



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



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# Target Hardening to Combat Fly-Tipping

## Hyndburn Borough Council – Fly-tipping Intervention Grant

Hyndburn Borough Council **installed gates and fencing** to secure two residential hotspot locations to prevent access to potential fly-tippers. The council also introduced **CCTV and signage** to warn residents and support enforcement action. The hotspots also experienced other anti-social behaviour such as littered drug paraphernalia and dog fouling and the council wanted to restore community pride. The project ran for 6 months and results show that **fly-tipping has decreased by 100% at both hotspot locations where fencing has been installed**. The council have worked out that the **interventions have saved an estimated £4,150 in waste removal and clean-up costs** during the post-intervention period (3 months).

## The Fly-tipping Issue

The council targeted two residential hotspots that experienced high rates of fly-tipping. The council wanted to restore community pride and provide a safe place to live for residents of all ages.

**Hotspot 1:** An area of land off a residential street that originally was part of an underpass walk through beneath the railway line, however this is now a dead end. People have been using this area for fly-tipping household waste, large furniture, and garden waste. There has also been a lot of ASB such as drug taking and therefore littered drug paraphernalia is also present.

**Hotspot 2:** An area of grass land on a residential street. This area attracts fly-tipping such as household waste and old furniture. This area is also frequently used by irresponsible dog owners to dispose of their dog's waste. The council have also found that materials such as wood and tyres are fly-tipped here and deliberately set on fire.

Both hotspot areas have low public visibility and the council regularly receive complaints from residents regarding both hotspot locations reporting fly-tipping taking place.

## The Intervention

The council introduced a mixture of target hardening and surveillance to restrict access to these areas and monitor any potential fly-tips that appear after. Once the areas are made secure the council plans to work with the local community to make and maintain the environmental improvements to those areas for example wildflower seeding.

**Fencing:** The council wanted to totally eradicate anti-social behaviour especially fly-tipping within the hotspot locations. The fencing was chosen, with the intention of limiting access for people to fly-tip. The council also installed a gate at each hotspot location to enable access for environmental management. The fencing was erected by a construction company, the installation was smooth, and the contractors were excellent. The council also obtained planning permission and received useful advice to implement correctly. The fencing and gates look good and are suitable for the job that the council require it for.



The council also installed a new access tarmac path to the entrance of hotspot 2; this was due to the planning application recommendation stipulating the fencing needed to be set back by 2 meters and therefore the original path that was adjacent to the entrance did not suffice.

**Tree planting:** The council planted trees around both hotspot locations to improve the look of the area. This was also a recommended action within the planning permission granted for both areas and something that the local residents were keen to see.

**CCTV:** The council purchased 4 CCTV cameras to monitor the area once the fencing was installed with the idea that if anybody fly-tipped after that they would be caught on camera and evidence obtained will enable offenders to be prosecuted in court. The CCTV covers the full area of the fenced land as well as the perimeter of the hotspot and produces good quality images that are easy to view/obtain. The CCTV was smoothly installed by the supplier, the cameras are easy to use, and a privacy impact assessment was carried out in conjunction with council policy.



The council have previously trialled wildlife cameras to prevent fly-tipping and although this worked to some degree, the cameras were stolen. The CCTV cameras purchased

through the grant are solar powered, have a substantial unit and can also be tracked should anyone attempt to steal them.

**iPad:** For the council's enforcement team to work efficiently the council purchased 1 iPad so that staff could remotely view and download images from the CCTV cameras while out on site. The iPad also provides the staff with ability to record or photograph fly-tips and evidence for case builds and eventually prosecutions. The enforcement team have also been able to check the councils' internal computer system whilst out of office for information about residents, properties, and land, for example the enforcement staff have access to land registry searches.

**Signage:** The council installed signage at both hotspot locations warning people that CCTV is present, the dangers of fly-tipping and possible prosecution. The locations of the signs are spread out around the hotspot to maximise visibility, including a sign on the entrance/exit gate.



## The Result

The project has been very successful, and fly-tipping has decreased by 100% at both hotspot locations. Currently the council have not seen any evidence of the fly-tipping displaced to another location nearby but will continue to monitor the area. The council have also noticed a behaviour change in residents and anti-social behaviour such as drug taking, and dog fouling have also completely decreased. In hotspot 2 dog owners now walk their dogs around the external perimeter of the fence where dog waste bins are located.

The quality of the environment for local residents at both hotspot locations has significantly improved reinstating the community pride, both areas look clean and tidy. The councils' parks colleagues will continue to work with residents to continue the area's environmental transformation, including the potential for residents to learn food growing skills. All feedback received from residents has been positive.

The environmental portfolio holder and senior management team are all really pleased with the outcome of the interventions.

Location	Intervention	Pre-Intervention Monitoring	Post-Intervention Monitoring	Results
Hotspot 1	Fencing, Signage & CCTV Cameras	10 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	0 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023 – 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2024	<b>100% Decrease</b>
Hotspot 2	Fencing, Signage & CCTV Cameras	3 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	0 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023 – 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2024	<b>100% Decrease</b>

**Data Source:** Waste Data Flow – Fly-tipping Stats

## Other Relevant Data

**Enforcement:** Since the interventions have been installed there has been no fly-tipping incidents or anti-social behaviour in both areas, therefore no enforcement action has been taken.

## Feedback

### What went well?

All fly-tipping has been stopped due to the interventions installed at both sites. The council are yet to identify where the new hotspots are following the initiative, but their aim is to mirror the interventions across the borough.

The council are aware that this strategy (such as fencing) may not work at alternate hotspot areas as some places still need to be accessible but will trial the CCTV and signage to see if they act as enough of a deterrent alone.

The council also worked out that the interventions have saved an estimated £4,150 in waste removal and clean-up costs within the post intervention monitoring period (3 months). These savings will be reinvested into other hotspot areas within the borough, for example increasing the number of enforcements visits they receive.

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

The council had problems with getting planning permission efficiently, however the planning team offered alternative suggestions about the type of fencing and a colour which

blends in with the environment (green). They also suggested the trees would further enhance the look of the area.

Planning permission was eventually granted for the fencing, with changes being made due to requirements put in place. If the council were to undertake a similar intervention on another hotspot, they would seek guidance from the planning department sooner to avoid delays.

## Equipment Inventory

Item	Supplier	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Value
Fencing for Hotspot 1	Wades Construction	n/a	1 perimeter fence	£8,776.00
Gate for Hotspot 1	Wades Construction	n/a	1 entrance gate	£1,040.00
Fencing for Hotspot 2	Wades Construction	n/a	1 perimeter fence	£16,512.00
Gate for Hotspot 2	Wades Construction	n/a	1 entrance/exit gate	£1,230.00
CCTV Cameras, units, solar panels and masts	Indefigo	n/a	4 cameras, 3 units, 7 solar panels and 3 masts	£16,365.00
Warning Signage	Hitchens Signs & Engravers	23	10	£230.00
Tree's	Coles Nurseries	110	14	£1,540.00

Tree Planting	HBC Parks Department	1,661.50	Labour	£1,661.50
Tarmac Access Path for Hotspot 2	Wades Construction	1,650	1 Path	£1,650.00
Ipad pro 4 <sup>th</sup> Generation	Apple	1,200	1	£1,200.00

## 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.