 2010 pending discussions regarding shared services. The team dealing with environmental crimes consists of 1 Technical Assistant, 4 Street Cleansing Crews (3 fixed routes and 1 floating to follow up on reports) plus 2 Roadsweepers. The technical assistant post is currently covered by a temporary member of staff.

The staffing provisions in environmental health consists of 1 Environmental Health Officer and 2.5 Environmental Protection Officers. Two dog warden posts were deleted in the financial year 2005/ 2006, since then Environmental Health staff share enforcement of dog fouling.

Recent 2013-14 figures show a significant increase in the overall numbers of environmental crimes reported. Environmental crime figures from the previous 3 years show steadily increasing numbers.

Year	Total number of reported Environmental Crimes
2010-2011	734
2011-12	739
2012-13	722
2013-14	862

The following table shows environmental crime reports in quarter 3 and 4 in 2013/14. Note: the number of fly-tipping reports is significantly higher.

Type of Environmental Crime Complaint	Number of Complaints received 1/10/13 and 31/12/13	Number of Complaints received 1/1/14 and 31/03/14
Noise	42	38
Dog Fouling	20	12
Fly-tipping,	125	186
Abandoned Vehicles,	11	16
Graffiti,	0	0
Fly-posting	0	0
Street Littering	9	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>252</b>

Members of the working group considered the figures and determined that the most significant environmental crimes affecting our communities were fly-tipping and dog fouling and therefore these would be their main focus.

### Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping is the illegal deposit of waste on land. Fly-tipping differs from littering in that it involves the deliberate aim of disposing of it unlawfully, or as a result of legitimate outlets not being available.

"Fly tipping can have  
**adverse effects on an area**  
including environmental, social and economic damage."

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The offence of fly-tipping and the additional offences of 'knowingly causing' or 'knowingly permitting' fly-tipping are set out in s.33(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The maximum penalties for fly-tipping on summary conviction are a £50,000 fine and/or twelve months' imprisonment. On conviction in a Crown Court the maximum penalties are an unlimited fine and/or five years imprisonment.

Both the Environment Agency and Local Authorities have powers to tackle fly-tipping. Local authorities are responsible for clearing up and investigating most small scale fly-tipping on public land while the Environment Agency investigates larger-scale incidents, those involving hazardous waste or organised crime.

On private land the responsibility for clearance of fly-tipped waste rests with the landowner. Local authorities may serve notice under s59 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 requiring occupiers or landowners to remove fly-tipped waste. However, depending on the circumstances, local authorities will often provide landowners with advice and guidance on measures which can be taken to prevent further unauthorised waste deposits.

Fly-tipping can have adverse effects on an area including environmental, social and economic damage:

**Environmental Damage-** Dumped material can leach into the ground, potentially affecting the soil, plants and aquifers below. Animals can ingest items, which may cause serious damage or death to native wildlife and household pets. Black bags containing food waste will also draw vermin and

other small mammals to an area, many of which will carry disease.

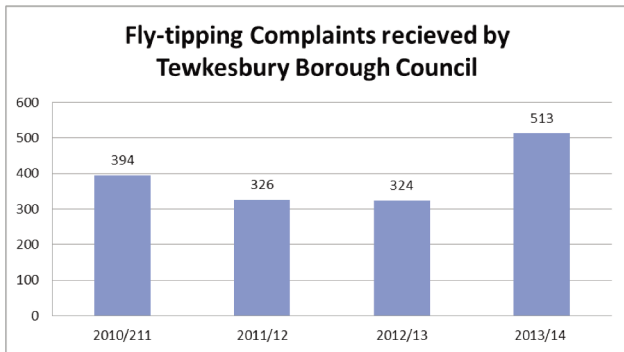
**Social Damage-** Fly-tipping is unsightly and affects the quality of life of local residents. Studies by DEFRA have indicated that fly-tipping in an area can lead to other social problems which impact on the quality of life of residents, and in particular, make an area more vulnerable to other forms of crime.

**Economic Damage-** The estimated cost of clearance of fly-tipping to Local Authorities in England in 2012/13 was £36.4 million. In 2012/13, it was estimated that Tewkesbury Borough Council spent £22,414 in clearing fly-tips.

<b>Estimated clearance costs for various sizes of fly-tips:</b>	
Single black bag	£7
Other single item	£29
Car boot load or less	£29
Small van load	£56
Transit van load	£115
Tipper Lorry load	£115
Significant multiple loads	£125

Statistics on fly-tipping incidents in Tewkesbury Borough show that there are over 300 being reported every year. The number of incidents reported in 2013/14 show that the number of reported fly-tips has increased significantly. The rise in fly-tipping may be due to the increased cost associated with disposing of waste- Landfill Tax £80.00 per tonne.

"Dog fouling is an offensive type of litter on the streets and is consistently raised as a public concern in the borough"



The graphs found at Appendix A show a breakdown of fly-tipping incidents reported to Tewkesbury Borough Council alongside graphs taken from the fly-tipping official statistics.

Locations where waste is tipped is as follows:

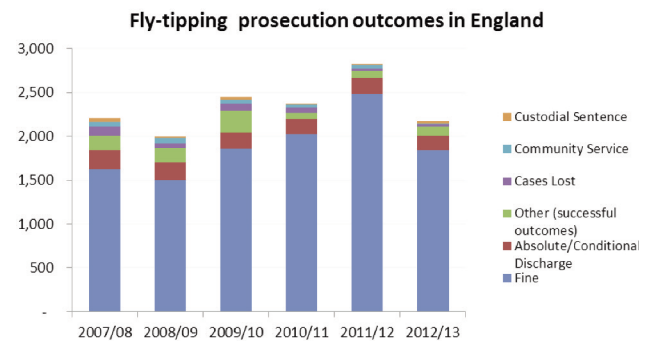
Location	Incidents during 2012 /13
Highway	255
Footpath/bridleway	50
Back alleyway	4
Railway	0
Private residential	1
Council Land	12
Agricultural	0
Private commercial/ industrial	0
Watercourse/ bank	9
Other	0

The most common type of waste being dumped is household waste (excluding black bags) such as sofas, mattresses etc. Tewkesbury Borough also has a higher percentage of construction waste (22%) and green waste (14%) being dumped compared to the national average.

