

## COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 28 APRIL 2022

### Question 1

**From: Cllr Shaw, Bromyard Bringsty ward**

**To: cabinet member, commissioning, procurement and assets**

Does the Cabinet member responsible agree with the Environment Minister Jo Churchill when she says:

“When it comes to fly-tipping, enough is enough. These appalling incidents cost us £392 million a year and it is time to put a stop to them.

I want to make sure that recycling and the correct disposal of rubbish is free, accessible and easy for householders. No one should be tempted to fly tip or turn to waste criminals and rogue operators.”

Is the Cabinet member pleased that households will no longer have to pay to get rid of DIY waste under plans set out by government to change the rules that currently allows some Local Authorities to charge for DIY waste from households. Under the proposals, household DIYers would not be charged to get rid of waste including plasterboards, bricks and bath units.

### Response

I strongly agree that enough is enough and that we need to put a stop to fly-tipping which is an irresponsible and illegal activity that costs the taxpayer and causes significant environmental harm.

Here our trading standards team are working closely with the Police Crime Commissioners on a new project to further reduce fly-tipping in the county.

The disposal of any waste costs money and there is a long held principle that the polluter should pay for this. As you may be aware we have a new savings target about the policy choice regarding the cost of disposing non-household waste such as soil, rubble and DIY waste and whether this should be met from general council tax or a specific charge so that the producer pays. To be clear, the consultation outlines the criteria where DIY waste will be acceptable and includes it not being more than 300 litres, so no more than an average car boot load and not delivered to an HRC more frequently than once per week. Currently we do not have these restrictions in place but fly tipping is still an occurrence, indicating that those carrying out the fly-tipping do so because the waste has resulted from a commercial activity for which the HRCs cannot be used to dispose of this waste.

One thing we are very clear about is that the cost of disposal is not an excuse for law breaking and damaging the environment. I'm unclear on your question somewhat as it infers to me that there is a suggestion that we should provide a free service subsidised by the council tax payer because people might break the law?