

## **Environment Sub-Committee**

**15 October 2014**

Present: Councillor B Burdis (Chair)  
Councillors G Bell, J Cassidy, E Hodson, C Johnson and  
D Ord.

### **E13/10/14 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors L Bell, K Conroy and W Lott.

### **E14/10/14 Substitute Members**

There were no substitutes reported

### **E15/10/14 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

### **E16/10/14 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2014 be confirmed.

### **E17/10/14 Development of a Waste Collection Strategy Post 2017**

Consideration was given to a presentation which set out the Council's current waste management strategy "Changing our thinking ...away from rubbish and towards a resource". It was explained that the strategy had a number of objectives:

- Working with residents to reduce household waste;
- Maximisation of the amount of waste reused, recycled or composted;
- Use technology to recover value from waste and minimise the amount sent to landfill; and
- Reduce carbon footprint through the better management of waste.

The presentation also outlined the authority's participation in the Department for Communities and Local Government's Weekly Collection Support Scheme which provided £3.36M of funding to retain weekly refuse collections, deliver incentives and an awareness campaign and increased the opportunities for recycling on the go. The funding had also been used to replace the non standard bins previously used in the St Mary's ward with the standard bins used in the rest of the borough which had allowed the routes to be altered to make better use of resources including vehicles and provide a more efficient service to the residents.

It was explained that the scheme had also resulted in the installation of 21 innovative talking recycling bins along the coast and in town centres, the acquisition of 2 new specialised recycling collection vehicles, the provision of larger capacity recycling bins in every ward which doubled the on street recycling capacity and had led to increased recycling rates.

A portion of the weekly collection support scheme funding was being used to support a comprehensive waste awareness and recycling campaign to try to reduce waste produced by each household by 1%, which although a small figure would generate a significant reduction in waste tonnage. The campaign also aimed to increase participation in recycling by 5% in those areas where there was currently low participation and to increase plastic bottle recycling by 2% per year.

Reference was then made to the key issues facing the authority following the end of the weekly collection support scheme. There was a need to identify ways of managing waste having lost the additional funding which was subsidising the waste collection service to the tune of £397K per year. This would also mean that there was no funding for the awareness campaigns.

It was explained that if the authority wished to maintain weekly refuse collections across the borough it would need to find an additional £397K per year. In addition there would be additional costs of around £376K to cover the increased costs of dealing with the waste from the properties being and due to be constructed in the borough. Reference was also made to the effect that the recession had had on the production of household waste. During the recession the amount of waste generated by households had reduced but this effect was now being reversed.

Consideration would therefore need to be given to the various options available to the authority to deal with waste including the frequency of collections of residual household waste, partnership working, the options for communal collections in areas of high density housing, the provision of subscription based services for discretionary collections. In addition consideration could be given to the incorporation of underground collection systems in new developments via the planning system and the introduction of a weekly food waste collection. Some of the options would require an investment in new or adapted resources such as collection vehicles.

It was **agreed** that a study into the options for waste collection after the end of the weekly waste collection scheme be undertaken by the sub committee and a scope for the study be developed.