

Report to Southern Wiltshire Area Board

Date: 14 July 2016

SOUTHERN WILTSHIRE AREA FLY-TIPPING INCIDENTS AND COVERT CAMERA BRIEF

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report aims to brief the Southern Wiltshire Area Board on the recent fly-tipping incidents within the area and also to brief on the use of covert camera systems used to apprehend offenders.

2.0 Background

2.1 Fly tipping is the illegal deposit of waste on land not licensed to receive it, contrary to Section 33(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act (1990). The types of waste fly tipped range from 'black bag' waste to large deposits of materials such as industrial waste, tyres, construction material, hazardous and liquid waste. Fly tipping is a significant blight on our local environment; a source of pollution; a potential danger to public health and a hazard to wildlife. It also undermines legitimate waste businesses where unscrupulous operators undercut those operating within the law.

2.2 Nationally over the past two years, the number of reported incidents of fly tipping has increased by more than **27%**. Over the same period of time, incident numbers have increased in Wiltshire by **22%**, so below the national average. During 2015/16 Wiltshire Council received a total of **2,727** reports of fly tipping.

3.0 Southern Wiltshire Fly-Tipping Statistics

3.1 A review of the data for financial year 01 April 2015 – 31 March 2016 showed that the Southern Wiltshire Area Board had a reported 234 incidents of fly-tipping. This was the third highest number of reports from all area boards in Wiltshire over the same time period.

3.2 Table 1 below details the Area Board comparisons in the South (01 January - 14 June 2016):

Area Board	Reports
Amesbury	102
Salisbury*	167
South West Wiltshire	97
Southern Wiltshire	161
Tidworth	16

Table 1

* It should be noted that the majority of reports in Salisbury were for both commercial and domestic waste (black sacks) in the city centre placed out at inappropriate times so not technically classed as 'fly-tipping'.

4.0 Covert Camera Surveillance

- 4.1 The service currently utilises one covert camera surveillance system for use countywide in trouble hotspots where fly-tipping is prevalent. This is deployed under the required legislation, council policies/procedures and Magistrate requirements.
- 4.2 The unit is used under strict controls where it can be demonstrated that all other investigatory techniques have been exhausted and any collateral intrusion is kept to the absolute minimum.
- 4.3 The service has previously been successful in apprehending fly-tipping offenders using such a system. Once an area is deemed suitable for a camera operation, detailed reconnaissance is conducted to ensure a successful installation can be achieved and maintain servicing whilst in situ. Such a system can be deployed for a prescribed period of time specific to operation requirements/restrictions.

5.0 Additional covert camera considerations

- 5.1 An opportunity to purchase an additional covert camera system for the Southern Wiltshire Area Board has been informally discussed. If this was formally agreed, it would be solely used by authorised enforcement officers within the Southern Wiltshire Area Board.
- 5.2 A recently obtained quote for a like for like system which is currently used totals £3,100 inc. VAT (this includes high grade batteries with 4 day life after charge). This figure can reduce by purchasing lower grade battery packs (2 day life after charge).

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