

## Summary

- **Norfolk's authorities will launch a co-ordinated anti fly-tip campaign in early 2019 based on the successful Hertfordshire Waste Partnership's 'Scrap' campaign.**
- **The latest data published on 16 November 2018 show that in Norfolk the number of recorded incidents in 2017/18 reduced to 15,305 from 17,908 the previous year in 2016/17.**
- **For the current year 2018/19 incident numbers in Norfolk for the period April to June were 7% higher than last year and 13% lower than the year before that, being higher in some council areas and lower in others.**

### 1. Fly-Tip Campaign

The Norfolk Waste Enforcement Group, which brings together all Norfolk's local authorities and the Environment Agency, agreed on 02 October 2018 to develop and deliver a long term co-ordinated approach on fly-tipping. The approach will be based on the award winning and successful 'Scrap' campaign developed by the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership. Its campaign saw an 18% fall in incidents between 2016/17 and 2017/18, which gives a good indication of the scale of impact that can be achieved, and is cited as good practice by Government.

This approach followed the County Council's Environment, Development and Transport Committee decision on 07 September 2018 to *'support the delivery of a co-ordinated campaign to address the illegal dumping of waste delivered by working with stakeholders and as part of the Norfolk Waste Partnership'* (page 19 on the agenda pack [here](#)). This decision led to the Norfolk Waste Partnership Board agreeing on 25 September to support *'the long term development and delivery of a co-ordinated campaign to address the illegal dumping of waste by working with stakeholders through the Norfolk Waste Enforcement Group'*.

The Hertfordshire Waste Partnership has provided its entire campaign toolkit which has been designed so that it can be used by any local authority or local authority Partnership. The starting point is to educate householders on the extent of their responsibilities for dealing with their waste, 'Scrap' being an acronym for:

**S**uspect all waste carriers. Don't let them take your rubbish until they provide proof of registration. Note their vehicle's registration plate.

**C**heck that a waste carrier is registered on the [Environment Agency's website](#).

**R**efuse any unexpected offers to have your rubbish taken away.

**A**sk how your rubbish will be disposed of - seek evidence of this.

**P**aperwork must be obtained: a proper invoice, waste transfer note or receipt, including a description of the waste being removed and the waste carrier's contact details

The Norfolk 'Scrap' campaign featured in the November 2018 edition of 'Your Norfolk' magazine which is delivered to every household in Norfolk and will be launched around the end of January 2019.

## Briefing Note on Incidents of Illegal Dumping of Waste – January 2019

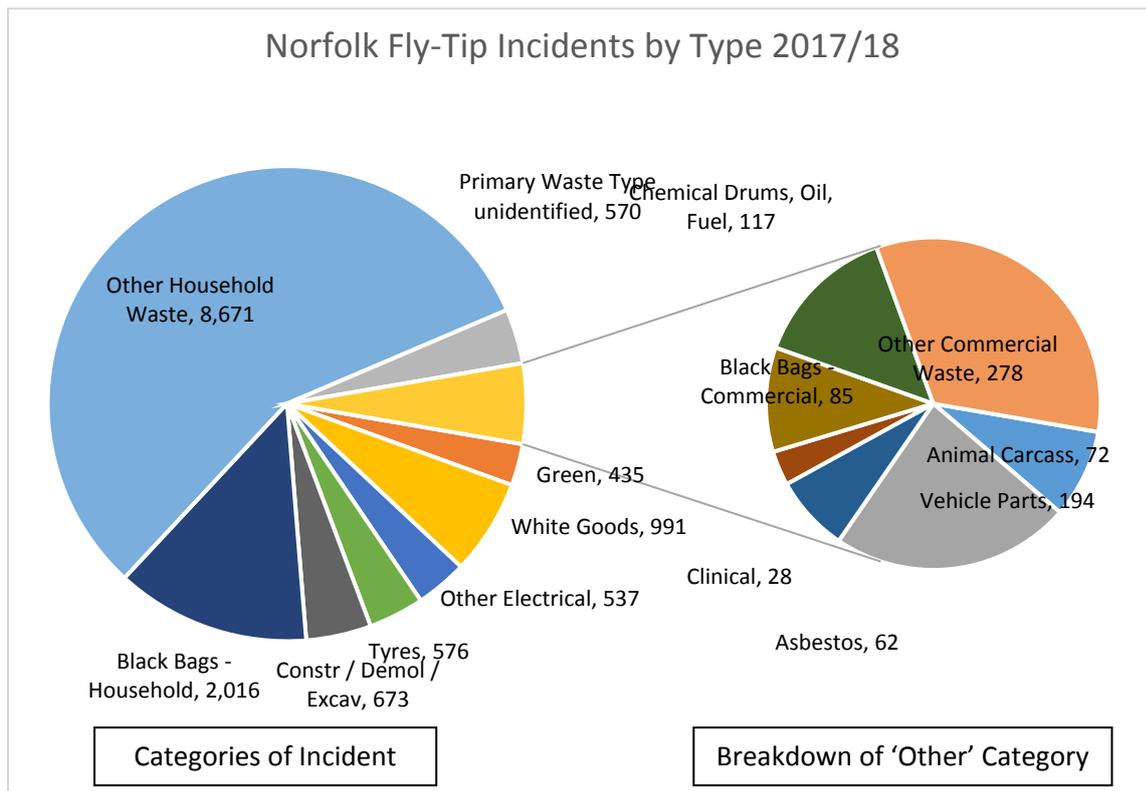
Government announced in its [Resources and Waste Strategy for England](#) published on 18 December 2018 plans to create a 'fly-tipping toolkit', a web-based tool hosted by the National Fly-tipping Prevention Group which will cover:

