



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



CCTV at Urban Hotspots

Bristol City Council – Fly-tipping Intervention Grant

Bristol City Council installed **CCTV** at 4 urban locations to monitor fly-tipping and support enforcement activity. The council also trialled separate interventions at each location such as, **increased officer patrols, boulders to restrict access, leafletting and strengthening relations with local businesses** to compare the success. The project ran for 6 months and was successful; **fly-tipping across all 4 hotspots had decreased by 64%**. The council had also issued **3 fixed penalty notices** (FPNs) with further investigations in progress.

The Fly-tipping Issue

The council targeted 4 hotspot locations. Most fly-tipping offences in these hotspots are identified by fly-capture data as 'other household waste' and the size of a small van load or larger. Officers during site visits would also report regular finds of mattresses, household furniture and black bags. Reporting and community engagement suggested that the majority of fly-tipping is from offenders driving to the location to fly-tip bulky items.

Hotspot 1: This is an area with significant fly-tipping around a recycling point for multiple houses of multiple occupancy (HMO). This hotspot has weekly proactive fly-tip clearances.

Hotspot 2: This is a residential street that has an unused green space next to a busy highway where frequent fly-tipping occurs. Commercial waste in the form of food crates have also been found at this location.

Hotspot 3: This is a railway embankment. The land is overlooked but the council never receive intelligence about who commits the fly-tipping from the local community.

Hotspot 4: This is a residential inner-city street which has a high number of HMO's. The fly-tipping occurs around the communal waste bins.

The Intervention

The council installed CCTV cameras at all 4 hotspot locations and community marshals erected signage warning CCTV is in operation and completed letter drops to households in the camera locations to make residents aware of the intervention. The council also issued a press release at the end of May 2023 to announce the camera installation.



The CCTV footage even in low light has exceeded expectations; the council has similar CCTV units within the network, so the cameras have been easy to integrate and easy to install.

The council also trialed a different type of intervention at each hotspot location and compared the similar hotspot locations, such as the residential streets with a high number of HMO's and communal bins (Hotspot 1 and Hotspot 4) and the unused spaces (Hotspot 2 and Hotspot 3) to see if any of the interventions had an impact on reporting fly-tips or enforcement outcomes. Each location had a lead officer that would attend the hotspots twice weekly.

Hotspot 1: Local businesses were visited and encouraged to report direct to a dedicated officer. The council targeted businesses that had previously engaged with them regarding fly-tipping and asked a few of the businesses (who would be active in the hotspot daily) to monitor and narrow down when the incidents occurred.

Hotspot 2: An officer was tasked to make regular patrols of the area to identify incidents. The council also used the grant funding to purchase boulders to complete the landscaping of the unused green space to restrict access and in turn prevent fly-tipping. The boulders not only improved the look of the area but limited accessibility to a fixed location (which was covered by CCTV). In March 2024 the council seized a van that had fly-tipped directly under the camera.



Hotspot 3: Community marshals were tasked with making regular visits to monitor the area for incidents.

Hotspot 4: The council targeted local residents to encourage reporting fly-tipping when it occurs. An additional letter drop was conducted to encourage reporting to a dedicated officer with an email address provided, the email would then trigger a visit from an officer in the fly-tipping crew.

The Result

The project has been successful and since introducing the interventions at all 4 hotspots fly-tipping has significantly decreased.

Hotspot 1 and **Hotspot 4** saw a decrease in fly-tipping during the 3 months post-intervention period. However, the council continued to monitor the area after and found fly-tipping incidents increased again, which is believed to be due to the turnover of tenants in a high number of HMO's. More recently hotspot 4 has seen a significant decrease in fly-tipping again following further door-to-door enquiries to identify offenders being made to properties.

Hotspot 2 has seen an increase in construction and demolition waste being fly-tipped. Unfortunately, the registration of vans was not captured due to obscuring of the registration number or position of camera.

Hotspot 3 has seen a reduction in frequency of fly-tips.

