



AGENDA ITEM 8

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

8 APRIL 2008

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL - REVIEW OF
WASTE SERVICES - UPDATE**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update the position in respect of the Environment Scrutiny Panel's interim final report on waste services and to seek the Overview and Scrutiny Board's views on the matter.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is RECOMMENDED as follows:
 - (i). That the Environment Scrutiny Panel's decision to support the recommendations contained in the Executive Director of Environment's 1 April 2008 report to the Executive is endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.
 - (ii). That it be noted that further reports on the outstanding aspects of the Executive Director of Environment's review of waste services will be submitted to the Environment Scrutiny Panel and Overview and Scrutiny Board in due course.

BACKGROUND

3. As part of its current year's work programme the Environment Scrutiny Panel examined the Council's waste services provisions. The principal aim of the scrutiny exercise was to provide an elected Member input into a review of waste services that was being undertaken by the Executive Director of Environment. As officer proposals were not to be developed until later in 2008 for some aspects of the service (for example revised

refuse collection rounds), an interim final report was produced by the scrutiny panel in January 2008.

4. The interim report included a recommendation that any further proposals relating to the Executive Director's review of waste services should be considered by the scrutiny panel prior to their consideration by the Executive.
5. Other recommendations in the panel's interim final report related to:
 - The submission of any future proposals to alter waste services operations to the scrutiny panel.
 - The submission of monitoring reports on the Council's recycling targets and rates to the scrutiny panel.
 - The need to undertake street cleansing prior to refuse collection.
 - Reaffirmation of the Council's 'no side waste' policy.
 - Making representations at a national level regarding the inclusion of recycled materials from the Energy From Waste Incinerator in Council recycling targets.
6. The interim report was approved by OSB on 15 January 2008 and by the Executive on 3 March 2008.
7. One major aspect of the review that was outstanding related to revised refuse collection arrangements. The scrutiny panel had noted in its interim final report that a more efficient service would be needed if the Council was to achieve stringent recycling targets. It was also noted that it would be necessary for the Council to move towards providing the most efficient waste collection service possible while encouraging the reduction of waste and maximising the collection of recyclable waste.
8. On 12 March 2008 the Environment Scrutiny Panel considered a report and detailed presentation updating the position in respect of the Executive director's proposals, including those relating to revised refuse collection arrangements. Members were reminded that, in order to maximise resource efficiency, a specialist consultant had been commissioned to advise on that aspect of the service review.
9. The scrutiny panel was advised that in order to achieve the above changes to the service, a number of options for working arrangements had been considered, including four, five and six day working patterns. Following detailed consultation with staff - including the use of focus groups and "challenge events" (where potential options for key areas of the review were analysed in detail) - the following service changes were put forward for the panel's consideration:

- A refuse collection service based on a four day, 37 hour week.
 - The anticipated reduction from twelve to ten refuse collection rounds.
 - Fortnightly collections of kerbside recycling and green waste on the same day, wherever possible.
 - Reorganisation of ancillary services, such as junk jobs and collection of electrical goods.
10. The submitted report also outlined proposals to extend the existing kerbside recycling contract (which expires in October 2008) for one year. This will allow an assessment to be made of any necessary changes to the recycling scheme in the light of revised recycling targets. Any such changes can then be incorporated into the new contract.
11. In addition, Members' views were sought on proposals to redirect savings which will be generated from the waste services review as follows:
- Funding litter bin provision (£30 000).
 - Funding the Cleveland Show marquee (£13 000).
 - Mainstreaming the environmental protection service in Community Protection budgets (this service is currently funded via Neighbourhood Renewal Fund with funding due to end in March 2008).
12. The Environment Scrutiny Panel agreed to support the following recommendations, which were considered to reflect the panel's earlier findings, as outlined in its interim final report. The Executive Director of Environment was advised to include reference to the panel's decision in his report to the Executive meeting of 1 April 2008.
- That the waste collection service moves to four day, 37 hour working, Tuesday to Friday for all core waste services.
 - Recycling and green waste collections to be on the same day as refuse collection wherever possible.
 - The funding of litterbin provision and the Cleveland Show marquee from service efficiencies within the review.
 - The redirection of some savings towards mainstreaming the environmental enforcement service in Community Protection.
 - The extension of the current kerbside recycling contract for up to one year to allow officers to report on new statutory targets and any service changes needed to achieve those targets.

13. Members were also advised that some aspects of the Executive Director's review of waste services are still being developed and will be reported to the Environment Scrutiny Panel (and subsequently to OSB) in due course.

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