- How local authorities can set up and run an effective fly-tipping partnership.
- How to use new technology to report fly-tipping.
- Examples of existing good practice to prevent fly-tipping.
- How to deal with fly-tipping associated with unauthorised encampments.
- How to best share intelligence within a partnership and with other partnerships.
- How to present robust cases to the courts to ensure tougher penalties.
- How to best promote the duty of care for individuals and businesses.

Other announcements in the national strategy include Government's intention to consult on how producers fund the management of packaging at the end of its life which '*may include:..... reduction of littering and fly-tipping*'.

### 2. Incident Numbers by Material Types

There were 15,305 recorded incidents in Norfolk in 2017/18. The breakdown of incidents by material is shown below.



Approximately 4 out of 5 recorded incidents in 2017/18 relate to material which could be accepted from householders for free at the County Council Recycling Centres.

The three largest categories are other household waste (8,671 incidents), black bags of household waste (2,016 incidents) and white goods (991 incidents); these are all items that local authorities either collect free of charge or for a fee from householders

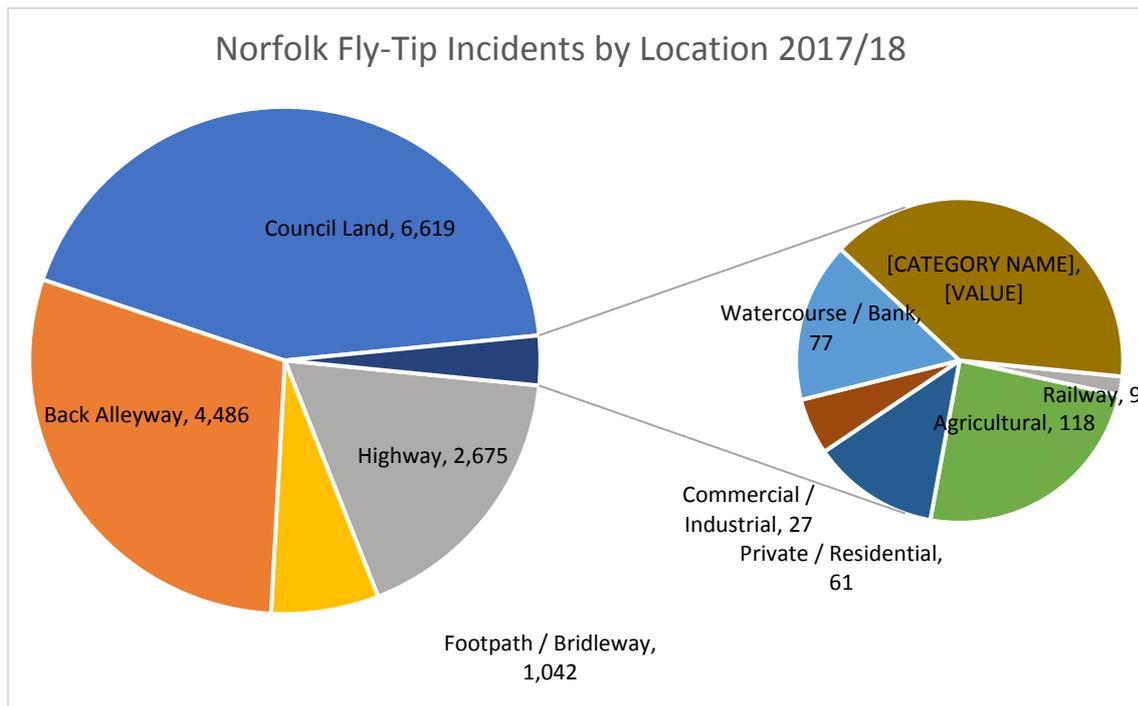
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and which can be accepted from householders for free in unlimited quantities at Recycling Centres, which also accept electrical items (537 incidents) and green waste (435 incidents) for free from householders.