Location	Intervention	Pre-Intervention Monitoring	Post-Intervention Monitoring	Results
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Hotspot 1	CCTV, Signage & engagement with local businesses	19 25 th February 2023- 25 th May 2023	4 25 th May 2023 -28 th August 2023	79% Decrease
Hotspot 2	CCTV, Signage, regular patrols & landscaping	13 25 th February 2023- 25 th May 2023	5 25 th May 2023 -28 th August 2023	61% Decrease
Hotspot 3	CCTV, Signage & regular patrols	5 25 th February 2023- 25 th May 2023	2 25 th May 2023 - 28 th August 2023	60% Decrease
Hotspot 4	CCTV, Signage & Additional letter drop	16 25 th February 2023- 25 th May 2023	7 25 th May 2023 - 28 th August 2023	56% Decrease

Data Source: Fly-tip clearances by contractor

Other Relevant Data

Enforcement: Using the evidence captured by the CCTV the council have issued 3 FPNs with further incidents currently under investigation.

Hotspot 1: The camera captured footage of two offenders driving to the scene and depositing parts of a bed base; an FPN was issued.

Hotspot 2: CCTV operatives observed what appeared to be multiple large nitrous oxide canisters being deposited from a vehicle; following an interview the offender was served with an FPN.

Hotspot 4: Officers have taken stills from the CCTV and conducted door-to-door enquiries to identify offenders resulting in a FPN served on a local resident.

Feedback

What went well?

Having dedicated CCTV cameras for fly-tipping has allowed the officers to remain focussed on specific areas. Whilst the council have not served as many FPNs as expected they have been able to obtain accurate information on the sources of fly-tipping to guide further interventions.

The project has resulted in an improved working relationship between Neighbourhood Enforcement and the Operation Centre. This has benefited enquires in other areas of the city where fixed CCTV network already exists and increased referrals from CCTV operatives when they come across environmental offences from fly-tipping to graffiti tagging.

Following completion of this project, the council have trialled the deployment of signage in hotspot locations as a visual deterrent in combination with a leaflet drop to residential properties. Whilst they have not seen an increase in reporting at the locations, the hotspots are no longer in the top 10 streets for fly-tipping. The council are developing this further and piloting the use of lamppost wraps in hot spot location to operate as short-term visual deterrents. These wraps will be redeployed on a monthly basis to a new hotspot to ensure that the interventions are noticeable. Wraps have been produced and will be deployed from November 2023. If this does not have an impact the council will then consider re-deployment of a CCTV unit in a staged escalation process.

What would you do differently?

The council did not see an increase in reporting from any of the hotspots and feedback from the community during engagement activities suggests that residents expected the areas to be monitored by patrolling officers 24/7.

All CCTV cameras in Bristol are connected to the operations centre, which Police also have access to. Unfortunately two of the hotspot locations were also a focus to the Police for other anti-social behaviour and as a result, the CCTV cameras were sometimes moved to enable and support their investigations. The cameras were not always return to the optimal preset location to capture fly-tipping or the registration of vehicles used and therefore risked fly-tipping not being evidenced. The council also found obstructions to lines of sight and changes in lighting had an impact on the quality of footage.

Having a dedicated officer that is authorised to access the cameras and review footage would have been beneficial. This would allow an officer to build up a more in-depth knowledge of the behaviours of offenders and help design more detailed interventions at each location. A dedicated officer would have also ensured that cameras were regularly returned to the hotspot location in the case of repositioning. This would also have benefitted the regular reviewing of camera positioning to consider physical changes on the street.

What key information would you pass on so others can deliver this project?

The council have seen very few fly-tipping reports from members of the public to narrow down the timeframe for when fly-tipping incidents occur. Initially officers were having to

attend hotspots daily to identify any incidents and then submit a CCTV viewing request through the council's internal processes. Since the beginning of September 2023, a pilot has been running with a third-party provider which identifies potential fly-tipping and alerts officers of the incident. The officer also has access to a live feed of hotspot locations to identify when the fly-tipping has occurred.

Equipment Inventory

Item	Supplier	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Value
Invictus 360 TX PTZ Camera	Chroma Vision	5647.69	4	£22,590.76
HERS commando socket installation	Chroma Vision	365.63	4	£1,462.52
CCTV Unit fixtures & fittings	Chroma Vision	20	4	£80.00
CCTV Signage A2/A3 Size	Bristol City Council Design Team	12.95	40	£518.00
Boulder and Installation	Stancombe Quarry & Asphalt Plant	64.75	45	£2,913.75

Contact Details

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Defra's Fly-Tipping Intervention Grant: The Fly-tipping Intervention Grant supported projects trialling approaches and interventions to tackle fly-tipping. Administered by Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on behalf of Defra, this grant provided capital funding for projects at known fly-tipping hot-spots that showed the potential for improving infrastructure, raising awareness, and supporting enforcement activity.