Nationally the average fly-tip is a 'small van load' size, however, in Tewkesbury Borough, a typical 'car boot sized' load (27%) is the most common size for a fly-tip.

Currently, reports of fly-tipping are investigated by Direct Services staff and any waste found is removed. No enforcement action is taken due to lack of resources and lack of knowledge of how to take enforcement action at Direct Services.

Local Authorities carried out over 425,000 enforcement actions in 2012/13, and there were over 2,200 prosecutions, 99% of which resulted in a conviction (see graph below). Members were informed that neighbouring authorities take enforcement action; Members therefore were concerned that Tewkesbury Borough was seen as an "easy target".



### Dog foulings

Dog fouling is an offensive type of litter on the streets and is consistently raised as a public concern in the borough. In 2010 the UK dog population was estimated to be 8 million, with dogs producing approximately 1,000 tonnes of excrement each day.

Dog fouling is unpleasant and dangerous. A big threat to public health from dog excrement is toxocariasis which is an infection of the roundworm toxocara canis. The eggs of the

parasite can be found in soil or sand contaminated with faeces and, if swallowed, can result in infection that lasts between 6 and 24 months. Symptoms include eye disorders, vague ache, dizziness, nausea, asthma and, in extremely rare cases, seizures/fits. Often the eggs are ingested when passed to the mouth by the hands, but this can also occur through contact with dogs or other inanimate objects including the wheels of toys and the soles of shoes. Toxocariasis most commonly affects children between 18 months and five years.

It is the responsibility of the dog owner or the person in charge of the dog to clear up their dog's excrement. The current legislation for dealing with dog fouling is the Dog Fouling of Land Act 1996. All public footpaths and public open spaces in the borough have been designated under this Act and if someone fails to pick up after their dog they can be fined up to £1000. The offender can also be given a £50 fixed penalty notice. Fixed penalty notices can only be issued by an authorised employee of the Authority.

Dog fouling is enforced by environmental health staff, and any necessary clearance jobs are carried out by Direct Services staff. People rarely offend when others are around, and with changes to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, the Authority is unable to undertake covert surveillance for crimes such as dog fouling as it does not carry a custodial sentence.

Members were informed that the environmental health team recently carried out a number of joint operations with the Police to tackle dog fouling. Signs were erected stating that enforcement officers were patrolling the area and, throughout a week-long period, Council Officers and Police

Community Support Officers (PCSOs) carried out regular patrols both during the day and during hours of darkness. As part of Environmental Health's Service Delivery Plan, the team is planning to carry out 3 operations per year. The team look to work proactively by analysing reporting statistics and highlighting hot spot areas that require attention.

Dog Control Orders were introduced by The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. The powers under this Act are not automatically delegated to Local Authorities (which is the case for most legislation), and Tewkesbury Borough Council has not adopted the Act.

The Dog Control Orders Regulations provide for five offences which may be prescribed in a dog control order:

- failing to remove dog faeces;
- not keeping a dog on a lead;
- not putting, and keeping, a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer;
- permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded;
- taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land.

The penalty for committing an offence contained in a Dog Control Order is a maximum fine of level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000). Alternatively, the opportunity to pay a fixed penalty may be offered in place of prosecution.

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 was repealed with effect from the date that the Clean Neighbourhood Act came into force, so no further land can be designated under that Act. Existing



“...may make an order if there are ‘activities’ that are taking place in a public place which are **having a ‘detrimental effect’** on quality of life.”

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bylaws remain in force indefinitely, and can continue to be enforced as normal. However, under subsection (4) if an Authority makes a Dog Control Order in respect of an offence on a specified area of land, any bylaw made by a primary or secondary authority dealing with the **same offence** on the **same land** lapses.

The Authority has previously investigated the adoption (report to the Corporate Management Team by David Steels, October 2012) of the Clean Neighbourhood legislation. The main issue with adopting this legislation is cost; of the legal support required, the public consultation process, training staff (including all local policing staff), replacing all dog fouling legislation information signs throughout the borough and then having to advertise the new powers as is required to take enforcement action successfully. Gloucester City Council reported that since training their officers (including over 70 Police Officers and PCSOs) in 2010, only 50 fixed penalty notices have been issued, 5 of these being issued by Police personnel, therefore averaging just over 1 fixed penalty charge notice served per month.

In March 2014, the Government published the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which should come into force in October 2014. The Act specifies that Dog Control Orders are to be repealed and replaced with Public Spaces Protection Orders. A local authority may make an order if there are "activities" that are taking place in a public place which are having "a detrimental effect" on quality of life. It may apply to:-

- all persons; or
- only to persons in specified categories; or
- to all persons except those in specified categories.

Failure to comply with a Public Space Protection Order will be a criminal offence which can be dealt with by a Fixed Penalty Notice (of up to £100), or by prosecution (maximum fine of £1,000). Public Space Protection Orders will last for a period of 3 years.

In 2012/13 there were 35 incidents of dog fouling reported. Members recognised that this figure does not necessarily give a true reflection on the extent of the problem in the Borough.

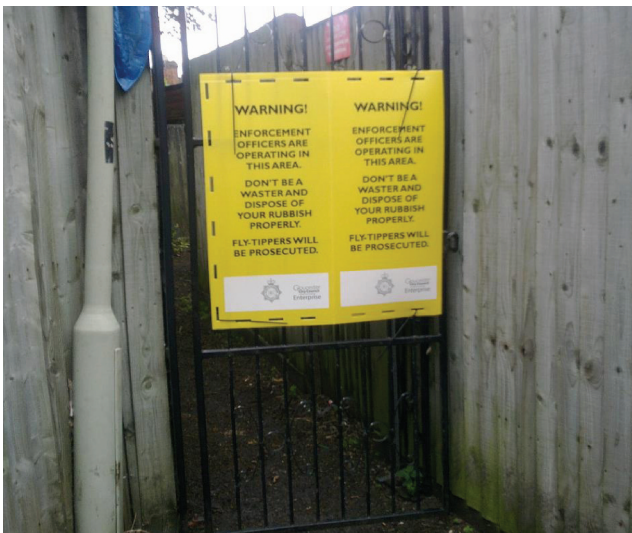
The Authority has not taken any prosecutions for dog fouling over the last 5 years, although a fixed penalty notice has recently been issued. Witnessing dog fouling incidents is difficult for officers as the likelihood of being present when an offence is being committed is low. Dog fouling incidents usually occur when there is no-one around watching or in hours of darkness which could be due to the public stigma attached to not picking up after your dog.