For other categories householders and businesses have a number of options depending on the material, which include paying for disposal at Recycling Centres or arranging a collection or taking the material to an appropriately licenced facility.

### 3. Incident Numbers by Location and Size

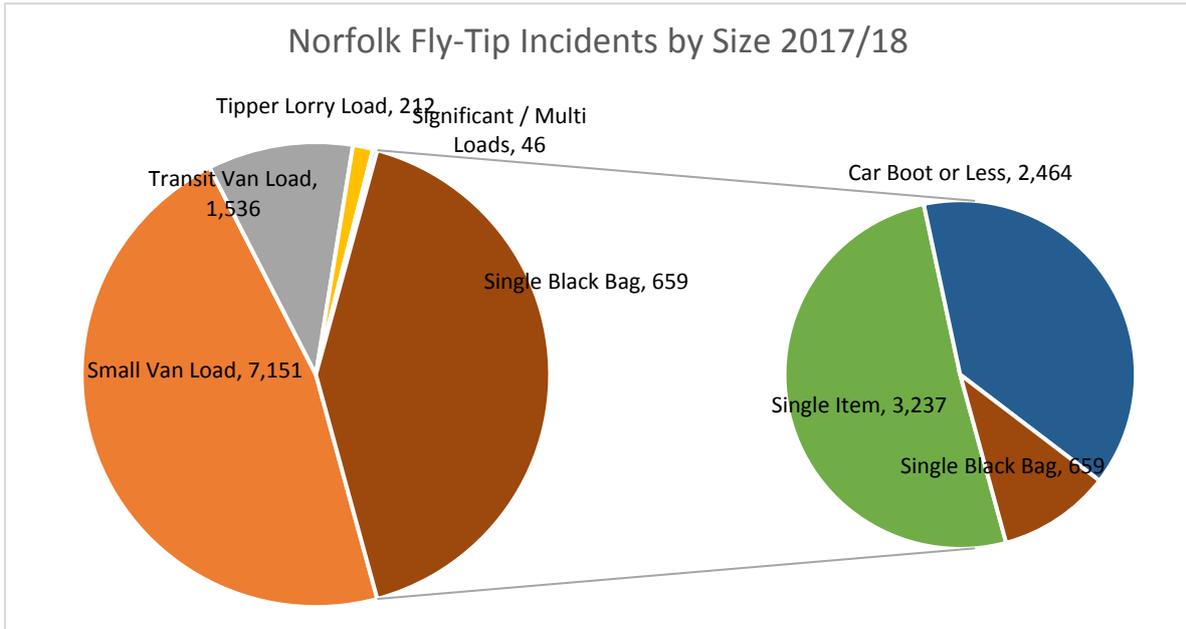
The breakdown of the 15,305 recorded incidents in Norfolk in 2017/18 by location is shown below.



The three largest categories are council land (6,619 incidents), back alleyways (4,486 incidents) and the highway (2,675 incidents). Some of these incidents will be waste put out by householders on the wrong day or in the wrong way for collection, as local district councils use this approach to a varying degree as part of their enforcement of the requirements for using their collection services.

