



CALL-IN REQUEST FORM

Decision reference/minute no.	Cabinet meeting 19 th September 2018, Agenda item 5 – future recycling strategy.
Date of publication of decision:	20 th September 2018
Decision taken by:	Cabinet
This form must be returned to the Chief Executive within 7 working days of the decision being published with at least 5 signatures	
Decision called-in: Future Recycling strategy	
A call-in should satisfy one or more of the following criteria.	
Which of the following criteria supports the call-in of this decision? (please tick)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The decision may be contrary to the budget or policy framework set by the Council and the Monitoring Officer has advised accordingly
<input type="checkbox"/>	The decision is inconsistent with another Council policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	The decision is inconsistent with a previous Overview and Scrutiny recommendation, which has been accepted by the Council or the Cabinet
<input type="checkbox"/>	The decision maker has not taken into account relevant considerations and this can be demonstrated by reference to the documents supporting the decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	The decision maker has failed to consult relevant people or bodies in contravention of defined Council policies or procedures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The decision has or will demonstrate a significant adverse public reaction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The decision gives rise to significant legal, financial or propriety issues

Please explain how the relevant criteria above are met by this call-in:

This new recycling strategy is being proposed only a relatively short time after the implementation of the current system, and involves a number of significant financial commitments from the council to develop and implement the new system. Given the financial situation of the council at present, we are very vulnerable to the financial impacts of unanticipated or underestimated challenges if they come to light once the service has been implemented. It would be financially prudent, and would minimise any potential reputational damage to the council, if the proposed new service and the financial modelling and assumptions that underpin it are subjected to an additional level of member led scrutiny to try to identify and address as many potential issues as we can before these faults are discovered by our operational staff and residents once the scheme is operating. Concerns have also been raised by elected members and residents about the possible displaced, indirect and unintended costs of the new scheme. An example of this is the proposed introduction of a charge for green waste collection. The proposal is that residents who do not pay for a green waste bin will be able to place green waste in their general waste bin. There needs to be further scrutiny and modelling of the projected increase in the volume of general waste that this may produce, and the operational and the financial impacts of this on the service and the broader council finances. There has already been a significant amount of public concern expressed to elected members and via social media and local news media relating to the implementation of a new waste collection service so soon after the current service, and in particular surrounding the proposals to introduce this charge for green waste collection. Residents of areas of the borough that already experience fly tipping have expressed concern via the media and to elected members that the introduction of a charge for garden waste collection will result in an increase in fly tipping in their communities, which will have an adverse effect on their environment, and incur additional costs for landowners, and for the council in cases of fly tipping on public land. More work is needed to model and scrutinise the financial impacts of an increase in fly tipping on public land, an increased enforcement burden on council staff and a range of other hidden costs that may arise for the introduction of the new service in its current form. If we do not do some extra work to try to address this now, and the new service leads to an increase in fly tipped green waste, residents will quite rightly ask why we did not anticipate an issue that they predicted from the start.

**Suggested proposal you would like to be voted on at the call-in meeting
(*this should be an evidence-based proposal and you should provide evidence to support the proposal*)**

It is proposed that at the call in meeting a vote be taken to delay any decision about the implementation of any new waste collection service in general and charges for garden/green waste collection in particular until a more comprehensive review of the costs (both direct and indirect) associated with the introduction of the new service and the green waste collection charge is carried out and reported back to scrutiny for further consideration.

The minutes of the final meeting of the task and finish cabinet panel that met on Thursday, 30th August, 2018 indicate that:

“Members then looked at garden waste collection and were advised that there was no alternative than to look at a chargeable service in order to absorb the financial implications of the cessation of payment of recycling credits by the County Council” (Minutes, 30/08/18 item 5, page 3).

Members of the task and finish group were asked to choose between garden waste collection options that all involved a charge to residents. Members were not able to consider and vote on any options that did not include a charge for green waste collection.

There is also insufficient consideration in the information provided to elected members of the full potential financial and environmental costs to the council and to residents (both direct and indirect) of the introduction of a charge and its impact on the behaviour of residents who chose not to pay the charge.

In particular members need to further explore the potential impacts of the introduction of the charge on incidents of fly tipping in the borough, and its financial and environmental impact.

One of the reasons why a new working group was convened, and cabinet has now made a new decision regarding the recycling collection service, is due to a number of unanticipated financial and operational challenges associated with the current service. The current service was developed through a process where officers worked with a cross party working group, which made recommendations to cabinet, which cabinet agreed and passed to officers to implement. That process did not identify a number of financial and operational challenges that only came to light once the service was in operation. This proposed new recycling system is being developed using exactly the same process. It makes sense to introduce an additional layer of member led scrutiny now to identify and anticipate as many financial and operational challenges as possible.

Resident's concerns about fly tipping are also justified.

There is a growing body of research evidence that identifies the desire to avoid paying for waste disposal as a key cause of fly tipping, and the introduction or increase in such charges has been linked to increases in fly tipping. (See for example the summary of this evidence published by the House of Commons library in June 2018, the major report into fly tipping produced by University College London in 2006 and the information produced by the National Fly Tipping Prevention Group [NFTPG]). There is also evidence that people who would not fly tip domestic or bulky waste have less reservations about fly tipping green waste because they see it as 'natural' and non-polluting.

A freedom of information request by the Daily Telegraph in October 2017 revealed that councils that had introduced charges for waste collection had all seen increases in fly tipping. Councils that retained free collection services did not see the same increase, and Nottingham City Council, which introduced a free bulky waste collection in 2013, saw a decrease in fly tipping of 42% between 2013 and 2017.

It is clear that the introduction of a charge for green waste is likely to lead to an increase in fly tipping of garden waste. The financial scrutiny and planning to deal with this should be done at this stage rather than much later in response to growing complaints from residents.

References:



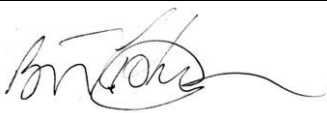
Fly-tipping - the illegal dumping of waste - House of Commons briefing paper number CBP05672, (25 June 2018) Louise Smith, House of Commons Library

Council waste charges 'lead to increase in fly-tipping' – The Daily Telegraph, 16 October 2017

Fly-tipping: Causes, Incentives and Solutions (2006), Barry Webb, Ben Marshall, Sarah Czarnomski, Nick Tilley, The Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science, University College London

NFTPG (National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group) - <http://www.tacklingflytipping.com>

Members requesting call-in of the decision:

	Name	Signature	Date
1.	Cllr Tony Kearon (Labour Group Leader)		26 th September 2018
2.	Cllr Dave Jones		26 th September 2018
3.	Cllr Brian Johnson		26 th September 2018
4.	Cllr Amelia Rout	Amelia Rout	26 th September 2018
5.	Cllr Chris Spence	C. K. Spence	26 th September 2018
6.			

THIS PART OF THE FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR HIS/HER REPRESENTATIVE

Date and time form received:	
Form processed by (name):	
Date of publication of decision:	
Was the call-in request received within 7 working days of publication?	YES/NO If no reject and inform relevant parties
Are there at least 5 appropriate Members' signatures on the call-in notice?	YES/NO If no reject and inform relevant parties
Which Overview and Scrutiny Committee will this call-in be referred to?	

Signature of Chair / Vice-Chair of relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee		Date:
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The appropriate decision making body, Members requesting call-in, the Monitoring Officer, the Licensing and Democratic Services Manager and the Scrutiny Officer need to be informed of receipt of call-in form.