

Report to Environment & Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:
A.3

Meeting Date: 3rd July 2014
Portfolio: Environment and Transport
Key Decision: Not Applicable:
Within Policy and
Budget Framework YES
Public / Private Public

Title: RECYCLING TASK AND FINISH GROUP
Report of: The Portfolio Holder of Environment & Transport
Report Number: LE12/14

Purpose / Summary:

Neighbourhood Services response to the Recycling Task and Finish report written by the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny panel supporting the findings of a task group of Members led by Councillor Nedved.

Recommendations:

Members are recommended to note the comments and actions resulting from the recommendations from the Recycling task and Finish report and considered comments from the Executive.

Tracking

Executive:	
Overview and Scrutiny:	
Council:	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction:

Carlisle City Council introduced kerb-side recycling collection in April 2004 and has been a high performing authority since the introduction. It was noted by Members of Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel that although performance is still relatively high it is reducing. Members of the Panel wished to know the reasons behind this and to look at how the downward trend could be reversed. The following report summarises the recommendations made by the Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Task & Finish Group and reports the Executive response to those recommendations.

1.2 Initial response to Draft report at Overview and Scrutiny:

The Director of Local Environment responded on the initial draft report at the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting on the 10th April 2014. The report was considered a very good example of how scrutiny can add value to the review of services. It was noted at that juncture that the recommendations had been sensible, well thought out and were based on evidence. It was noted that the Re- thinking Waste project was just beginning and all findings from the Task and Finish Group would be fed into that project.

1.3 Key recommendations from the task group:

The following recommendations resulted from the evidence based review of recycling by the task group:

1. That the Council keeps to a fortnightly collection of residual waste.
2. That the Re-thinking Waste Project gives consideration to collecting a wider range of recyclables at kerbside including foil, tetra packs and textiles.
3. That consideration is given to the make up of the containers which are provided to residents for their recycling so that they are more durable and have a larger capacity. Members would also like to consider the pros and cons for a co-mingled service with a wheelie bin for all recyclates.
4. That the Waste Services Operatives are requested wherever possible to return the waste containers where they were collected. This should reduce the amount of lost or damaged containers and reduce the amount of unnecessary contact with the Council.
5. That the Council strictly enforce the no side waste policy and publicity is provided to that effect.
6. That consideration is given to how information is provided to residents so that it is easily accessible and to the point.

7. That priority is given to updating the CRM system for all requests complaints and queries so that an up to date record of actions and responses are available. In order to monitor this recommendation a performance report should be developed and presented to the Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on a quarterly basis.

1.4 Executive Response to Recycling Task and Finish recommendations:

The Leader of the council has commented that Overview and Scrutiny was at its best when undertaking task and finish reviews. He commented that the final report was a very good piece of work which would inform work going forward.

The Deputy Leader, Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder responded to the Task and Finish Group's recommendations as follows:-

Recommendation	Executive Response	Whom
That the Council keeps to a fortnightly collection of residual waste.	There was no reason to depart from the fortnightly collection of residual waste.	Cllr Martlew
That the Re-thinking Waste Project gives consideration to collecting a wider range of recyclables at kerbside including foil, tetra packs and textiles.	Consideration would be given to collecting a wider range of recyclables at kerbside as part of the Re-think Waste Project.	Cllr Martlew
That consideration is given to the make up of the containers which are provided to residents for their recycling so that they are more durable and have a larger capacity. Members would also like to consider the pros and cons for a co-mingled service with a wheelie bin for all recyclates.	In order to increase recycling performance the collection thereof must be made as easy as possible. Consideration would therefore again be given to the make up of containers provided to residents for their recycling	Cllr Martlew
That the Waste Services Operatives are requested wherever possible to return the waste containers where they were collected. This should reduce the amount of lost or damaged containers and reduce the amount of unnecessary contact with the Council.	The Deputy Leader had also received complaints and thought it important that residents ensure that their waste containers were put out where they should be and that Waste Services Operatives duly return them to those locations.	Cllr Martlew
That the Council strictly enforce the no side waste policy and publicity is provided to that effect.	The Executive is 100% behind strict enforcement of the no side waste policy and the provision of publicity to that effect	Cllr Martlew
That consideration is given to	The Executive agreed that the	Cllr Martlew

how information is provided to residents so that it is easily accessible and to the point.	provision of easily accessible information was essential to any process. The resident (sic recent) restructure and appointment of a full time Systems Administrator should be of assistance and it was hoped that a distinct improvement would be seen moving forward.	
That priority is given to update the CRM system for all requests complaints and queries so that an up to date record of actions and responses are available. In order to monitor this recommendation a performance report should be developed and presented to the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on a quarterly basis.	As above.	Cllr Martlew

Contact Officer:

Ext:

Appendices

attached to report:

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:

Chief Executive's -

Community Engagement –

Economic Development –

Governance –

Local Environment –

Resources -