

Council – 14th December 2023

Notice of Motion

Southend-on-Sea City Council Fly-tipping Enforcement

From April 2021 to March 2022, there were 1,961 reported total incidents of fly-tipping in Southend and 3,060 total enforcement actions in response. Of these total enforcement actions, there were 0 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued. For that reporting year, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (as it was known as) was joint last in 266th place on the league tables for tackling fly-tipping through FPNs. Similarly, from the financial years of 2020-2023, a total of 0 FPNs and 2,789 warning letters were issued in relation to fly-tipping. From the calendar year of 2021-2023 (to date on 19th October 2023), 5,396 educational letters were issued in relation to fly-tipping.

Fly-tipping is a crime under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, worsens the community our residents live in, and is costly to the Council to have to action. Charging perpetrators with an FPN generates income to the Council and reduces the risk of reoffending.

It is recognised that not every situation of fly-tipping requires an FPN as other methods of enforcement may be more effective; however, it cannot be appropriate to never issue an FPN for an offence. In comparison to other local authorities, not issuing a single FPN shows a reluctance on the part of the Council to use all powers given to it to tackle fly-tipping offences. Only law-abiding residents and communities are punished through this lack of enforcement action.

This Council therefore:

1. Notes that the Council's current approach of education and engagement is enshrined in the Council's enforcement policy in accordance with central government's preferred approach.
2. Notes that the Council has not issued FPNs for fly-tipping offences in the past 4 years.
3. Resolves that the Council seeks to issue FPNs for fly-tipping offences where appropriate.

Proposed By: Cllr C Campbell

Seconded By: Cllr B Beggs
Cllr O Cartey
Cllr N Folkard