

Argyll and Bute Council

Scrutiny Report

February 2024

DRAFT

Fly-Tipping

1. Executive Summary

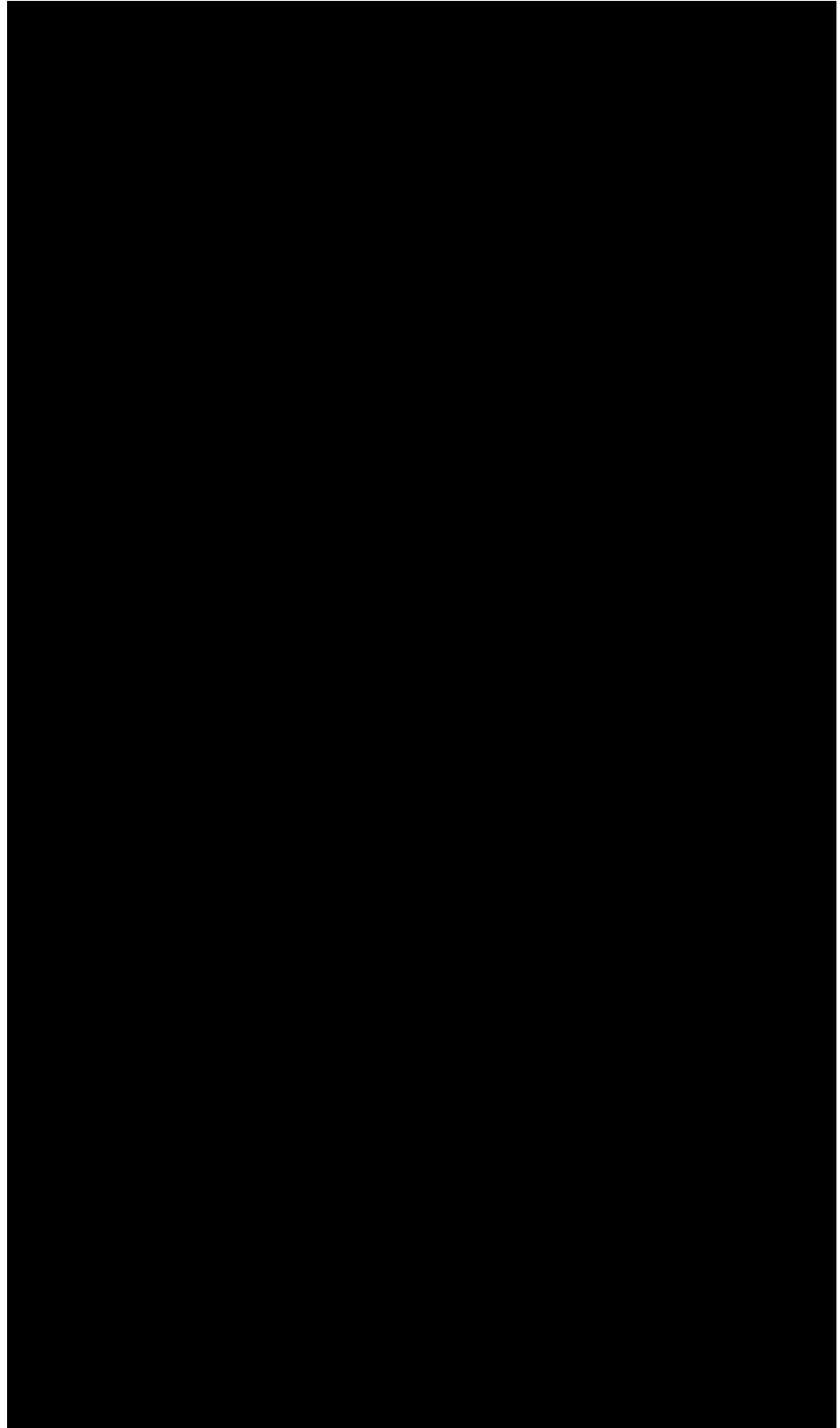
Introduction

1. As part of Argyll and Bute Council's (the Council) 2021/22 scrutiny plan, approved by the Audit &

Beautiful (KSB), a registered charity set up to monitor issues such as litter, dog fouling, fly-tipping, fly-posting and graffiti and in partnership with Scottish Councils was originally developed to help meet obligations under best value using a combination of self and independent monitoring. The Council participates in this programme along with 30 other Scottish Councils by completing and submitting monthly self-assessments and six-monthly independent assessments. Below is an extract from the 2020-21 Local Environmental Audit and Management System (LEAMS) Report providing a summary of fly-tipping statistics and comparison with previous year, national and benchmarking club statistics. Associated commentary advised that there was a general localised hotspot issue with instances in other areas infrequently observed.

