

Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:
A.2

Meeting Date: 12th September 2013
Portfolio: Cross Cutting
Key Decision: No
Within Policy and
Budget Framework NO
Public / Private Public

Title: OVERVIEW REPORT AND WORK PROGRAMME
Report of: Overview & Scrutiny Officer
Report Number: OS 21/13

Summary:

This report provides an overview of matters related to the Environment and Economy O&S Panel's work. It also includes the latest version of the work programme.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:

- Note and/or amend the Panel's work programme

Tracking

Executive:	
Overview and Scrutiny:	12th September 2013
Council:	

1. Notice of Key Executive Decisions

The most recent Notice of Key Executive Decisions was published on 2nd August 2013. There are no decisions which fall into the remit of this Panel.

2. References from the Executive

The following reference from the Executive from their meeting held on 5th August 2013 is attached at **Appendix 1**.

- **EX.80/13 Purple Sacks Review**

3. Recycling Task and Finish Group

The Task Group met on 27th August to scope their review and determine the Terms of Reference. At the time of writing this report these are being drafted on behalf of the Group and will follow as soon as possible.

4. Work Programme

The Panel's current work programme is attached at **Appendix 2** for comment/amendment.

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Appendices

attached to report:

- 1. References from the Executive**
- 2. Environment & Economy O&S Work Programme 2013/14**

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- **None**

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS/RISKS: None

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

Date last revised: 29 August 2013

Issue Portfolio Holder & Lead officer	Type of Scrutiny					Comments/status	Meeting Dates							
	Performance Management	Key decision Item/Referred from Executive	Policy Review/Development	Scrutiny of Partnership/ External Agency	Monitoring		13 Jun 13	25 Jul 13	12 Sep 13	17 Oct 13	21 Nov 13	16 Jan 14	27 Feb 14	10 Apr 14
CURRENT MEETING														
Performance Monitoring Reports Steven O’Keefe	✓				✓	Monitoring of performance relevant to the remit of Panel	✓		✓		✓		✓	
Tourism						To receive a report detailing the Transformation of the Tourism service and detailing tourism strategy for Carlisle			✓					
Business Interaction Centre						To receive an update on progression of the BIC			✓					
TASK AND FINISH GROUPS														
Recycling			✓			To define Term of Reference and scope review Cllrs Whalen/ McDevitt/Nedved/ Bowman			✓					
Talkin Tarn			✓			Monitoring of implementation of recommendations	✓	✓				✓		

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

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How will T.I.C look in the future?			✓			Task Group to receive update September 2013			✓					
FUTURE MEETINGS														
Carlisle Economic Partnership Jane Meek/Cllr Bradley				✓		To receive an update report on the work of CEP		✓					✓	
Botchergate Cllr Bradley/Jane Meek						Update on Action Plan					✓			
Parking						To receive an update of implementation of Parking strategy and income.				✓				
University of Cumbria						To invite representatives from the University								
Waste Services Cllr Martlew/Angela Culleton			✓	✓	✓	Annual update report June 2013 Report on Recycling publicity and education – TBC	✓							

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Portfolio Holder & Lead officer														
Local Plan Cllr Glover/Jane Meek		✓	✓			Preferred Options and Land Allocations considered June 2013	✓	Special mtg 25/6/12						
Environmental Performance of the Council Arup Majhi/Cllr Tickner			✓		✓	Annual Monitoring of performance.					✓			
Budget Peter Mason/Darren Crossley/All Portfolio Holders		✓	✓			To consider budget proposals for 2013/14				✓				
Claimed Rights Angel Culleton/Cllr Martlew		✓				Monitoring of Highways services following transfer to Cumbria CC				✓				
Scrutiny Annual Report			✓		✓	Draft report for comment before Chairs Group								✓
COMPLETED ITEMS														

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 5 AUGUST 2013

EX.80/13 PURPLE SACKS REVIEW
(Key Decision – KD.01/13)

Portfolio Environment and Transport

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Environment and Economy

Subject Matter

The Deputy Leader; and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder presented report LE.22/13 concerning a proposed change from the use of purple sacks to wheeled bins for certain residents.

