

## CABINET

15 JULY 2022

### REFERENCE REPORT FROM THE RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON ELEMENTS OF WASTE, RECYCLING AND LITTER

#### A.2 WASTE RECYCLING AND LITTERING ENQUIRY

(Report prepared by Keith Simmons and Hattie Dawson-Dragisic)

##### **BACKGROUND**

At the meeting of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 June 2022, it considered a report submitted by its own Task and Finish Group on Waste, Recycling, and Litter which had met on 16 May 2022. The terms of reference for the enquiry undertaken by the Task and Finish Group are set out at Appendix A to this report. These Terms of Reference had been set by Council on 13 July 2021 (Minute 53 refers). The Task and Finish Group was comprised of the Members of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Michael Talbot (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Public Space) addressed the meeting and set out an introduction to the material provided to the Task and Finish Group. A report had been provided to the Task and Finish Group that set out a range of information on the issue of waste, recycling, litter and fly tipping as referenced in the terms of reference for the enquiry. Some additional text had been included in the report on customer contact in relation to services provided by the Street Scene Service Area and the online forms for requesting services. At the invitation of the Chairman of the meeting, Mr Hamlet (Street Scene Manager) then gave a verbal update on the material set out in the report. Contributions were made by Damian Williams (Corporate Director Operations and Delivery) and Andy White (Assistant Director Building and Public Realm).

The Members of the Task and Finish Group had considered their key lines of enquiry on 5 May 2022 and had submitted these to the Officers in preparation for the meeting. At the meeting on 16 May 2022, Officers provided written responses to most of those questions. As such, the Members asked supplementary questions based on the responses provided. Subsequent to the meeting on 16 May 2022, a completed set of written responses was provided to the Members of the Task and Finish Group / Members of Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

##### **RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION(S) TO CABINET**

**That Cabinet is recommended the following:-**

***In respect of the recycling elements of the enquiry:***

- (1) That the capacity of the Street Scene Team to undertake a range of engagement and recycling promotion work with school age children, members of community organisations and the public through roadshows, Council Tax Bills etc. be assessed and plans brought forward to support this capacity. The Committee believes that this work is vital to ensure we have a well-informed local population about recycling and the benefits of it and that the capacity of the team should provide for this work to be undertaken systematically and consistently;**

- (2) That, in addition to the steps in (1) above, available data, or proxies for it, about recycling rates within the District be examined to identify those areas where recycling rates are lowest and that the available resources for promotional activity be targeted to those areas to increase recycling rates there. The Committee is conscious of the need to use data to guide action and that this is an area where finite resources can be directed where the need for action is most required.
- (3) That proposals for new style three chamber litter bins to separate out general waste from plastic/can recyclables and card recyclables be examined with a view to these being installed in the centres of towns in the District. The Committee considers that these new style bins would help reinforce the message around recycling and further the Council's commitment to it (and positively reinforce the Council's Community Leadership role);
- (4) That the expected standards for cleanliness/removal of broken glass at the recycling bring sites in the District be developed and publicised and, alongside these, deployment response times for the cleaning/clearing of those sites be established for reports of issues at those sites when the standards are not being met. This recording will include each incident of 'fly tipping' at the sites. The Committee believes the recycling bring sites provide a valuable addition to the kerbside recycling collection service and believes that working with the public we can look to keep the sites in the best possible condition by sharing with them the standards they should expect, the means of reporting when those standards are not met and a response regime to those reports that can manage expectations while returning the site to the expected standards as soon as possible; and
- (5) That the introduction of an online (MyTendring) form to report a missed bin collection for garden waste collections (Brown bin) be pursued. The Committee regards the availability of a missed bin collection online form for the general waste (Black bin) and recycling boxes (red and green boxes) as positive and that the same 24/7 reporting route should be provided for garden waste where there is a missed collection.

