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RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 15 NOVEMBER 2022

CABINET

4 NOVEMBER 2022

FOLLOW UP REPORT FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC SPACE ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE RESOURCES & SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON ELEMENTS OF WASTE, RECYCLING AND LITTER

A.3 DETAILED REPLY TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE WASTE, RECYCLING AND LITTERING ENQUIRY

(Report prepared by Jon Hamlet)

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 30 June 2022 (Minute 14 refers), the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee concluded its enquiry into elements of the waste, recycling and litter service and submitted a series of recommendations to Cabinet. These recommendations (repeated at Appendix A to this report) were initially submitted to Cabinet's meeting on 15 July 2022 (Minute 37 refers). At that meeting of Cabinet, the following response from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Open Space was submitted and approved:

“Colleagues, this report from the Resources and Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee is far too good to just note as it is bursting with intelligent ideas. I want the chance for each to be examined in detail and properly costed, with a view to trying to encompass the report's ideas. Damian Williams organised a meeting for me yesterday with Andy White and Jonathan Hamlet present. I said that only having received the report a week ago, this was not enough time to present a considered answer at this Cabinet meeting, but that I wanted a detailed answer to be prepared with costs included for the next Cabinet meeting.”

This follow up report provides the mechanism by which that detailed answer can be provided to Cabinet and considered by it. The answers are set out in Appendix A.

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

Portfolio Holder for Environment and Public Space's Comments

The Portfolio Holder restates his thanks to the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their enquiry and the recommendations arising from it. His promised detailed reply is set out at Appendix A to this report.

Recommendation to Cabinet

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That the detailed response of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Public Space to the recommendations made by the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted, both being set out in Appendix A to this report, and that they thereto be approved.

**DETAILED REPLY FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SPACE TO THE
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON
ELEMENTS OF WASTE, RECYCLING AND LITTER**

Recommendations from Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Response of Portfolio Holder
<p><i>In respect of the recycling elements of the enquiry:</i></p> <p>(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;</p>	<p>(i) The authority is appreciative for the requirement of additional capacity within the street scene team and as part of the overarching restructure currently being undertaken additional resource will hopefully be provided. This additional resource combined with the ability to fill vacant posts within the team will then allow Officers to dedicate and direct their resources to key tasks, such as those highlighted by the committee.</p>
<p>(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.</p>	<p>(i) Veolia have the capability to provide the team with recycling tonnage collected per collection round/per day/per vehicle. With a total of 8 core recycling vehicles collecting every day the quantity of data will require resource to manipulate the data and link to corresponding precise areas of collection and total number of properties linked to the area so that an theoretical kg/property can be calculated.</p> <p>(ii) Whilst this work stream would not necessarily be an ongoing requirement the resource required to set up and deliver this information is currently outside of the teams</p>

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	<p>current resource and would estimate the requirement to be equivalent to 0.5 FTE (full time equivalent) Officer for an initial 6 month period.</p> <p>(iii) From experience areas of low/lower deprivation indices tend to mirror in lower participation rates in recycling and as such areas including Jaywick Sands, Pier Ward and pockets of Harwich would fall within this remit.</p> <p>(iv) Resources required for this work stream apart from promotion would also include the requirement for additional stock of recycling containers for households wishing to participate in the kerbside recycling. Estimated costs for the supply and delivery of containers to households would be an estimated £50,000 for the areas highlighted above.</p>
<p>(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);</p>	<p>(i) A number of multi aperture waste receptacles are currently on the market with three chamber models costs in the region of £1200 each and dual chamber costing £700+ each. With a large number of general waste bins already in situ in high footfall areas the progression step would be to introduce dual recycling receptacles alongside existing litter bins. This would provide the same effect of three chamber bins, whilst providing a high level of capacity.</p> <p>(ii) Operationally the contract has no provision in place for the processing of these recyclable materials, which in essence would reflect the materials collected at the bring site, but would be prone to heavy contamination.</p> <p>(iii) Additional bins would require to be added to the contract. The contract has a 10% +/- capacity on bin installations</p>