### **Findings of the working group**

The group received a presentation from Lloyd Griffiths, Environmental Services Manager from Gloucester City Council, on how they have been dealing with enviro-crimes since adopting the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. He reported that in the city, officers had served around 50 fixed penalty notices in the last four years since adopting the legislation, with five being served by the police. This figure was perceived as being small given the size of the city and the considerable amount of time training and authorising police personnel. Gloucester City Council has recently adopted a new approach

“...if enforcement action were to be taken, this should be carried out by the environmental health team who have the training and experience...”

where they are encouraging people to have more pride in the area they live, through education and awareness raising, rather than taking active enforcement action. The council has also purchased a number of ‘tri-signs’ (approximate cost of £1250 for 40) which are installed in hot-spot areas, which have resulted in a short term reduction of fly-tipping and dog fouling incidents in those areas.



## Fly-tipping

Members of the working group requested that officers look into the possibility of investigating all fly-tipping cases, where there was evidence of who had carried out the fly-tip, and taking any necessary enforcement action.

Members agreed that if enforcement action were to be taken, this should be carried out by the environmental health team, who have the training and experience in gathering evidence, taking court cases etc.

Based on the 6 months between September 2013 and February 2014 it was calculated that an average of 8.8 fly-tipping cases per calendar month may have the necessary evidence to take proceedings against the perpetrator. Of these 8.8 cases, it was calculated that around a third of these cases would come back as requiring further follow-up action.

Based on these figures it has been calculated that, to carry out fly-tipping enforcement in Tewkesbury Borough, it would require the following resource:

Action	Team	Hours per task	Predicted Hours required
Additional work in relation to investigation e.g. taking photographs etc.	Direct Services Staff	0.5 – 1	4.4 - 8.8 hours
Office investigatory work and sending letter	Environmental Health	1	8.8 hours
Invitation and preparation for Pace interview	Environmental Health	2	6 hours
Pace interview	Environmental Health	1- Two members of staff	6 hours
Outcome- 2 x warning letters/caution	Environmental Health	1	2 hours
1x prosecution file		6 hours	6 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>Direct Services Staff</b>		<b>4.4-8.8 hours per month</b>
	<b>Environmental Protection Staff</b>		<b>28.8 hours per month (7.2 hours per week)</b>

“Members were encouraged that a **fixed penalty notice had recently been served** under the current legislation and that the media had picked up on the success”

The working group agreed that a request be made of the staffing review in Direct Services (which is due to take place in April/May 2014) that 29 officer hours per month be made available to support Environmental Health to enable fly-tipping enforcement to be carried out.

	Recommendation	Timescale
6	That the Borough Council investigates the use of private companies for the purpose of issuing fixed penalty notices on their behalf.	June 2014

	Recommendation	Timescale
1	Where appropriate, fly tipping enforcement action will be undertaken by Tewkesbury Borough Council. Successful prosecutions will be communicated to the local press.  That the Borough Council transfers the responsibility of fly-tipping enforcement from Direct Services to the Environmental Health. That a resource from Direct Services is identified as part of the staffing review, and is transferred to Environmental Health. That Environmental Health allocates resources to enable enforcement of fly-tipping cases.	August 2014
2	That the Borough Council produces a procedure document on how fly-tipping is dealt with by key staff members. This procedure should also include partnership working with the Community Development Team when dealing with particular hotspot areas, to ensure that pride is incorporated into the basis of all projects.	August 2014

The working group also requested similar signs to those used in Gloucester City, to warn people that action will be taken against fly-tippers.

	Recommendation	Timescale
3	Provide portable signs warning residents and visitors that fly-tipping will not be tolerated, and enforcement action will be taken	September 2014

Enforcement of abandoned vehicles is currently being carried out by temporary staff who do not have the requisite skills or knowledge. Therefore it was recommended that Environmental Health also be given responsibility for the authority’s statutory duty to deal with abandoned vehicles.

	Recommendation	Timescale
4	Abandoned vehicle enforcement be transferred from Direct Services to the Environmental Health Department.	August 2014
5	Produce a procedure document to assist officers in dealing with abandoned vehicles.	August 2014

In addition to the measures detailed above, it was recommended that the Authority should explore the option of using a private company to issue fixed penalty notices on their behalf. An example is a company 3GS working on behalf of the City and County of Swansea Council.

## Dog fouling

The Working Group discussed the cost of implementing any new legislation in relation to dog fouling. It was estimated that to replace the current dog fouling signs throughout the Borough (approximately 3,000 signs) it would cost approximately £35,000- £40,000. The only benefit that the new legislation would bring to the Authority would be that Police Officers and PCSOs would be able to serve fixed penalty notices on behalf of the Authority. Taking into account the experience from Gloucester City Council and the low numbers of fixed penalty notices served by the Police, many Members did not think the estimated cost of implementing the new legislation would be value for money. It was agreed that other measures to reduce dog fouling should be explored rather than considering adoption of the new legislation at this present time.