*In respect of the public space litter elements of the enquiry:*

- (6) That the proposals for uniquely coloured (purple) bags for those undertaking Community Litter picks (to distinguish these bags from other forms of waste/recycling) be warmly supported;
- (7) That the large blue litterbins used as part of the Summer Plan along the seafront should be retained throughout the low season to create a year round approach to litter collection in those spaces. The removal of the litterbins means that out of season there is a reduced litterbin service along the seafront. For residents in those areas and local individuals who use the seafront this reduced service is perceived as a lower standard for them than is provided for tourists. Retaining the bins, even with a reduced emptying regime would demonstrate the obvious commitment of the Council to its residents;
- (8) That consideration be given to a pilot scheme along the stretch of the A120 from Ardleigh Crown to Horsley Cross to install high visibility litter bins in the laybys and evaluate the extent of their use (and any potential consequential fly tipping from their introduction) for a 12 months period (and that the experience be used to inform the approach along this road and the A133 going forward). The Committee believes that the pilot approach will provide the Council with valuable information as to whether litter bins in the laybys of major roads in the District would be advantageous;

- (9) That the verge litter-picking schedule for the A120 from the new roundabout to the Auction roundabout be increased to six times a year. The current frequency is, in the view of the Committee, demonstrably insufficient to keep the verges concerned clear of litter and this then could encourage further littering to take place by those who see the extent of litter that is not cleared sufficiently frequently to deter it taking place;

*In respect of future service provision*

- (10) The Committee welcomed the opportunity to input into the specification for the waste, recycling and street cleaning contract that will be the basis of service provision in those areas from 2026.

[Note: Further to item (10) in the above recommendations, the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee has proposed to Council on 12 July 2022 that the development of proposals for the waste, recycling and street cleaning contract specification from 2026 be included in the work programme of enquiries for the Committee for 2022/23.

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENT(S) AND RECOMMENDATION(S) TO CABINET**

**Portfolio Holder for Environment and Public Space's Comments**

**The Portfolio Holder's comments and responses will be tabled at the meeting.**

**Recommendation to Cabinet**

**That the recommendations made by the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the response of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Public Space thereto be approved.**

## APPENDIX A

### Terms of Reference for the Enquiry and Membership

(a) The terms of reference for the enquiry are as approved:

Item	Relevant Corporate Plan Theme/Annual Cabinet Priority	Information to be provided in advance	Those to be invited to attend	Articulated value of undertaking the review
Waste Recycling (1) Specifically waste material that is generated in connection with the Waste Transfer Station and occurs along the A12 and A133.	<b>Delivering High Quality Services/Minimise waste: Maximise recycling and Public spaces to be proud of in urban and rural areas</b>	Details of the services provided, the related budgets and service requests/performance data over the last five years. This is to include details on the points raised in the item details.	Cllr. Michael Talbot as Portfolio Holder Andy White, Assistant Director Jon Hamlet, Head of Service	To enquire into specific elements of the strategic approach to waste/ recycling and the delivery against that approach with a view to determining whether refinements to one or both appear appropriate.

<p>(2) Public Litter bin provision (determination of such sites and gaps in provision), replacing damaged bins, bin emptying schedules and rotas. How will that provision accommodate increased litter due to increased visitor numbers during the usual tourism season and outside of that season (where popularity is increasing)?</p> <p>(3) Recycling bring sites – looking at previously discussed improvements and progress with these to ensure such sites are accessible, known about, the adequacy of the range of opportunities to recycle, the cleanliness of those sites and the recording of usage/provision of additional capacity.(4) Progress with increasing the recycling levels from residents.</p>		<p>The mean level of recycling for all local authority districts in the East of England, compared with the position for Tendring in each of those years and the aspiration of the service over the coming four years to reach that level (21 September 2020 (Minute 86 refers));</p> <p>The details of all bring sites detailing the recycling available, the extent of use as far it is known, the collection frequency and the plans for improving them, the range of recycling to be made available to extend that provision and address any excess of use over capacity for it and the signage at those sites to be clear that side waste should not be left.</p>		
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