

## CABINET

6 OCTOBER 2023

### REFERENCE FROM COUNCIL

#### A.2 E-PETITION: REQUESTED CHANGES TO THE OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL'S WASTE MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS

##### PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

###### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To formally report the receipt of an e-petition submitted requesting changes to the operation of the Council's waste management functions.

###### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An e-petition submitted by Sharon Tyler, as lead petitioner, was received on 18 August 2023. The e-petition was active in the period from 5 May to 18 August 2023 and was validly signed by 33 persons. It states:-

*"We, the undersigned, petition the Council to seek alternative solutions to waste collection in the District, specifically, that the issuing of lilac coloured rubbish bags to volunteer litter picking groups is changed so that these sacks do not go to landfill, wheelie bins are issued for household recycling doorstep collection and that more public bins are installed in Towns and along the Seafronts."*

The petitioners' stated justification for this e-petition is that:-

*"Wheelie bins for recycling rather than boxes would be more effective and make the collection process more efficient. Currently Veolia empty the boxes into a wheelie bin before emptying contents into the lorry. This is inefficient. The boxes and lids often get damaged and blown away or stolen meaning the Council must have a constant supply of new ones. Wheelie bins would be more efficient because the contents are kept safely inside until emptied and they are more robust. We also need more bins in the town and on the seafront that are separated by litter type to reduce what goes to landfill. There would be an initial cost for household recycling wheelie bins but this would be offset in cost savings made in dealing with litter more effectively. The lilac sacks from litter picking need to be changed so this litter doesn't go directly to landfill."*

Waste management is an executive function and therefore the Cabinet is the appropriate body to consider this matter.

In accordance with the Council's adopted Scheme for Dealing with Petitions the receipt of this E-Petition was reported, for Members' information, to the meeting of the Full Council held on 26 September 2023. This matter has now been investigated and a report prepared and presented to the Cabinet on the basis that the Petition contained between 30 and 500 signatures.

Having discussed the petition it will be for Cabinet to decide what action, if any, will be taken.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**That, having duly considered the Petition together with the information provided in this report, the Cabinet decides what action, if any, it wishes to take.**

### **REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)**

To comply with the adopted scheme for dealing with petitions, as set out in the Council's Constitution.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

There are several courses of action available to the Cabinet once the petition has been considered, including:

- *No action (with reasons as to why no action is proposed)*
- *Taking the action requested in the petition*
- *Taking an alternative or amended course of action to that requested in the petition (with reasons as to why such action is being taken)*
- *Undertaking research into the matters raised (this could include referring the matter to the relevant Portfolio Holder, or officer of the Council) and holding a meeting with the petitioners.*
- *Referring the petition to a Committee or an external person/body (such as the County Council or Government body or Public Services or the Ombudsman or Member(s) of Parliament)*
- *Holding a public meeting*
- *Holding an inquiry*
- *Providing a written response to the lead petitioner setting out the Council's views on the request in the petition*
- *Deferring consideration of the petition to a future Cabinet meeting*
- *Calling for a referendum (if permitted under the legislation and subject to costs)*

## **PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **DELIVERING PRIORITIES**

In respect of the Corporate Plan 2020/24 Priority Themes the Cabinet's decision will contribute to:

- Delivering high quality services (and specifically minimise waste; maximise recycling).

**LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)**

Waste Management is an executive function that is delegated by the Leader of the Council to the Cabinet collectively and, individually, to the Environment Portfolio Holder (depending on the nature of the decision required) in schedule 3 of part 3 of the Council’s Constitution. The overall function of the Council’s Executive is the discharge, in accordance with the Council’s policy framework all functions of the Council (including “local choice functions”) except those functions which cannot by virtue of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended) and other legislation, be the responsibility of the Executive.

**FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Not immediately applicable, although subject to Cabinet’s response, consideration may have to be given in due course to the impact on the Council’s financial position.

**USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY**

*External Audit expect the following matters to be demonstrated in the Council’s decision making:*

- A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;*
- B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and*
- C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.*

*As such, set out in this section the relevant facts for the proposal set out in this report.*

The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:

A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	Not Applicable in this instance.
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and	Nothing in addition to those matters already set out in the report.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	Not Applicable in this instance.