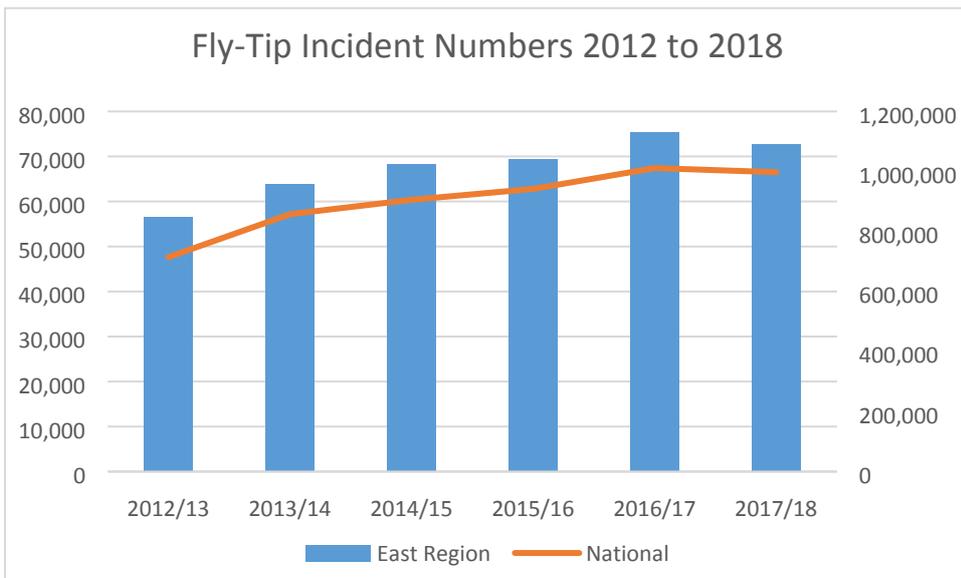
In terms of incident size the majority recorded in 2017/18 were small van load or larger, totalling 8,945 or 58% of total incidents; the remaining 6,360 incidents being a single item or smaller than a car boot size.

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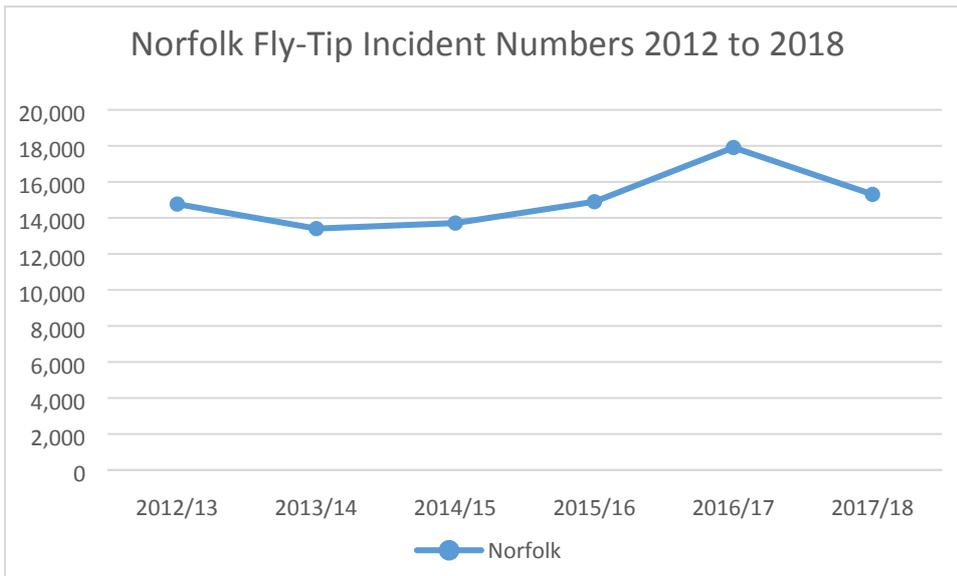
**4. Long Term Trends**

The national and regional data both show reductions in 2017/18.

