

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

TO THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 12th March 2026

Question from Mr F

I would like to raise a concern regarding the rapidly worsening fly-tipping problem across the borough. Over the past year, reported incidents of fly-tipping have increased significantly. Freedom of Information requests indicate that reports have risen by around 20% year on year, reaching 2,433 incidents in the year 2025. However, enforcement action appears to be moving in the opposite direction.

Despite this increase, the number of fines issued has fallen to just two. Similar patterns appear to be emerging in relation to littering and fly-posting offences.

Residents are becoming increasingly frustrated that those responsible seem to face little or no consequence. This widening gap between rising offences and declining enforcement risks undermining public confidence and raises concerns about whether the Council is meeting its environmental responsibilities.

My question to the Committee is:

Given the significant rise in fly-tipping incidents alongside the decline in fines and prosecutions, what specific steps will the Council take to strengthen enforcement and reverse this trend?

Additionally, with over £100,000 spent on fly-tipping clean-ups, what steps will the Council take to ensure more of this money is directed towards prevention and enforcement rather than repeated clearance?

Furthermore, will the Committee commit to reviewing the effectiveness of the Council's current enforcement policy as part of its future Work Programme?