
CABINET WASTE AND RECYCLING GROUP

Thursday, 4th October, 2018

Present: Councillor Paul Cox (in the Chair), Councillors Stephen Button, Michael Miller and Joyce Plummer

Apologies Terry Hurn

12 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Hurn.

Councillor Miller acted as substitute representative for Councillor Hurn.

13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest submitted at the meeting.

14 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 19th September 2017

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 19th September 2017 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Resolved - **That the Minutes of the Waste and Recycling Group be received approved as a correct record.**

15 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

16 Recycling Figures for 2017/18

The Head of Environmental Services reported on the recycling figures for 2017/18. He reported that full year domestic recycling tonnage for kerbside paper and cardboard, glass, metal and plastic had increased very slightly from the previous year whereas the amount of garden waste for composting had decreased quite dramatically. He informed the Working Group that the Council's recycling rate for 2017/18 may remain around the 30% mark but the figures had yet to be finalised and approved.

Members highlighted the low figures for garden waste and the reasons for this and asked if the Council could implement ways to improve the tonnages. The Head of Environmental Services pointed out that the garden waste tonnage figures were low in comparison with national figures and other neighbouring authorities but explained that this was because 66% of the borough's properties did not have gardens. He reported that he had undertaken a number of programmes to try and increase subscriptions.

The Working Group was informed that the Council was still first in the North West and fifteenth nationally for the least amount of household waste collected (kg) per head of population per annum.

Resolved - That the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.

17 Garden Waste Subscriptions Update

The Head of Environmental Services reported on the garden waste subscription service. He stated that the Council had placed stickers on approximately 5,000 subscribed bins during the month of May reminding residents to re-subscribe to the service.

Councillor Miller referred to extending the number of ways to remind residents to subscribe to garden waste disposal. The Head of Environmental Services gave details of how residents were currently reminded to subscribe to the service including hand delivering approximately 7,000 letters to properties that had not subscribed to the service but had used a green wheeled bin previously. He reported that by September there were still fewer subscribers than in the same period in the previous year, although subscriptions were still coming through at about 10 a day and he thought the final numbers may well be roughly the same at the end of the subscription year.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

18 New Recycling Service Update

The Head of Environmental Services reported that Officers and operational staff had been busy over the summer managing the delivery of the new recycling wheeled bins across the Borough which had been implemented in two phases. He reported on the success of the bin app which provided guidance on what could be placed in each coloured bin. He also informed the meeting that the crews were happy with the new recycling scheme and there had been very positive feedback from residents.

Councillor Miller asked for information on how recycling waste was processed.

In response to Councillor Miller's query regarding the processing of recycling waste, the Head of Environmental Services explained that Hyndburn Borough Council followed the same process as Lancashire County Council by weighing the recycling and deducting the tonnage of waste that was rejected. The two waste streams (plastics, cans and glass and paper and card) were then passed on to reprocessors/contractors who fed the materials back into the re-use market.

The Chair (Councillor Cox, Portfolio Holder for Waste and Recycling) referred to a staff and systems restructure to incorporate the new recycling scheme and reported that staff on the crews and Supervisors had done an excellent job in delivering it.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

19 Enforcement Update

The Head of Environmental Services provided an update on enforcement in the Borough in respect of fly-tipping, litter and dog fouling. He explained that mobile working by the Waste Enforcement Officers who were utilising iPhones was now up and running. This was targeting fly-tipping waste and black bags dumped on the back streets.

In addition, following a review of the Council's litter and dog fouling enforcement action, Cabinet had requested Officers implement a strategic plan to tackle residents who dropped litter and did not clean up after their dog and blemished the local environment. A 12 month pilot scheme would commence with Kingdom Services Group Limited shortly. This

organisation would deliver specialist environmental enforcement action within Accrington town centre, where on the spot fines could be issued through the use of fixed penalty notices (FPNs).

Councillor Miller asked about the cost share of this and how the income from the fines was shared and was informed that there was no risk to the Council as the pilot had been agreed on the same basis as Kingdom Services Group to pay for their enforcement staff and other operational costs and the remaining 10% retained by the Council would be reinvested in environmental improvement such as street cleansing.

The Chair reported that a new specialised mechanical scrubber/sweeper had been procured to help keep the new town paving clean and tidy and that a hand held machine had been purchased to remove chewing gum.

The Head of Environmental Services pointed out that the chewing gum removal machine could also remove unsightly stickers from lampposts and other street furniture.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

20 Any Other Business

The Chair indicated that he would raise the issue of promoting recycling in Hyndburn. This was in respect of Councillor Miller's concern that Lancashire County Council had not raised awareness of the issue.

The Head of Environmental Services invited Members to share any ideas which would encourage residents to recycle. Councillor Miller suggested that people should be given more information on how the financial benefits of recycling could provide additional services in the borough or reduced council tax.

21 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Proposed date of next meeting to be end of May 2019.

Signed:.....

Date:

Chair of the meeting
At which the minutes were confirmed