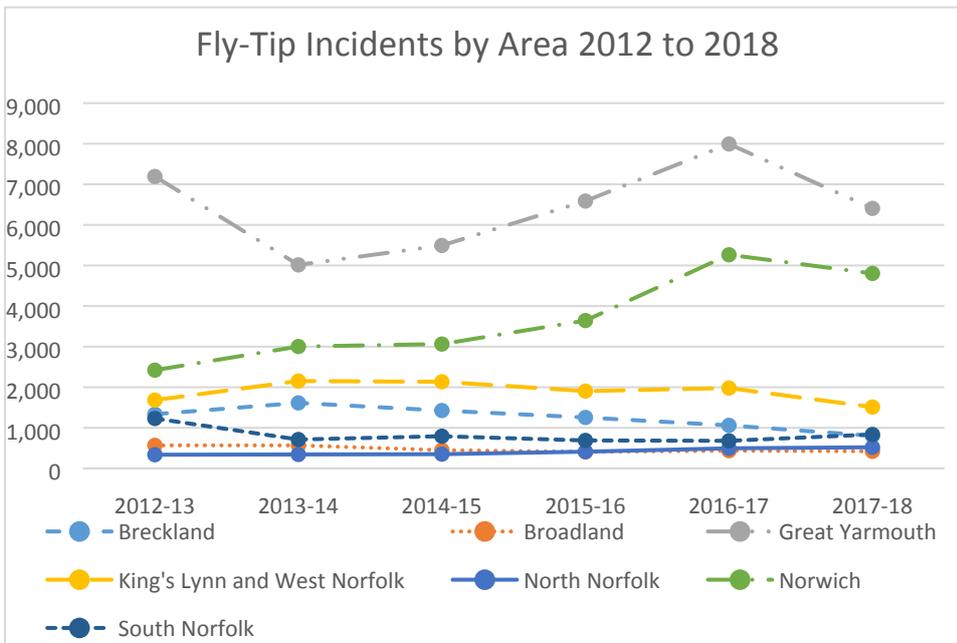


The trend for Norfolk also shows a reduction in 2017/18 following three years in which incident numbers have increased.

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Trends for each of the district council areas are shown in the graph below.



Some of the incidents behind the trends reflect how district councils enforce their collection requirements, ie by reporting as an incident where waste is put out for collection by householders on the wrong day or in the wrong way.

### 5. Changes to Local Authority Services

There is no apparent link between the trends of incident numbers and changes to local authority waste services, eg introducing charges for garden waste, changing collection frequencies to fortnightly or changing policies or opening hours at Recycling Centres.

The early data for 2018/19 shows that this also the case in relation to the recent change to charges for construction and demolition waste at Recycling Centres

which was made after consultation in April 2018. Charging for DIY construction and demolition type waste has been in place since 2001 and in April 2018 the concession for householders to dispose of a small amount each week free of charge was ended. At the same time the ability for householders to take larger volumes to all sites was introduced, whereas previously the 'pay as you throw' service was only offered at larger sites.

## 6. Background

Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of material at a location with no licence to accept the waste. There are many legal methods of disposing of waste in Norfolk including collections for household or commercial waste, and delivery of waste to a licenced waste management facility such as a waste transfer station or Recycling Centre.

Fly-tipping differs from littering in that it involves the removal of waste from premises where it was produced with the deliberate aim of disposing of it unlawfully, or as a result of legitimate outlets not being available. The offence of fly-tipping, and the additional offences of 'knowingly causing' or 'knowingly permitting' fly-tipping, are set out in **Section 33(1) (a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990**. Section 33 is enforceable by both the Environment Agency and local authorities and the penalties are:

- Summary conviction: to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or a fine or both.
- On conviction on Indictment: to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or a fine or both.

Anyone who produces waste has a duty of care under section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to ensure that it is disposed of properly. Therefore a person may be guilty of an offence under section 34 if their waste has been found to be dumped, even if the dumping was carried out by someone else. The duty applies to both businesses and householders.

All incidents of illegal dumping of waste can be reported to the local district council for investigation, and larger scale incidents should be reported to the Environment Agency if they involve more than a lorry load of waste, any amount of hazardous waste or are suspected to be by organised gangs.

For incidents on public land district councils pay costs of collection, clearance and subsequent investigation and the County Council pays costs of disposal. Information from reported incidents is collated in a national database which is maintained by the Environment Agency and published by Defra each year (the latest data is available here [https://data.gov.uk/dataset/fly-tipping\\_in\\_england\\_](https://data.gov.uk/dataset/fly-tipping_in_england_))