

TASK AND FINISH GROUP CABINET PANEL

Thursday, 15th March, 2018
Time of Commencement: 10.00 am

Present:- Councillor Trevor Johnson – in the Chair

Councillors: Bailey, Burgess, Reddish, Wooley and Wright

Officers Executive Director Operational Services- David Adams,
Andrew Bird - Head of Recycling, Waste and Fleet Services,
Geoff Durham - Member Training and Development Officer
and Steve Gee - Operations Manager – Transport and
Transfer Manager
Darren Riley and Mark Jones – Waste and Recycling
Operatives.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Beech.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February, 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

4. MARKETS FOR RECYCLED MATERIALS

A presentation was given by the Council's Head of Recycling and Fleet Services, Mr Andrew Bird regarding markets for recycled materials. The presentation covered the supply chain, the markets for materials, price volatility, the quality of material, EU circular economy and producer responsibility.

A copy of the presentation would be forwarded to Members.

Members queried what effect the government's proposal to phase out plastic packaging would have and were advised that the more traditional glass bottle / aluminium cans would most likely be reverted to. This would however have consequences for the retailer as plastic was cheaper and lighter.

The Council's Executive Director for Operational Services, Mr Dave Adams advised Members of a potential deposit returns scheme for plastic bottles by the government which could also have a big impact as materials with a 'value' could be returned leaving local authorities with the items that people don't want.

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Councillor Reddish asked about targets and how they would be affected if plastic materials were burned for their calorific value. Mr Bird advised that there were no targets as such but a legal requirement to separately collect glass, plastics, aluminium and paper was in place. Fifty percent of waste material has to be recycled as part of the.

It was also noted that material values were affected by contamination with non-recyclable material as is currently the case with some collections from flats where material that is too contaminated to recycle has to be incinerated.

Resolved: That the information be received.

5. FEEDBACK ON INITIAL RESULTS FROM RESIDENTS SURVEY FOR RECYCLING AND WASTE SERVICES

Members received a document at the meeting containing feedback from an ongoing survey on the Waste and Recycling Service. The survey has received 1033 responses to date and looked at satisfaction with: the frequency of the service; how containers were left following a collection; the type and number of containers; the reliability of collections on the scheduled day; how recycling enquiries were dealt with and overall satisfaction with the service.

The Chair suggested that the survey should run for eight weeks.

Resolved: That the information be received.

6. RECYCLING PERFORMANCE AND TRENDS

Members were advised that dry recycling collected was up by 10 – 12% and the service had performed better since it had been brought back in-house in terms of tonnage. This represented a considerable increase in the predicted tonnages from when the service had been modelled.

Members were further advised that Newcastle's recycling performance figures were the third best in the County of Staffordshire and that Newcastle's costs were the second cheapest per household in the County.

Resolved: That the information be received.

7. HOUSING GROWTH AND OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Housing within the Borough of Newcastle under Lyme had risen by approximately 1000 dwellings over the last two years and with potential future developments this would have an impact on the Waste and Recycling service through added pressures and extra rounds – with no extra vehicles or staff. There was therefore a need to add extra resources as the number of dwellings increased.

Darren Riley, a member of the Waste and Recycling team suggested that new developments could have collection points factored into the design to reduce the need for individual waste containers. This would not however impact upon any assisted collections which would continue.

Councillor Reddish suggested looking at the possibility of two shifts per day for collections and was advised that this was a piece of work that the Council wanted to look at.

Councillor Reddish also stated that she would be interested to see costings for one new larger vehicle and one new smaller or if there was any merit in two or three smaller vehicles.

Resolved: That the information be received and the comments noted.

8. CONFIRMATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT TO SOUTH STAFFS ON 10 APRIL, 2018

A visit had been arranged to South Staffs on 10 April, 2018

Members were asked to meet at the Knutton Lane Depot at 8.30am.

9. NEXT STEPS

The Chair stated that there were some members who would be going out on the refuse vehicles.

Streets needed to be chosen for trailing the new lids for boxes and also, there may be a requirement for an extra box to separate glass and cardboard. For households who did not want an extra box, a suggestion was made to put glass out one week and cart the next.

In addition, a message could be put onto fliers asking residents not to put out their bins every week if they weren't full.

Resolved: That the information be received.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: The next meeting would be held on Thursday 12 April, 2018 at 10am.

COUNCILLOR TREVOR JOHNSON
Chair

Meeting concluded at 11.55 am