**MILESTONES AND DELIVERY**

Not Applicable in this instance.

## ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION

Not Applicable in this instance.

## OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Council's adopted Scheme for Dealing with Petitions states, inter alia:-

- Receipt of a petition will be formally acknowledged to the lead petitioner in writing or by email as appropriate, within five working days of its receipt.
- The appropriate Ward Member(s) will be informed of receipt of a petition and when and how the petition will be considered.
- When a petition is being considered by Cabinet or Council/Committee...the lead petitioner will be invited to address the Cabinet or Council/Committee, outlining the reasons for the submission of the petition and what action they would like the Council to take. The lead petitioner (or his or her representative) will have a time limit of three minutes for their speech and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors. A Ward Councillor can, at the request of the lead petitioner, present the petition to Cabinet or Council/Committee on behalf of the relevant petitioners.
- The lead petitioner will be informed, in writing, of the Cabinet or Council's decision and this information will also be published on the Council's website via the Minutes of the relevant meeting at which the petition was dealt with. If a further meeting is to be held to consider the issues raised in the petition, the lead petitioner will be supplied with the relevant details and will also be given the opportunity to attend and address that meeting and if appropriate, answer any questions posed at the meeting.

## EQUALITIES

*In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies such as the Council must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.*

*The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.*

Not Applicable in this instance.

## SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

There are no social value considerations relevant to this report having regard to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030

There is no immediate impact on the Council's aim for its activities to be carbon neutral by 2030 including the actions, policies and milestones in its Climate Change Action Plan.

## OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPLICATIONS

*Set out what consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are then set out below.*

**Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.**

**Crime and Disorder**

None

**Health Inequalities**

None

**Area or Ward affected**

All

## PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT)'S ASSESSMENT AND ADVICE

The submission of this petition is timely as the Council is embarking on a review of its waste and recycling and street sweeping services in light of the expiry of the current contractual arrangements early in 2026.

The review, involving the creation of a dedicated Board and an all-party councillor working group, will consider the strategy the Council wishes to adopt in respect of waste and recycling and the preferred methods of collection and materials to be collected for recycling. The introduction of wheeled bins for the collection of recycling is something that will be considered as part of this process.

The work undertaken by community litter picking groups is very much appreciated and enhances the service provided by the Council's contractors. The purple coloured bags provided to these groups is intended to differentiate the waste they collect from other waste that might be fly-tipped or inappropriately disposed of. Currently, all litter collected through litter picking and from public waste bins in the District is disposed of to landfill. This is something that will be included in the review of the services already mentioned. Separation of litter picking waste by community litter picking groups into recyclable and residual waste streams is technically possible however would require more work and time at the point of picking and a more complicated collection process.

Along with the level of litter bin provision in the district we will also be considering the feasibility of introducing on street recycling options although other government schemes brought forward in the Environment Act 2021 will place a greater obligation on producers and suppliers to provide recycling opportunities.

#### **Environment Portfolio Holder's Comments:**

*"It is excellent and encouraging to see so many residents express their interest in how the Council collects and recycles waste in the District. It also highlights the excellent community spirited work undertaken by the many volunteer litter pickers, who I sincerely thank for their efforts in making our communities better places to live and work.*

*As highlighted by our Assistant Director earlier in this report we are entering an exciting period as we review how we want to collect, manage and recycle the waste produced in the District from 2026 onwards. We will feed the comments from this petition directly into that process."*

**BACKGROUND**

An e-petition submitted by Sharon Tyler, as lead petitioner, was received on 18 August 2023. The e-petition was signed by 33 persons and states:-

*“We, the undersigned, petition the Council to seek alternative solutions to waste collection in the District, specifically, that the issuing of lilac coloured rubbish bags to volunteer litter picking groups is changed so that these sacks do not go to landfill, wheelie bins are issued for household recycling doorstep collection and that more public bins are installed in Towns and along the Seafronts.”*

The receipt of this E-Petition was reported, for Members' information, to the meeting of the Full Council held on 26 September 2023.

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS TAKEN BY COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE ETC.**

None

**BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL**

E-Petition to the Council submitted by the Lead Petitioner (Ms. Sharon Tyler).

**APPENDICES**

None

**REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

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