Members were encouraged that a fixed penalty notice had recently been served under the current legislation, and that the media had picked up on the success. Members were also supportive of the joint initiatives that the Borough was carrying out in conjunction with the Police. It was agreed that these continue so as to encourage as many communities to tackle dog fouling as possible. It was agreed that it was important that the hot-spot areas were identified using reliable and up to date information. It was discussed that the number of complaints reported directly to the Borough Council did not reflect the true extent of the problem throughout the Borough, and that some complaints may be being received by the Parish

“A number of recommendations have been made that may help **improve the effectiveness of our response to dog fouling and fly-tipping** in the community”

and Town Councils and not forwarded to the Borough Council. Members agreed that it would be a good idea to contact Parish and Town Councils to ensure that all dog fouling incidents are being reported through to the Borough Council.



(Example poster of a hard hitting media campaign in Torbay)

	Recommendation	Timescale
7	Continue to work closely with the Police on joint operations to tackle dog-fouling in hot-spot areas.	Ongoing
8	To continue to investigate reports of dog fouling and take enforcement action where appropriate. Issue press releases when fixed penalty notices/enforcement action is taken against dog fouling.	Ongoing
9	Work closely with Parish Councils to tackle dog fouling. Facilitate the reporting of incidents of dog fouling to the Borough by contacting Parish Councils on a quarterly basis to help inform the number of complaints received and reported through the council plan performance tracker, to enable a better picture of the 'hot-spot' areas to be established.	Quarter 2- July-Sept, then ongoing
10	Enviro-crimes to be added as agenda item at a future Parish and Town Council Seminar, to advise on how they can assist in tackling enviro-crimes	Next meeting- Jan 2015

