

**23 September 2015**

**Environment & Housing Committee**

**Waste Strategy Update**

*Report of:* Roy Ormsby – Head of Street Scene

*Wards Affected:* All

*This report is:* Public

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 At the Environment & Housing Committee on 17 June 2015, through a verbal update, it was agreed that the Waste Strategy Group (WSG), established through the previous administration, would be continued.
- 1.2 Since that Committee meeting there has been two meetings of the WSG, which is a cross-party group discussing options to deliver a more effective and efficient waste service for our residents in the future.
- 1.3 A wide range of issues have been discussed, and although there is further work to do, it was felt that a number of opportunities have arisen that could potentially reduce cost, and where a pilot scheme could provide feedback to improve the service.

**2. Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That Members debate the opportunity to have a pilot scheme in an area of the Borough, to test the impact of the introduction of wheel bins.**
- 2.2 That Members agree to fund a pilot scheme through the DCLG funding, at a cost of £5,000.**
- 2.3 That Members agree to the reduction of bags per roll on orange sacks, giving a saving of £36,000.**
- 2.4 That Members debate the reduction of green waste sacks, and a reduction in the cost of the brown bin service.**
- 2.5 That Members agree to the development of an over-arching educational waste reduction campaign to encourage better recycling, and promote composting.**

### **3. Introduction and Background**

- 3.1 At the Environment Committee on 20 January 2015 it was agreed to develop a long-term waste strategy through a cross-party working group.
- 3.2 Through the change of administration the Members on the group have altered, but the terms of reference for the group remain the same, and there is a commitment to identify improvements to the service, but reduce the cost wherever possible.
- 3.3 Since the Environment & Housing Committee on 17 June 2015 there has been two meetings, which has identified a number of opportunities for the Committee to debate.
- 3.4 It is felt there is an opportunity to pilot a bin services in a small area of the Borough. This could include two bins, a 240L bin for dry recycling, and a smaller bin for residual waste. This is to encourage more people to recycle, but could in the longer-term provide a revenue saving of £70,000 through not having to supply orange sacks to all residents.
- 3.5 The pilot would be funded through the DCLG funding that was provided through a successful bid in 2012. The cost of the pilot is expected to be £5,000.
- 3.6 Through the pilot other initiatives will be monitored, especially street cleansing, as presenting waste in a receptacle will stop vermin opening bags when presented the night before collection. It is also expected that this approach will encourage more recycling, by providing a larger bin for dry recycle.
- 3.7 The Council currently spend £110,000 per annum providing orange sacks for residents, which excludes the cost of delivery each year. The sacks are available to residents from a number of outlets, and are always available for collection for those that wish to recycle, which is a vast majority of our residents. However this cost can be reduced through lowering the bags per roll, with a 20 bag per roll reduction providing a saving to the Council of £36,000.
- 3.8 The Council provide a chargeable green waste service, through either sacks for bins. At present each household is provided with a free roll of bags, and a token for another roll if they wish to collect.

- 3.9 The brown bin service generates over £230,000 income for the Council, but there is a cost of £51,000 to purchase sacks. There is also the collection costs, which is over £300,000.
- 3.10 All of the issues outlined would need to part of a wider education programme, but it is proposed that all the issues in the report should be considered.
- 3.11 With the financial challenges faced by the Council in future years, it is important that Members debate some of the opportunities that can reduce cost, but also retain a high quality service to our residents.
- 3.12 It is proposed that further work is completed on these options, and if appropriate, they could be taken forward as part of the long-term strategy for the Borough

#### **4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 4.1 The report highlights a number of challenges that could reduce cost, but still provide a high quality waste service to our residents.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 To ensure that waste services are delivered in an effective and efficient way to all residents.

#### **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 A fully developed Strategy would be subject to a formal public consultation.

#### **7. References to Corporate Plan**

- 7.1 To ensure the Council provide value for money services.

#### **8. Implications**

##### **Financial Implications**

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- 8.1 The £5k cost of the pilot scheme will be funding from existing grant income.

8.2 By reducing the number of bags per role on orange sacks there is an anticipated saving of £36k for the Council.

**Legal Implications**

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8.3 None.

**Other Implications** (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

8.4 None

**9. Background Papers** (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

9.1 None

**10. Appendices to this report**

None

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