# Starmer pledges drone surveillance and harsher penalties to curb rising fly-tipping in local elections



As millions of voters across the UK head to the polls for local elections today, Sir Keir Starmer has outlined the Labour Party's new approach to tackling fly-tipping, a growing concern for many communities. The elections, which will take place in 14 county councils and eight unitary authorities, are considered a significant barometer for public sentiment regarding the government's performance in its initial year.

In a bid to address increasing incidents of fly-tipping, Starmer has called for urgent action and announced Labour's commitment to combat this issue. In a recent statement on social media, he declared, "This is a message to the fly-tippers blighting our towns and villages: For too long, your actions have gone unpunished. That ends now. We'll use drones and new tech to identify your vehicle. Then we'll crush it."

Starmer's remarks coincide with Environment Secretary Steve Reed's plans for a stringent crackdown on illegal dumping, revealed in a recent report indicating a staggering rise in fly-tipping incidents—from 957,000 in 2018-19 to 1.15 million in 2023-24. Reed highlighted that a significant proportion of these occurrences involved waste being carelessly discarded on public roads and pavements.

Despite these proposals, there has been considerable public discourse regarding the practicality and implications of such measures. Critics have pointed out the underlying issue of affordable waste disposal options, with one user on social media suggesting, "You could just provide facilities for people to dump rubbish without charging them! Saves money and pressure on the justice system." Another echoed this sentiment, noting, "That’s a start but you probably don’t realise just how expensive and difficult it is for small tradesmen to dispose of their rubbish."

Amidst the backdrop of these discussions, concerns have also been raised regarding the ongoing waste management issues in cities like Birmingham, with residents expressing frustration over visible litter problems. One user questioned the effectiveness of technology like drones when, as they stated, "the second biggest city in the UK has huge piles of black bags everywhere." Another individual sarcastically commented on the government's focus, stating, "Drones. Crushed cars. Vote Labour or the fly-tippers win? Give me a break."

As the elections unfold, the Labour Party aims to harness public sentiment surrounding these issues, emphasizing the need for accountability and accessible waste management solutions to ensure cleaner communities. The outcome of the local elections is highly anticipated, as it will provide insights into how voters perceive the government's efforts in addressing these pressing matters.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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