	<p>and subsequent overall numbers of bins serviced as part of the contract and each dual chamber would constitute 2 bins, especially at the back end of the process as bags back at the depot would then need to be separated into the two different recycling streams. The current contract has limited scope to install additional bins at a level required for on street recycling to be of impact.</p> <p>(iv) Any purchase of additional litter bins for recycling could not be supported by the current budgets and as such would require additional funding.</p>
<p>(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</p>	<p>(i) As part of the 2019 contract extension, aspects of the street sweeping contract were re-organised to ensure that both contracts could be deployed within the cost budgets. Part of this achievement was the removal of scheduled cleaning of bring sites and replaced with reactive cleaning. Consequently there are no contracted scheduled cleaning of all the 80+ bring sites in the district.</p> <p>(ii) As with all reports of fly tipping, the ambition of the authority remains to clear items of fly tipping within a 72 hour working day period once the report is sent over to our contractors.</p> <p>(iii) There is just the one, 2 operative team which is responsible for the removal of fly tipping and clearing of waste from public land and land which the authority has shared responsibly for under the street sweeping contract and consequently their workload remains of high demand with priority given to incidents of fly tipping containing</p>

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	hazardous materials or in locations likely to pose a risk to the public.
<p>(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.</p>	<p>(i) The team continues to work with both the authorities I.T team and Veolia to develop a system that is robust to allow residents the opportunity to report missed garden waste collections via the on line portal.</p> <p>Veolia are currently employing additional staff and consultants to deliver an effective in cab technology system across all the collection service, which part of this development requires up to date collection round data linked to GIS mapping and Gazetteer along with UPRN (unique property reference number) for each and every property. This data which is planned to be completed by the end of the year can then be shared with the authorities I.T to begin works to link with My tendring portal and Firmsteps which is the reporting software which sits behind the on line portal.</p>
<p><i>In respect of the public space litter elements of the enquiry:</i></p> <p>(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;</p>	<p>Concurrence letter has been published and a current up to date quotation is currently being sought from potential suppliers along with production of artwork with the expectation of the community litter bags in stock by November 2022 with costs met by current budgets.</p>
<p>(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</p>	<p>The larger 340L blue litter bins and the quantity of these bins located along the seafronts requires Veolia to hire a specialist collection vehicles (2) at £850 per vehicle per week.</p>

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<p>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;</p>	<p>For all these bins to remain out on site during the winter at the reduced winter schedule of twice weekly emptying would attract the following costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The weekly hire cost for one vehicle at £850 per week, with the vehicle operating 4 days per week (2 days Clacton area and 2 days Frinton area), equating to £22,100 approx. (ii) Requirement for additional driver during winter period 0.5 FTE approx. £13,000 (iii) Additional diesel costs estimated at £200/week, equating to £5,200 <p>Total estimated cost in the region of £40,000 per annum.</p>
<p>(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;</p>	<p>In total there are 13 lay bys along the A120 between Ardleigh Crown to Harwich.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Estimated cost for one high visibility litter bin for each layby has an estimated purchase of cost of £550 per bin; equating to £7,150. (ii) Installation costs per litter bin by the authorities engineering team are in the region of £100-150 per litter bin; equating to £1300-1950. (iii) This quantity of litter bins could be absorbed into the current street sweeping contract with no additional on going service costs. (iv) Total estimated cost £10,000.

	<p>Potential operational pressure to the service is that the installation of litter bins will attract fly tipping and waste accumulations resulting in additional pressure placed on the service to maintain these laybys.</p>
<p>(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;</p>	<p>The A120 is currently litter picked four times per annum and to increase this schedule by two additional cleansing will attract the following costs.</p> <p>Firstly it must be noted that the verge litter picking is carried out by a specific crew who are trained in litter picking along high speed carriageways. This same crew are also responsible for the delivery of wheeled bins to residents and as such the additional costs reflects the need for an additional crew to cover their workload which this crew carry out additional litter picking of the A120.</p> <p>(i) In total the A120 takes 6 working days to litter pick on each of the four times per year and so two additional litter picks equates to twelve additional working days which attract a cost of £5,458.56 for 2 operatives and a vehicle.</p> <p>(ii) Traffic management is required for health and safety and this cost equates to £9,600 for the twelve days</p> <p>(iii) Total cost for two additional litter picking of the A120 of £15,058.56 per annum.</p>

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 this recommendation, Council on 12 July 2022 approved a work programme for 2022/23 for the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee that included an enquiry into the development of proposals for the waste, recycling and street cleaning contract specification from 2026.]

In terms of the new waste contract, we would value any help and ideas for any new areas of our business. I have no doubt that when there are items about which decisions need to be made, I will follow my previous practice and set up a portfolio holder working party, which encourages ideas outside the constraints of a formal committee, where members can think “outside the box”.