Although Members were pleased with how closely the Environmental Health team worked with the Police, the need for additional training for the Police was queried for them to clearly understand the part they can play in tackling dog fouling. If provided with a witness statement by the Police, the Environmental Health Team can serve a fixed penalty notice or prosecute for dog fouling.

	Recommendation	Timescale
11	Organise a training session tailored to the Police, explaining how they can help in tackling dog fouling.	October 2014

Gloucester City Council has launched a campaign called 'Paws on Patrol' where dog walkers who spot suspicious activity, including dog fouling, can report it quickly to the police and the authorities.. Members were very keen for a similar campaign in Tewkesbury Borough.

	Recommendation	Timescale
12	Launch a 'Paws on Patrol' type initiative to encourage witnesses to report dog fouling.	September 2014

The group discussed the use of more hard hitting media campaigns to help spread the message of the health implications associated with dog fouling.

	Recommendation	Timescale
13	Promote the dangers of dog fouling and consider the use of more hard hitting visual campaigns.	October 2014

Members also requested talks to school children on dog fouling, as children very often tried to educate their parents on what they had learnt at school. Other Local Authorities have teamed up with charities such as People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA), the Dogs Trust, local vets etc. to work in partnership on projects such as this.

	Recommendation	Timescale
14	Carry out educational campaigns at local schools to make them aware of the dangers of dog fouling. Explore partnership working with other agencies.	January 2015

Members thought that the use of prominent signs advising that enforcement officers were patrolling in a particular area might provide short-term solutions.

	Recommendation	Timescales
15	Procure portable signs warning that dog fouling will not be tolerated and enforcement action will be taken.	September 2014

## Conclusion

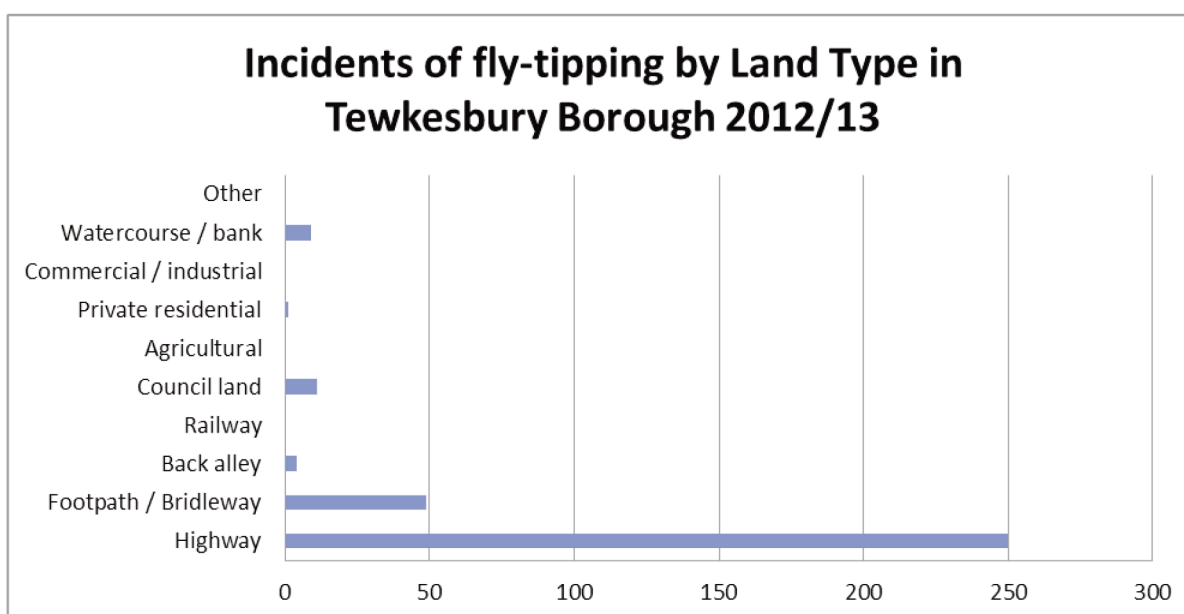
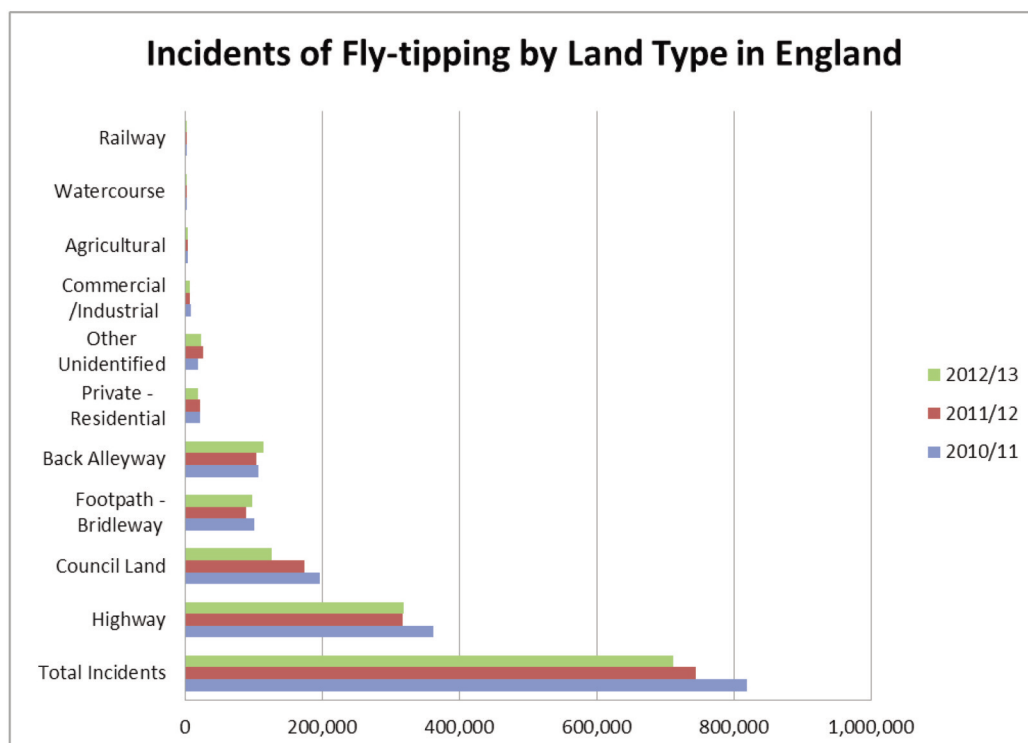
The Working Group looked into how environmental crimes were investigated within Tewkesbury Borough. A number of recommendations have been made that may help improve the effectiveness of our response to dog fouling and fly-tipping in the community.

