

## Warwickshire Waste Partnership

17 September 2014

### Government Inquiry into Litter

#### Recommendations

- (1) That the Waste Partnership submits written evidence to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee

#### 1 Background

Litter remains an issue of local public concern, with levels of littering and fly-tipping failing to reduce substantially, despite campaigns and publicity aimed at changing public behaviour, and despite a suite of powers and responsibilities for local councils and other bodies enshrined in legislation. The costs of managing litter and fly-tipping are significant – Keep Britain Tidy puts a £1 billion plus annual price tag on managing litter and its knock-on impacts nationally.

The issue of fly-tipping and litter control has been a topic of discussion and interest to the individual councils and for the partnership as a whole for many years. This Governmental inquiry is an opportunity for our collective and individual authorities to make representations to Government and potentially influence future strategy and policy.

#### 2. Terms of Reference

The Committee invites submissions on how significant a problem littering and fly-tipping is, and whether current government policies are adequate and give local authorities enough autonomy to tackle the problem in local communities.

The select committee has issued a general call for evidence from individuals, organisations and Councils and has produced a short video (4minute) to encourage interested parties to make representations.

The video can be accessed via the internet through the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=bORE3HgQ5ds](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=bORE3HgQ5ds)

One of the members of the select committee is Mark Pawsey, Member of Parliament for the Rugby and Bulkington constituency. Mr. Pawsey has expressed an interest in receiving local information from Warwickshire to assist the deliberations of the inquiry.

### 3. Evidence Sought

**The select committee is specifically seeking written submissions from interested parties on the following:**

- What problems do litter and fly-tipping create for local communities-is the situation improving or deteriorating?
- How effective are the actions of those responsible for managing waste in the local environment?
- What more should local councils, the Environment Agency, and Government funded bodies such as WRAP do?
- Does the current statute, regulation and guidance set an effective framework to minimise litter and fly-tipping.
- What, if any, further changes are required?
- What roles do and should the private citizen and campaign and action groups have in tackling litter?

The Committee has indicated that it would particularly welcomes any evidence from local authority scrutiny committees along with photographs illustrating problems with litter and fly-tipping and also before and after photographs where areas have been successfully cleaned up. They are also embracing the use of social media by encouraging people to tweet photographs to [@commonsclg](https://twitter.com/commonsclg), using the hashtag [#litterpix](https://twitter.com/litterpix)

The Committee has some guidelines on how to submit evidence which should be followed, such seeking to restrict the submission to a maximum of 3,000 words. If the partnership would wish to contribute any evidence the deadline for doing so is 2.00pm on Thursday, 16 October 2014.

### Background Papers

None.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Report Author	Sean Lawson	Sean.lawson@rugby.gov.uk