

Notes of a meeting of the Waste Service Review Working Party held on Monday 10 June 2024 at 10:00am, via Teams

PRESENT

Cllr Julia Huffer (Chair)
Cllr Mark Inskip
Cllr Kelli Pettitt

OFFICERS

Isabel Edgar – Director Operations
Ian Smith – Director Finance
Catherine Sutherland - Waste Development & Support Manager
Jane Webb – Senior Democratic Services Officer

42. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

44. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting notes held on 13 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

45. STREET CLEANSING MODELS - Presentation

The Waste Development & Support Manager presented the Street Cleansing Models and set out the Options for consideration.

Difference between a sweep and a litter pick – all crews (driver & cleanser) to cleanse the roads included litter picking and sweeping. Crews remain flexible and determine if a road needs to be litter picked and/or swept which was a blended approach to control costs.

A summary of resources/crews in each option was given. The difference between baseline and Option 3 was a more prescriptive service, the more defined the service, the more inefficiencies were within the service. A more reactive service (daily rapid response crew - fly-tipping and street cleansing), was required and had been built into each option.

The following comments and questions were raised:

- The different options were discussed, Option 1 was achievable and addressed the minimum requirements but would have an impact on future council tax rates.

- Minimum resource levels were needed and currently neither service has this level
- There needed to be separate budgets for street cleansing and domestic waste; this would show the cost-effectiveness of each service.
- A do-nothing option was discussed whereby – the service remains status-quo, as the service was already improving, and this had occurred with no focus on street cleansing as the waste collections had been focussed on.
- Changes could be made to ensure better working methods were introduced alongside implementing the new back-office systems.
- The district was not in a situation where the streets were filled with litter, there were acute areas of detritus in the autumn or after an event.
- Flexible garden waste collections could be reduced during the winter and the resources diverted to street cleansing.
- The Council continue as was, with a review in a year when data will have been collected regarding the impact of food waste collections and an informed adjustment could then be made.
- The possibility of no garden waste collection service the week before and three weeks after Christmas and ceasing the issue of calendars could be considered plus the impact of DEFRA revenue was not yet known.

Members agreed to continue the service as is and to build in an annual review that would consider the newly collected data.

46. POLICIES AND CHARGING

Caddy Liners Charging for additional bins

The Waste Development & Support Manager presented the Policies and Charging item.

The following comments and questions were raised:

- Caddy Liners – provision of a free weekly plastic bag would cost £40k per year; this would not be covered by DEFRA, but research showed this improved participation figures. Compostable bags were not necessary.

Members agreed to provide caddy liners free for the first-year rollout.

- Charging for additional bins – recycling bins cost £25k and would be provided free of charge to encourage recycling.
- The public was less likely to add garden waste to a black sack but would add recycling to a black sack/bin.
- Analysis showed that garden waste was not usually added to black sacks.
- If no changes were made to garden waste collections; the public would still receive a service plus an improved food waste collection. If a free garden waste service was given, the monies could be recouped over the winter due to a reduced collection.

- ACTION - If the cost of a free service could be recouped over the winter, then Members would consider the option, but they wished to see the scenario.
- All Members were happy with the Fixed Penalty Notice scheme.

47. SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

The Waste Development & Support Manager explained the Service Delivery Model.

The following comments and questions were raised:

- The Lib Dems were happy to continue with ECSS but required a more robust governance process.

Next Steps

- Cat would write up the recommendations report and carry out some cost modelling for more specific costs.
- A further working party meeting to take place in July with a final report going to the Operational Services meeting in September.

48. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

More information was requested on the types of caddy liners (compostable v plastic). It was explained that plastic was the preferred option as these were separated at the anabolic digester and incinerated. Links to case studies would be sent to Members.

49. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 8 July at 10:00am via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting closed at 11:00am