## Appendix A

The following graphs illustrate data taken from the “fly-capture” database. A number of the Tewkesbury Borough graphs are displayed alongside the corresponding graph from the fly-tipping official statistics database to illustrate the comparison between Tewkesbury Borough and the national trend.

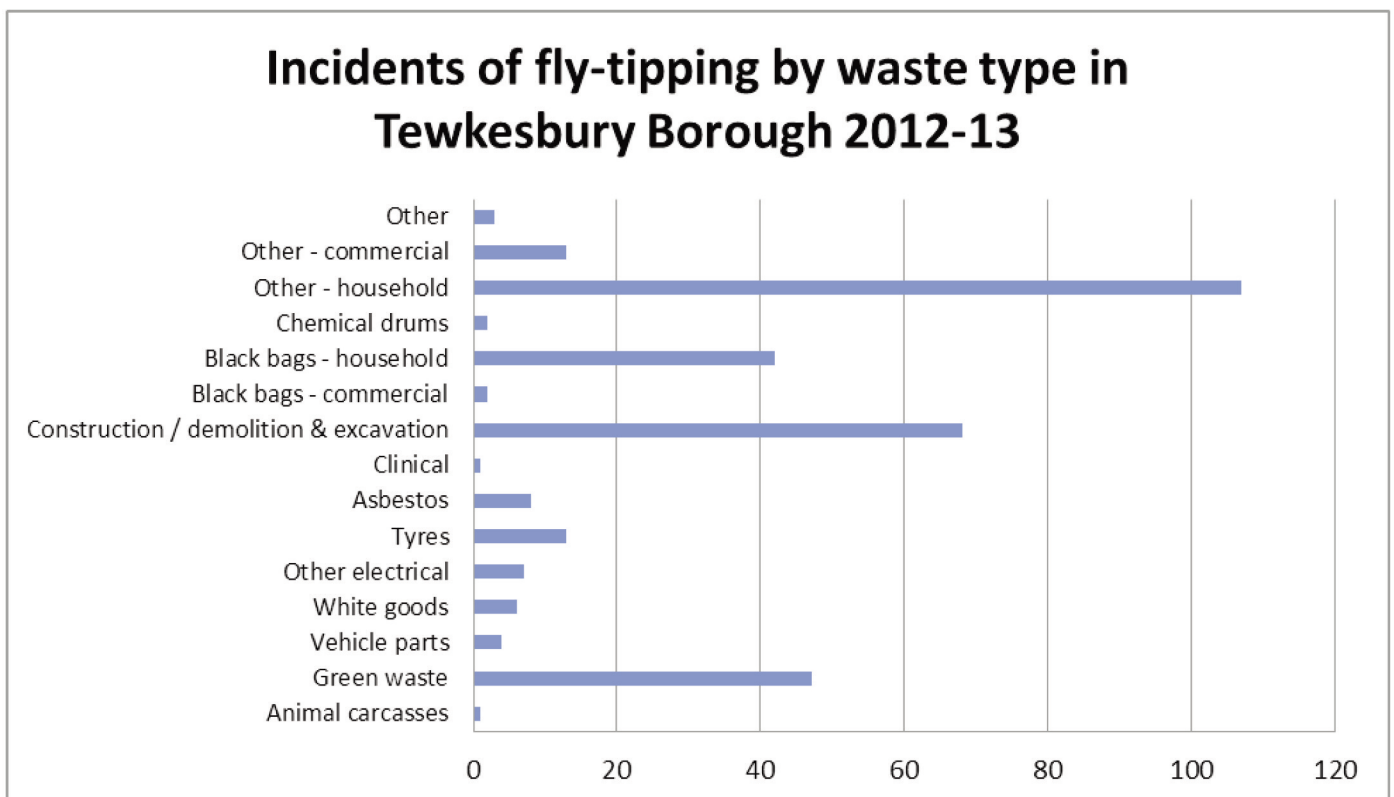
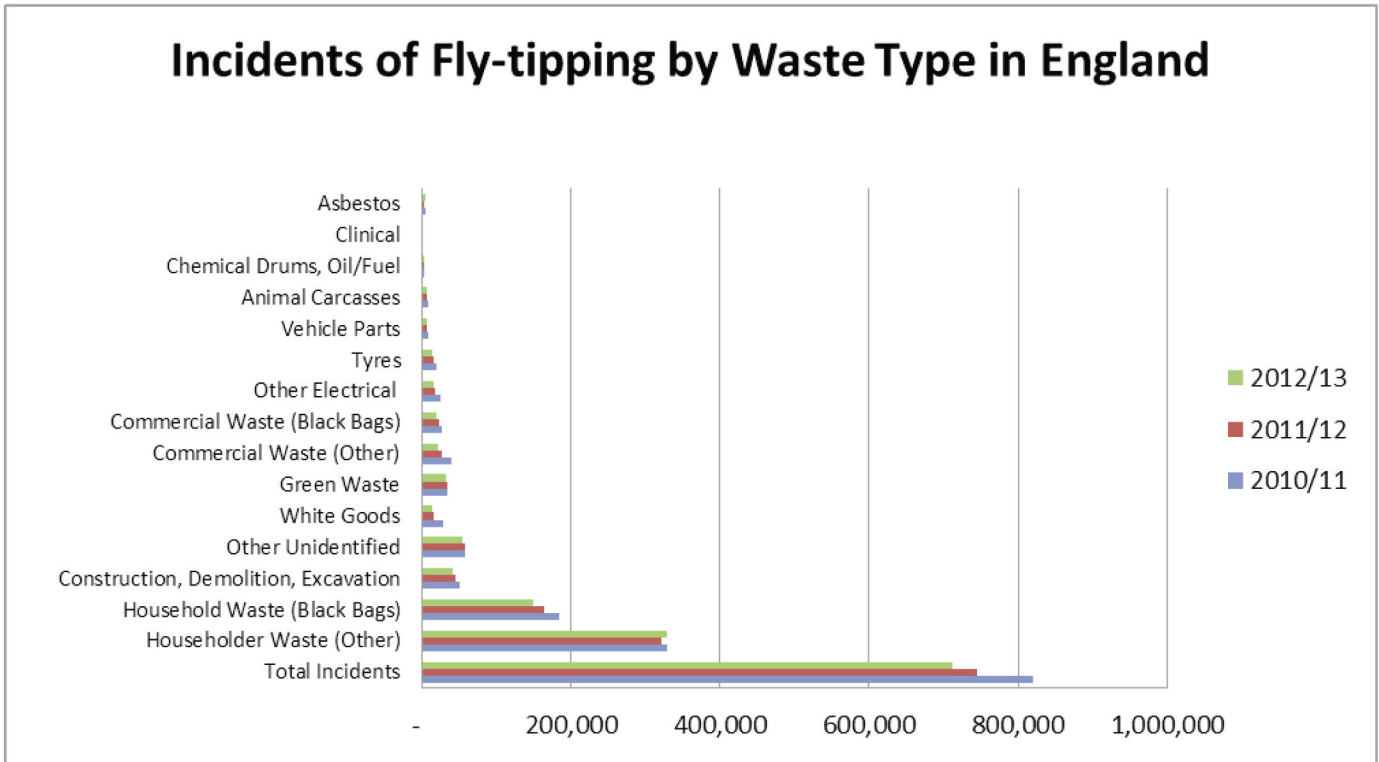
Whilst Government require information to be submitted in relation to fly-tipping, this unfortunately is not the case for dog fouling, and therefore national statistics are not available for the numbers of dog fouling complaints.