Table 1.

Argyll and Bute Council 2020/21	Argyll and Bute Council 2019/20	National 2020/21	Benchmarking Club 2020/21
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charges to customers	<p>RENEWI operates the site, a commercial arrangement is in place between them and the customer and this is covered in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) contract between the Council and RENEWI.</p> <p>The Council would have to cover the cost of taking waste materials to landfill if charges for special uplifts were reduced, this would be detrimental from a business point of view. There is also a landfill tax that must be paid for every tonne of waste sent, this is set at £98.60 for the 2022/23 tax year, and this in addition to tipping and processing costs would be significant. A decrease in charges for disposal of waste would result in an increase in the volume being sent to landfill which is against Scottish and UK Governments aspirations in reducing waste to landfill.</p> <p>Council management considers current fees and charges are set at an appropriate level and should not be reduced.</p>
Deterrents	<p>Wardens check the fly-tipped waste for any indication of ownership such as mailing address prior to removing for disposal if size permits, larger items require larger vehicles used by Operations. If ownership can be determined a fixed penalty can be enforced. An example includes a landscape gardener who had been identified as an offender, as news of this was cascaded across that area there has been no recurrence of fly-tipping.</p> <p>CCTV has been used at waste disposal sites and at temporary locations to collect information to follow-up on where appropriate. There is a lengthy process and specific training required to implement use of CCTV, the duration of use must be clearly stated and recorded.</p> <p>Local Authorities are not permitted to use Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) devices in car parks and it is not clear whether they can be used in waste disposal sites as they are more commonly used in un-manned facilities. Health and Safety requires that waste disposal sites are manned.</p> <p>DVLA information can be requested where car parking fines are not paid within 15 days but there are stringent forms to fill in to justify checking up on someone's number plate. Staff at waste disposal sites take notes of number plates to check if they attend the site on a regular basis, this can only be used if criminal activity is suspected and Police Scotland would be contacted.</p>

Scrutiny Meeting Operations Manager 06 February 2024

16. The meeting was attended by the Operations Manager to provide an update on the progress made in respect of data collection and provision of management information. The key messages reflecting the views of the Operations Manager are set out in Exhibit 3

Exhibit 3 – Scrutiny Meeting 2 – Operations Manager - Key Messages

<p>Data collection from Customer Service Centre</p>	<p>Data provided by the Customer Service Centre (CSC) team for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23 indicated a similar number of fly-tipping reports from members of the public as previously reported for 2019-20 and 2020-21.</p> <p>A revised report utilising alternative fields within the CSC system provided a more accurate data set for the year 2022-23 as it was able to remove those noted as duplicates or invalid, however, detailed analysis revealed additional discrepancies including further duplication and invalid/irrelevant entries.</p> <p>Information provided to the CSC relies heavily on the customer’s interpretation of what they have observed and whether it is located on public or private land.</p> <p>CSC staff have received additional training in the recording of fly-tipping reports received via telephone or face-to-face.</p> <p>There has been no enhancement to the means of reporting fly-tipping incidents via the Council’s digital platform to help guide customers when submitting reports on internet web forms.</p>
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		worksheets to provide this information in future.	specific analysis to take place.
3	Once the extent of fly-tipping has been established, a cost-benefit analysis should take place to consider whether the Council's charging structure remains appropriate.	This will be reviewed following outcome of actions 1 and 2 above in advance of the February 2023 budget preparation.	Robust figures regarding the number of fly-tipping incidents managed by the Council have not yet been established to provide a suitable analysis, however, management retain the view that fly-tipping incidents are low across Argyll and Bute and the