

Report on Potential Strategy to Address Illegal Dumping

To the chairperson and members of the North Central Area Committee,

The issue of illegal dumping tends to have 2 distinct areas of offence, investigation and enforcement.

1. The first is the illegal collection and disposal of waste by unauthorised collectors – enforceable under the Waste Management Act and enforced by Waste Enforcement officers
2. The second, and more commonly encountered on a day to day basis and which has a significant visual and environmental impact on the community, is the dumping of domestic waste and junk by householders within their own community – enforceable under the Litter Pollution Act and enforced by authorised officers

The methods of enforcement that are generally used in relation to the dumping of waste by householders are set out below:

3. Investigation of dumped waste to establish offender details
4. Use of CCTV to identify offender details
5. Enforcement of Waste Bye Laws regarding requirement to use authorised waste collector or civic amenity facilities to dispose of waste.

A combination of all 3 avenues of investigation is the most aggressive or focused form of enforcement that it is possible to carry out.

This could be strengthened further by the cooperation of Waste Enforcement Unit wherever there is a suspicion or evidence of illegal activity referred to in point 1. above.

Any or all of these avenues of investigation may be carried out in a planned and targeted manner working in conjunction with local area management and public domain teams.

Such a plan of action would involve the dedication of resources both locally and centrally and there would be a cost involved in implementing a specific enforcement regime that would be dependent on the extent and scope of the project.

It should be noted that Dublin City Council will be beginning to roll out a formal enforcement campaign based on point 5. above. This is commencing shortly with a trial process to ensure that the system and processes are effective and will be implemented further following a successful outcome of that trial.

It is possible that additional resources could be allocated to the formal enforcement campaign to focus on specific areas within the North Central administrative area as an element of any overall strategy.

Any strategy would require buy in and the involvement of a number of internal and external stakeholders including but not limited to the following potential members:

Waste Management

Housing

Area Management

Public Domain

Community Development

An Garda Siochana

Local Community Service Providers and NGO's

Waste Enforcement

A sample step by step implementation and enforcement plan is set out below that may be used as a template to consider how best to proceed with the development of any strategy or action plan.

Sample Implementation and Enforcement Plan

Set out below are what is considered to be a reasonable and proportionate scale of action that escalates in the event that measureable improvements are not realised from the actions already implemented.

The timeline of escalation should be decided upon based upon the effectiveness of each step and the severity of the level of offence.

The actions are not exhaustive. Dublin City Council will endeavour to be innovative and use all aspects of any applicable legislation that may assist in the prevention, reduction or prosecution of offences. These actions may be updated from time to time as new operating procedures, resources or technologies are identified.

1. Identification of blackspots : - this may be done by a number of means including, but not restricted to, the mapping of CRM Data or Local Area Office/Departmental operational knowledge
2. The inclusion of additional informational signage within the area with a tailored message related to ongoing offences.
3. **Evidence recovery from identified sites. These may be specific streets / laneways / green spaces or areas containing a multitude of locations depending on the scale of the offences.**
4. Official correspondence to each applicable residence or commercial premises within the area.
5. Identification where possible of owners and responsible persons within residences, multi-let or commercial premises.

6. Official correspondence with identified individuals.
7. Door to door compliance surveys to be undertaken.
8. **Issuing of advisory notices re non- compliance.**
9. **Upon completion of satisfactory DPIA - Installation of targeted CCTV (and associated signage) to identify offenders.**

(The items in bold print indicate steps at which enforcement action will be taken through the issuing of fixed penalty notices or direct prosecutions)

This report is submitted for the consideration and debate of the members.