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| <b>Report To:</b>          | SCRUTINY PANEL A                            | <b>Date:</b> | 11 JULY 2017 |
| <b>Heading:</b>            | WASTE AND RECYCLING – SCRUTINY INTRODUCTION |              |              |
| <b>Portfolio Holder:</b>   | ENVIRONMENT                                 |              |              |
| <b>Ward/s:</b>             | ALL   |              |              |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>       | NO  |              |              |
| <b>Subject To Call-In:</b> | NO  |              |              |

### **Purpose Of Report**

Overview and Scrutiny added the topic of waste onto its 2017/18 Workplan in June 2017. Scrutiny Panel A seeks to consider the initial outcomes following 12 months since the changes to waste were introduced in 2016. In considering this topic, Members have expressed an interest in what progress has been made in achieving Council objectives of reducing the amount of waste being disposed of in an unsustainable way and the impact of these changes on residents.

This report provides an overview of how the changes were implemented and the initial outcomes and performance of the service following its initial 12 months. The Director for Place and Communities will be in attendance to give a detailed presentation, providing Members with further information and will answer questions on the scheme to allow Members to consider this topic in further detail.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Members of the panel are asked to;

- Consider the information contained in this report and analysis provided by the Director for Place and Communities at the meeting;
- Provide views and comments relating to the initial updates following the changes to the waste collection service;
- Consider any areas for improvement.

### **Reasons For Recommendation(s)**

The topic of waste was added to the Overview and Scrutiny Workplan in June 2017 to consider the impact of the changes to the service following its initial 12 months.

## **Alternative Options Considered (With Reasons Why Not Adopted)**

This is the first meeting of the Panel considering this topic. Any options or considerations put forward will be discussed at the meeting and reported back in due course.

Scrutiny can put forward recommendations to Cabinet relating to any topic that it considers. These recommendations will be supported with sufficient reasoning to allow Cabinet Members to give due consideration to any alternative options put forward by the Committee.

## **Detailed Information**

During March and April 2016, the existing 240 litre black-lidded general waste bins were transferred for use as garden waste bins and new 180 litre general waste bins were provided. This was part of a new scheme funded by Nottinghamshire County Council that aimed to improve the Councils recycling rates, which were averaging 34%.

With the introduction of the scheme, an ambitious proposal to deliver free garden waste collections to all Ashfield residents for a period of two years was introduced.

The Scheme was proposed on an invest to save basis with the initial set up costs projected to be paid back after 5 years due to savings made in disposal costs. It is hoped that the scheme will help boost recycling levels significantly, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change.

In 2014/15 nearly 30,000 tonnes of waste collected by Ashfield District Council was not recycled and went for other disposal/treatment and potentially up to 20% of the material which went into the grey bins could have been recycled or composted using one of the other receptacles provided.

A report presented to Cabinet in November 2015 outlined the reasons for the changes to the waste collection service. These were as follows;

- Recycling rate will rise to approximately 45% and collection costs will fall
- The risk of reactive unilateral investment and threat of fines is reduced
- Overall more free waste capacity would be provided for 2 years:
- Up to 20% of waste being put in the grey bin currently could be recycled or composted:
- The majority of residents have stated before that they would like a garden waste bin.

Following the announcement of the changes in November 2015, a number of roadshows took place around the District, and feedback was received through the Council's Citizen's Panel and with resident groups.

This was utilised to assist the Council in developing a number of supportive policies to assist residents with the transition. These included:

- The establishment of waste advisor roles to assist residents with their specific needs.
- Provision of larger bins for those with larger families or medical waste needs.
- Recognising that additional waste is created at certain times of year and a bag of general side waste will now be allowed on the first collection after Christmas, a time at which residents said they felt they needed extra general capacity
- To help people recycle as much as they can, extra or replacement recycling bins and boxes will be provided free of charge.

## **Initial Findings 2016/17**

The data analysis for the first 12 months of the scheme highlights that the recycling rate for the year ending 2016-17 was 41%, compared the 31.74% at the end of the previous year, 2015-16, an increase of 9.26%.

General waste has also improved with a reduction of 10.86% to 28,688 tonnes in 2016-17 compared to 32,182 tonnes collected in 2015-16.

Garden waste collected in 2016-17 was 9,684 tonnes, compared to 4,903 in 2015-16, an increase of 4,791 Tonnes (97.72%). Recyclable waste increased by 19 tonnes (0.19%), from 9,621 in 2015-16 to 9,640 in 2016-17. Glass waste collected increased by 93 tonnes (4.23%) from 2,196 tonnes in 2015-16 to 2,289 tonnes in 2016-17.

The Director of Place and communities will be in attendance at the meeting to give a detailed presentation of the findings and answer any questions from Members of the Panel.

## **Next Steps**

In considering this topic, Members of the Scrutiny Committee will need to consider any further areas that it would like to consider in more detail. Fly tipping has been added to the Workplan as a stand alone topic. Members will need to decide whether there are any areas from the report or the presentation that may benefit from a more detailed scrutiny review. In considering this, the panel should discuss;

- Implications to residents following the scheme introduction
- Progress made in reducing less sustainable disposal of general waste
- Improvements to recycling waste
- Future options and areas for consideration

Should the Panel wish to consider any areas of waste in further detail, a clear terms of reference will need to be agreed.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

Improving the environmental sustainability of the district is an important aspect of the Council's Corporate plan, within the Place and Communities theme the Council commits to creating a greener Ashfield, reducing the impact of what we do on the environment, minimising waste and recycling more

### **Legal:**

There are no legal implications contained within this report. Advice will be sought following the initial meeting should any legal issues be presented.

### **Finance:**

There are no financial implications arising from this report. Advice will be sought following the initial meeting should any finance issues be presented and before any recommendations are proposed.

| Budget Area                                 | Implication |
|---|-------------|
| General Fund – Revenue Budget               | N/A         |
| General Fund – Capital Programme            | N/A         |
| Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget    | N/A         |
| Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme | N/A         |

**Human Resources / Equality and Diversity:**

There are no human resource issues contained in this report. It is recognised that should any human resource issues be discussed, advice will be sought.

It is recognised that in reviewing the impact of the changes to the public following the introduction of the scheme, Members will need to consider equality / diversity issues.

An initial Equality Impact Assessment was carried out when the scheme was proposed, outlining additional support required to members of the community who are part of the assisted bin collection scheme, whom may not have English as a first language or have additional requirements or adjustment.

**Other Implications:**

None

**Reason(s) for Urgency (if applicable):**

None

**Background Papers**

Cabinet Report – 5 November 2015  
 Overview and Scrutiny Report – 12 September 2016

**Report Author and Contact Officer**

Mike Joy, Scrutiny Manager  
 Tel: 01623 457232  
 Email: [m.joy@ashfield-dc.gov.uk](mailto:m.joy@ashfield-dc.gov.uk)

**Ruth Dennis**  
**Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)**