Comparing type of land waste was dumped on



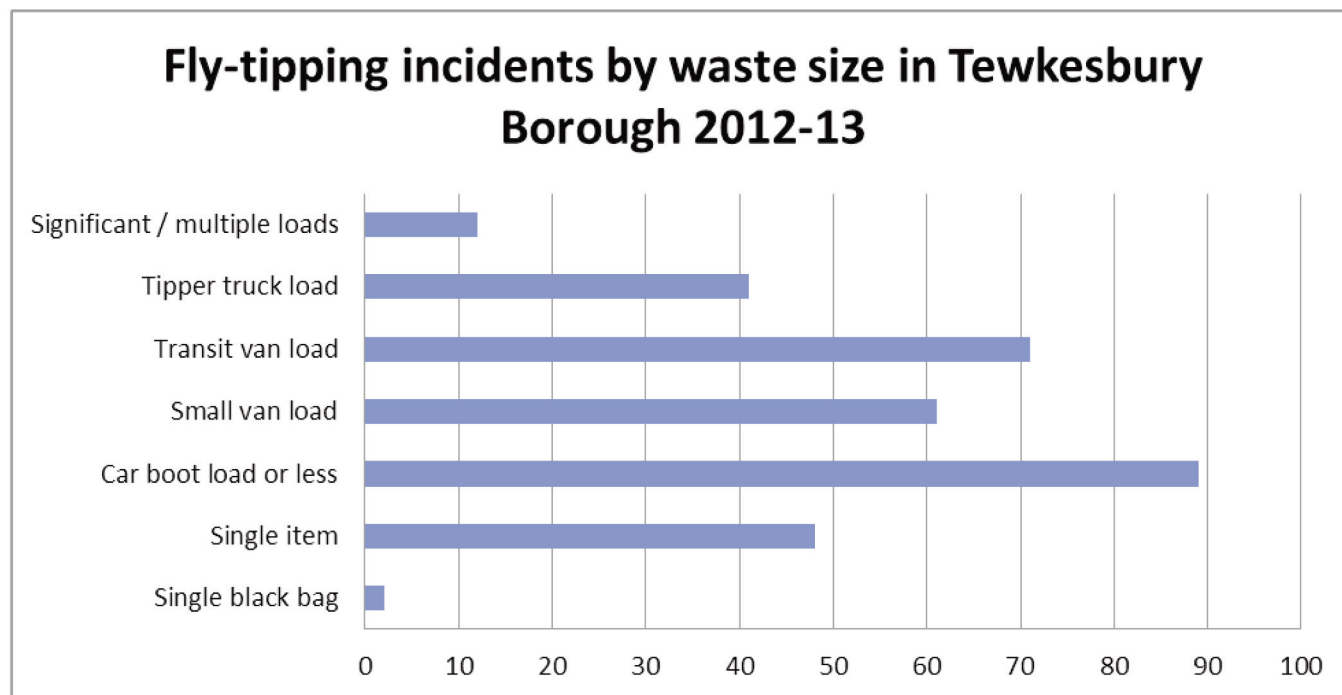
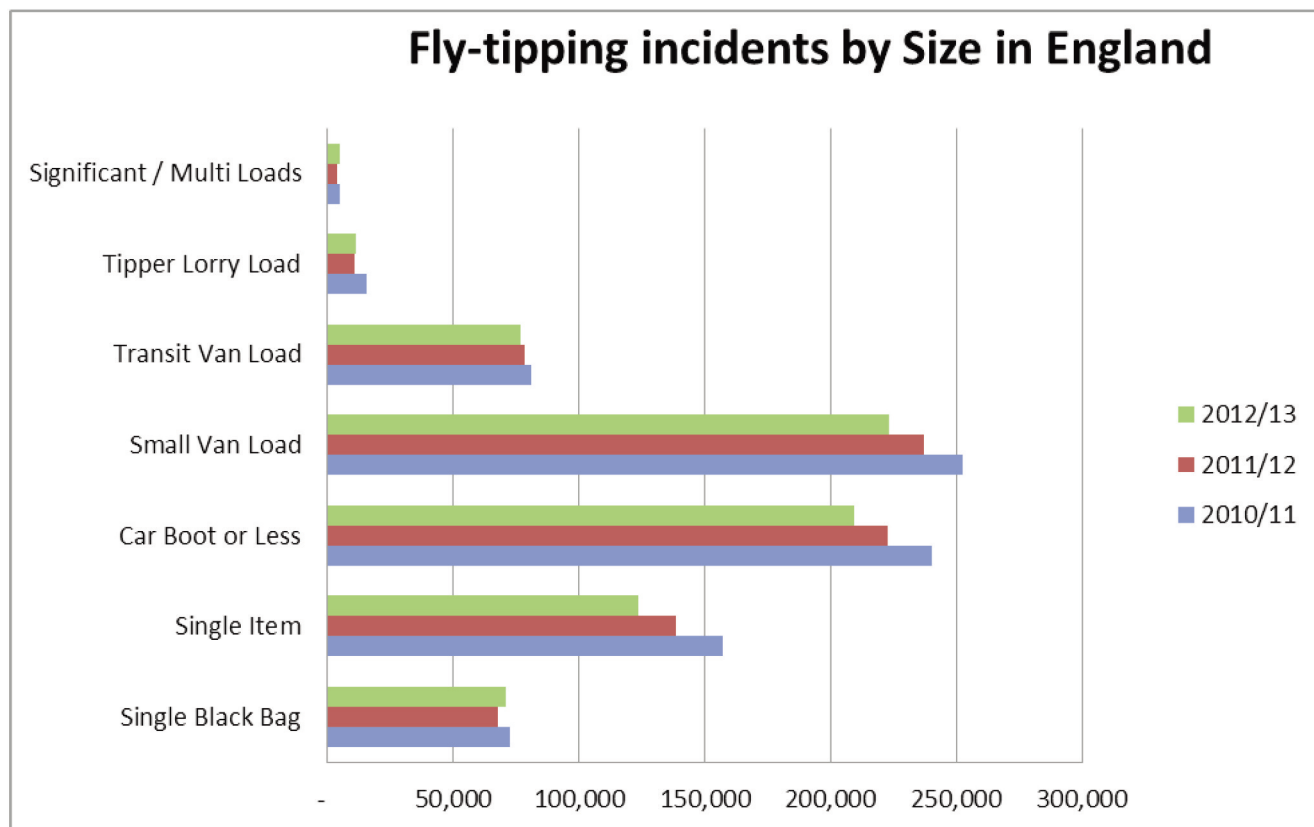
## Appendix A

