

Report to: Council

Agenda
Item

11(iii)(b)

Meeting Date: 6 January 2015

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Chairman's Report –
Councillor Nedved**

The Panel met on the 27th November to consider a full Agenda concerning Waste and Recycling, Food Digesters, Second Quarter Performance Report and Budget 2015/16-2019/20.

Waste and Recycling

A presentation was provided by the Director of Local Environment and led to a full and robust discussion with Panel members. Information was supplied detailing recent service changes and improvements in waste services and progress with implementing recommendations from the recent Recycling Task and Finish Group.

Bring Site Review

Brought in-house in April 2014 resulting in 70 (40%) of the poorest performing sites being removed. Overall tonnage had decreased by 12%. Corresponding savings in revenue and improvements in income were reported as a result of the transfer.

Gull Sacks

Whilst implementation had worked well there had been initial problems. Waste teams and crews had targeted properties not using sacks, not using sacks correctly and smaller gull sacks introduced for residents who had requested them. The report indicated that moving properties on purple sacks to gull sacks or wheeled bin had reduced levels of litter and complaints about seagulls.

Waste Policy Framework

Recommendations from the Recycling Task and Finish Group relating to customer experience and service delivery were being implemented. Supervision and monitoring had improved and included training for collection crews and Customer Contact Centre staff.

Green Box Tender

Current arrangements for collecting the green box recycling was due to end in June 2015 with a tender date of the 5th December leading to an evaluation process looking at the options and issues for the long term delivery. The post of Neighbourhood Services Manager remained vacant however an interim Manager had been appointed until post filled. Concerns, complaints and observations were addressed by the Director of Local Environment and Portfolio Holder for Environment.

Food Digesters

Funding has been provided from the Department of Communities and Local Government to the County Council to purchase food waste digesters to minimise waste. The City Council had successfully applied for funding from the grant to purchase and distribute 796 discounted food waste digesters. Two types were available to the public to purchase i.e. Green Cone (400) at £15 and Green Johanna (396) at £20 including VAT and delivery. Cumbria County Council estimate that up to 179 tonnes of food waste per year could be diverted by use of food digesters. The Panel supported this initiative.

Litter Bin Task and Finish Group Cllrs Bloxham (Lead Member), Nedved, and Wilson.

An update was provided by the Lead Member of the review of litter bins within the wards of Carlisle, of which there were 684 recently audited by the Street Cleansing Team. Main evidence of the review would be the mapping of the locations of all street litter bins to determine whether correctly located detailing the condition, footfall and litter accumulation. Each of the Councillors has joined the Street Cleansing Team for a morning covering both urban and rural rounds. A pilot of three bins which compressed litter (Belly Bins) had been undertaken in the City Centre and it was evident that fewer collections were needed. A full report would be provided in March.

Business Support Task and Finish Group Cllrs Allison, Bowditch, Higgs, Mrs Mallinson (Lead Member), Mrs McKerrell and Watson was formed following the Panel meeting on the 21st October and met to scope the review on the 8th December with emphasis on small/medium enterprises (SME's) and business start-ups.

Second Quarter Performance Report

The Policy and Performance Officer provided updates on service standards on household planning applications, number of missed waste or recycling collections and percentage of household waste sent for recycling. Panel asked for more narrative in the future and a request was made for a written update on the Gypsy and Traveller Transit Site.

A full and robust Budget debate was undertaken by all Panel members with detailed questioning of the Directors of Resources and Economic Development. The full detail of these discussions and scrutiny are contained in the Minute Book

Cllr Paul Nedved.

Chairman.