

SCRUTINY PANEL A

Meeting held in the Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,

on Tuesday, 11th July, 2017 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Jim Aspinall in the Chair;

Councillors John Knight, Rachel Madden
(substitute for Tony Brewer), Cathy Mason and
Helen-Ann Smith.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Tony Brewer and Steve Carroll.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Edd de Coverly, Sam Dennis and
Mike Joy.

In Attendance: Councillor Paul Roberts

SA.1 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests.

There were no declarations of interest made.

SA.2 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 7th March, 2017, be received and approved.

SA.3 Waste and Recycling - Scrutiny Introduction

The Scrutiny Manager informed the Panel that both Garden Waste and Fly Tipping were topics that had been added to the Scrutiny Workplan 2017 for consideration. The Items were added following the introduction of the Garden Waste Project in 2016. Members wanted to explore the impact of this following its initial 12 months of implementation.

The Chairman welcomed Edd de Coverly, Director of Place and Communities and Sam Dennis, Service Lead for Waste and Environment, to the meeting.

The Service Lead undertook a presentation to the Panel to enable Members to consider how the changes to the Council's waste collection service have been implemented and the initial outcomes and performance of the service over the previous 12 months.

The main points were considered as follows:-

The Challenge

The Council were aiming to increase recycling rates to 65% by 2030 from the current rate of 34%, which had not particularly increased since the previous introduction of the twin bin scheme.

The Reality

In reality up to 20% of recyclable material was still being put into the residual bins including dry recyclables and garden waste.

Where Should the Waste Go?

Members were reminded that garden waste was composted for reuse, dry recyclables were cleaned, sorted into batches and turned into other things and residual waste usually ended up in landfill or sent abroad to become someone else's problem.

The Project Plan

Deliveries took place of over 50,000 red 180 litre bins for residual waste and the black lidded bins were repurposed into garden waste bins. Residents were informed of the new waste collection service via road shows, leaflets and social media. Support was provided to residents by a Waste Advisor and Keep Britain Tidy.

Recognition of Success

Recognition was given to staff who worked tirelessly to implement the new service taking up to 400 calls a day during the implementation period. The Waste Services Team were awarded a Chairman's Special Recognition Certificate for their hard work and made finalists of the Keep Britain Tidy Network Award 2017.

Evaluation of Data

Following 12 month's implementation the Council's recycling rate had increased by 9.26% up to a total of 41% for 2016/17. The total tonnage of residual waste collected had reduced by 10.86% and garden waste collected and available for composting had increased by 97.72%.

Nottinghamshire Position – 2016/16 End of Year

The Panel were advised that the Council were now in third place overall in relation to the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting. This was a pleasing result and was to be welcomed by the Council.

Estimated Disposal Costs 2016/17

Following implementation of the scheme, the overall cost of disposing of residual waste, dry recyclables and garden waste had resulted in a saving of £208,778.92.

Unintended Consequences

Although implementation of the new waste service had been successful, some unintended consequences of the change had resulted in bin thefts, contamination and only a minimum increase in dry recycling. The public had also linked the changes to an increase in fly tipping and the implementation of

the scheme has coincided with HWRC implementing a permit scheme which had caused some initial confusion regarding waste disposal.

Glass Recycling

Glass recycling had increased by 4.23% in 2016/17.

Next Steps

Members were informed that the Council was due to revisit the 'Waste Sort' which enabled officers to review the locations of different categories of waste and to establish any hotspots and trends to inform future service provision. Recycling videos had been produced and school education was continuing. Litter campaigns were ongoing and there was due to be a re-introduction of the garden waste charge in 2018.

Campaigns

Litter and 'Crime not to Care' campaigns were running and a Community Protection Enforcement Officer was now working with the Waste Teams to ascertain the size of the fly tipping issue and to work with offenders and vulnerable people in relation to general waste management.

The Enforcement officer has had a successful few months on the District and had issued notices and both verbal and written warnings. He had conducted interviews to issue cautions and had delivered blanket warning letters within hotspot areas. Development was underway to begin the use of covert cameras (taking into account relevant RIPA legislation) and creating a presence on social media in relation to waste disposal. Promotional roadshows were taking place and videos in relation to the 'Crime not to Care' campaign had been sent out to schools.

Garden Waste Charge

The garden waste charge was due to be re-implemented in April 2018 with a £28 reduced cost for direct debit holders and a £34 charge for non-direct debit payments. Following a modelling exercise, it had been estimated that the Council would achieve 22,000 subscribers taking into account an increase of 6,000 from current levels. The Council's proposed charges still remained one of the lowest in Nottinghamshire.

Following the presentation a lengthy debate ensued whereby Members discussed the following:-

- concerns regarding the increase in fly tipping and acknowledgement that the increase had resulted in additional tipping of large items (i.e. furniture and carpets) and not household waste as initially feared;
- acknowledgement that the increase in fly tipping was a national trend rather than a local issue;
- the possibility of a link between levels of deprivation and waste management with the District;
- the cost set by the Council for removing bulky items and the timescales for completing collections;

- the different elements of waste contamination within bins and how these ongoing issues were addressed by the Council;
- the interpretation of the modelling used to estimate the level of subscribers to the garden waste scheme after the re-introduction of charges in 2018 and the level at which the service would become untenable should subscriptions to the service be disappointing ;
- the operational set up of the vehicles and crews responsible for collection garden waste;
- slight concerns regarding the small number of staff dedicated to assisting residents with their waste disposal requirements;
- the support service and guidance offered by the Council's Waste Advisor to assist residents struggling with their waste disposal needs;
- the ongoing problem of residents depositing household waste in the Council's litter bins, enforcements methods (i.e. stickers on bins) and acknowledgement that these incidents were recorded as fly tipping and included within relevant data;
- opportunities for the Council to endorse businesses with good waste disposal standards and reputable waste collections services holding the correct transfer licences;
- the Council's current position regarding the collection of side waste from bins; acknowledging the occasional acceptance of additional recycling waste but not residual waste from the red-lidded bins.

RESOLVED that

- a) the progress report and presentation regarding the initial outcomes and performance of the service following 12 months' implementation, be received and noted;
- b) a further progress report be submitted to the Panel in 12 months following the re-introduction of the garden waste charge collection charge in April 2018.

(During consideration of this item, Councillors Helen-Ann Smith and Cathy Mason left the room at 7.15 p.m. and 8.33 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 7.17 p.m. and 8.35 p.m. respectively.)

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm

Chairman.