### Comparing type of waste dumped



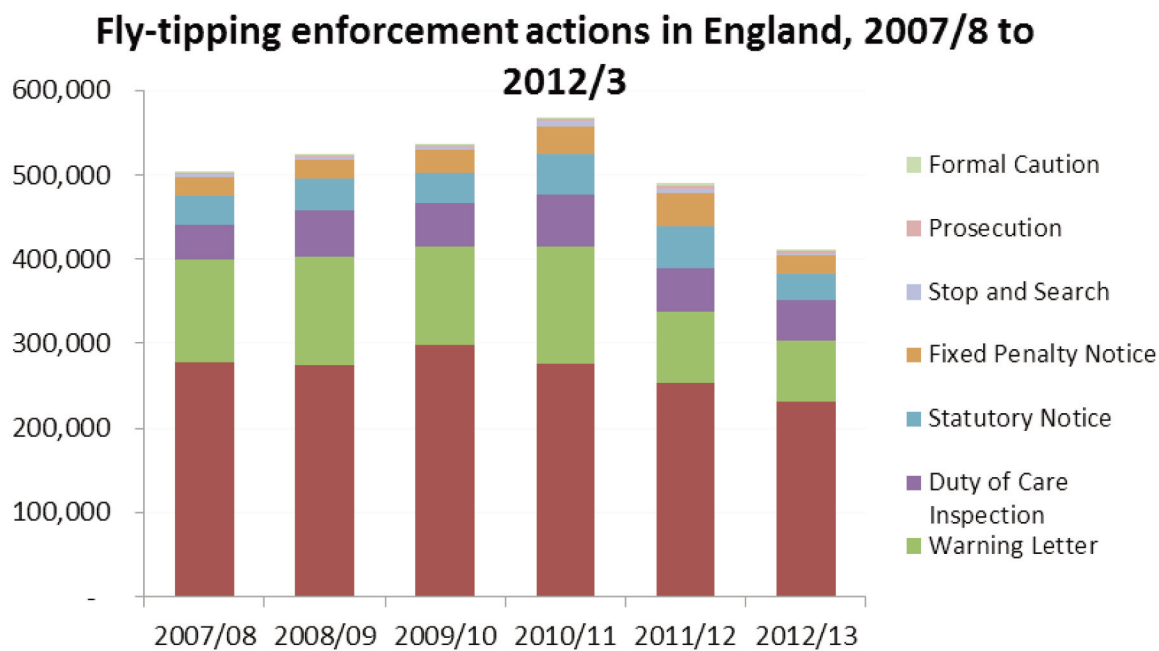
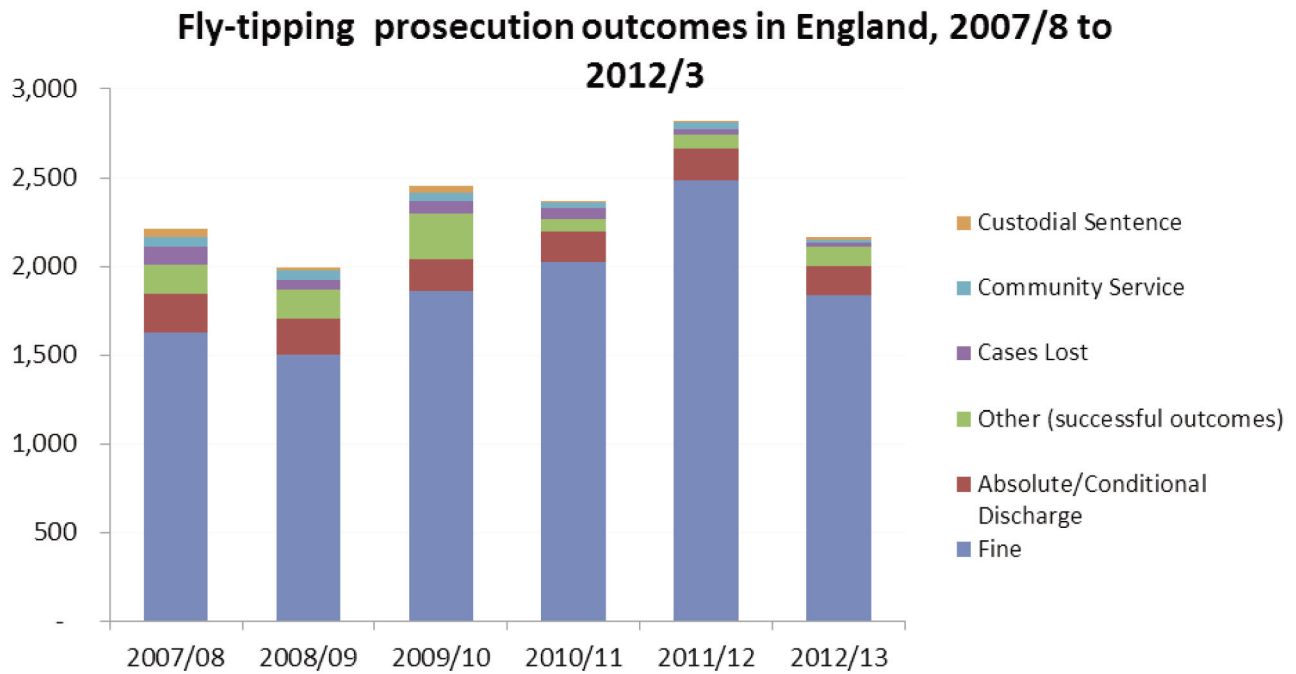
## Appendix A

### Comparing size of incidents



## Appendix A

### Enforcement action





## Appendix B - Summary of recommendations

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
1	Where appropriate, fly tipping enforcement action will be undertaken by Tewkesbury Borough Council. Successful prosecutions will be communicated to the local press.  That the Borough Council transfers the responsibility of fly-tipping enforcement from Direct Services to the Environmental Health. That a resource from Direct Services is identified as part of the staffing review, and is transferred to Environmental Health. That Environmental Health allocates resources to enable enforcement of fly-tipping cases.	August 2014
2	That the Borough Council produces a procedure document on how fly-tipping is dealt with by key staff members. This procedure should also include partnership working with the Community Development Team when dealing with particular hotspot areas, to ensure that pride is incorporated into the basis of all projects.	August 2014
3	Provide portable signs warning residents and visitors that fly-tipping will not be tolerated, and enforcement action will be taken	September 2014
4	Abandoned vehicle enforcement be transferred from Direct Services to the Environmental Health Department.	August 2014
5	Produce a procedure document to assist officers in dealing with abandoned vehicles.	August 2014
6	That the Borough Council investigates the use of private companies for the purpose of issuing fixed penalty notices on their behalf.	June 2014
7	Continue to work closely with the Police on joint operations to tackle dog-fouling in hot-spot areas.	Ongoing
8	To continue to investigate reports of dog fouling and take enforcement action where appropriate. Issue press releases when fixed penalty notices/ enforcement action is taken against dog fouling.	Ongoing
9	Work closely with Parish Councils to tackle dog fouling. Facilitate the reporting of incidents of dog fouling to the Borough by contacting Parish Councils on a quarterly basis to help inform the number of complaints received and reported through the council plan performance tracker, to enable a better picture of the 'hot-spot' areas to be established.	Quarter 2- July-Sept, then ongoing
10	Enviro-crimes to be added as agenda item at a future Parish and Town Council Seminar, to advise on how they can assist in tackling enviro-crimes	Next meeting- Jan 2015
11	Organise a training session tailored to the Police, explaining how they can help in tackling dog fouling.	October 2014
12	Launch a 'Paws on Patrol' type initiative to encourage witnesses to report dog fouling.	September 2014
13	Promote the dangers of dog fouling and consider the use of more hard hitting visual campaigns.	October 2014
14	Carry out educational campaigns at local schools to make them aware of the dangers of dog fouling. Explore partnership working with other agencies.	January 2015
15	Procure portable signs warning that dog fouling will not be tolerated and enforcement action will be taken.	September 2014

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