The Deputy Leader; and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder informed the meeting that improving the quality of the local environment was a corporate priority for the City Council, and the Council had adopted the 'Clean up Carlisle' campaign in 2012. Significant efforts had been made to improve the quality of street cleansing and to keep the streets clean through investment in new street cleaning machines; new programmes of work; and in education and enforcement to prevent littering and dog fouling. However, despite those improvements, complaints continued to be received about litter from torn refuse sacks in areas without a wheeled bin collection. Important resources were being diverted to deal with the high litter levels created by the sack collections.

Members' attention was drawn to Section 3 which set out proposals to change the purple sack service and so minimise the litter currently created by the purple sacks collection (which sacks were often split open by seagulls, other animals, vermin and would be vandals / criminals). The proposals would also support the 'Clean up Carlisle' campaign and significantly improve the quality of the local environment.

The report set out details of the current costs associated with the purple sack delivery; the annual budget and costs of the proposed service changes; and capital funding considerations. Also included were details of the three options which had been considered in relation to purple sacks:

Option A – Do nothing and leave the service as it is and continue to manage the high levels of litter associated with the collection

Option B – Move the original proposal of the maximum possible number of properties, 3,900 properties onto a wheeled bin collection including properties with front street storage and collection of wheeled bins. Therefore 3,900 properties to move to wheeled bins and 1,638 properties to be provided with reusable gull sacks.

Option C – Move 2,629 purple sack properties identified during the public consultation onto wheeled bins and supply the remaining properties, including those that could have a wheeled bin, with a front street storage and collection with re-usable polypropylene “gull sacks”. 2,629 properties to move to wheeled bin collection, 2,856 properties to be given re-usable gull sacks.

Details of the implications of the options were also provided.

By way of compromise, the Deputy Leader; and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder proposed that the Executive should approve Option C.

A further anticipated benefit was that the improved service would increase the levels of recycling in those areas to meet the good performance in other wheeled bin areas, thus reducing the residual waste presented for collection.

The Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel had, on 8 May 2013, considered the matter and resolved:

“(1) That Report LE.13/13 – Migration of Purple Sacks to Wheeled Bin Refuse Collection be noted.

(2) That the Panel agreed that change was required and agreed that Option a (to do nothing) was not an option. With regard to Options b and c the Panel agreed that their preferred option would be Option c as they did not want wheelie bins stored at the front of houses.

(3) That consultation should include Cumbria Fire Service for their advice on storage of waste receptacles at the front of houses so that the Executive were informed of this when they made their decision.

(4) That the recommendations from the Panel be submitted to the Executive for inclusion into the Executive Report “Migration of Purple Sacks to Wheeled Bin Refuse Collection”.”

A copy of Minute Excerpt EEOSP.28/13 had been circulated.

The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel confirmed that the Panel was supportive of change where applicable. Members realised that the proposed changes would be very difficult for some houses, but felt that the supply of gull sacks was a good step forward.

One problem faced by the Council was around encouraging people to use their bins and to recycle more. The Chairman added that the Panel would look at that aspect and hoped to come back to the Executive with recommendations in the future.

In conclusion, the Deputy Leader; and Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations, which were duly seconded by the Communities and Housing Portfolio Holder.

Summary of options rejected Options A and B set out within the report

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Approved the proposals in Option C to move properties currently provided with a weekly purple sack refuse collection to either fortnightly collections of refuse from a wheeled bin or, where that method of collection was not possible, a weekly collection of refuse contained within a re-usable 'Gull Sack'.
2. Recommended that the City Council approve the addition of the capital cost, £69,539, of the purchase of additional wheeled bins and gull sacks required to make the changes detailed in Option C to the Capital Programme; and approve the use of salary turnover savings to fund that addition.

Reasons for Decision

Option C:

- Would significantly reduce the littering issues currently caused by the split purple sacks and be consistent with "Clean-up Carlisle", one of the Council's key initiatives
- Increase levels of recycling in those areas
- Be better for the environment by supplying reusable containers for waste (gull sacks and wheeled bins)
- It was safer to collect a wheeled bin than a purple sack, therefore the welfare and health and safety of the crews would improve
- Provision of wheeled bins should reduce instances of identity theft
- More cost effective and efficient than the current system