

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 December 2013

PRESENT – Councillor Long (in the Chair); Councillors Carson, Cossins, Grundy, Harman and E.A. Richmond. (6)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Baldwin, Lewis and L. Hughes, , and (3)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – (0)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Ian Thompson, Assistant Director Community Services, Brian Graham, Head of Environmental Services, Steve Petch, Head of Strategy and Commissioning and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer.

P20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

P21. REVISED WEEKLY REFUSE/RECYCLING COLLECTION – The Director of Place submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting Place Scrutiny Committee to consider a report considered by Cabinet on 13 November 2013 in relation to Revised Weekly Refuse/Recycling Collection.

The submitted report stated that contained within the MTFP was a proposal to save £400,000 by the introduction of a revised weekly refuse/recycling collection service, known as an Alternate Weekly Collection (AWC) service for recycling and residual waste across the Borough by October 2014.

In order to implement in October 2014 the final decision would need to be made Cabinet by the end of January 2014. This is outside of the MTFP timetable but necessary to ensure that the new recycling vehicles can be ordered and delivered in adequate time. It was stated that existing system whereby paper, card and glass are recycled did not take sufficient volume out of the residual waste to create capacity in the wheeled bin to last for two weeks. It was therefore necessary to review the materials collected at kerbside for recycling and following discussions with the contractor it was considered that glass, paper, card, plastics, tetrapaks, cans and metals were most suitable for recycling and would not impact on the treatment process.

Details were provided on the three most suitable options available to the Council and the significant savings offered by each of those options.

Particular reference was made to Option 3 providing the majority of residents, 38,000 properties, with the greatest capacity and ease of use for them and the workforce. However Option 1 would be more suitable for approximately 10,000 to 11,000 properties due to access for the recycling vehicle. These collections would be undertaken within the normal collection days.

Committee were advised that £100k saving would be achieved in 2014/15 due to implementation costs and half yearly operation and £400k savings being achieved in 2015/16.

It was also stated that there would not necessarily be a significant rise in recycling due to the process used by the contractor. More people would be encouraged to recycle using the AWC system and therefore a raise in recycling rates would be anticipated.

Discussion ensued on residents' ability to store a further wheeled bin on their premises, location of the terraced properties where Option 1 would be operated, less contamination of recycled waste and collection of bulk card if placed next to the wheeled bin. It was also stressed that it was important that the 'green message' was relayed to the public and that opportunities were available to educate in schools.

Members were also advised that many of the problems and issues surrounding wheeled bins would have been dealt with during initial introduction in June 2013.

RESOLVED – (a) That this Scrutiny Committee welcomes the provision of Option 1 for 25 per cent of properties in the Borough.

(b) That Members be provided with details of the properties where Option 1 would be operated.

(c) That this Scrutiny Committee welcomes the initiative to increase recycling and anticipates an improvement in recycling figures.

(d) That wheeled bin storage be taken into consideration by developers of new housing.
