

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health, Waste and Recycling

17 July 2018

Waste and Street Scene

Route optimisation has been implemented. It is now starting to settle after the initial launch and will deliver at least £105,000 savings. Some teething problems were experienced and one or two rounds needed to be adjusted and rebalanced as we discovered too much material in some areas for collection. Some of this was due to the volume generated during the bedding in period. Amnesty on missed bins has now finished and we will be returning to premises from now on if genuinely missed. Customer services have struggled with a few upset customers and there has been an increase in complaints, this was however anticipated and is being managed.

The Recycling rate is at an estimated 53% at Q4. 50% for the year – reduced from 53% from last year due to green waste charging.

Garden waste - subscriptions have met the target and now stand at £751,975 received in income. Residents are still have problems affixing tags and we will be looking at this again for next year.

Green waste recycling credit removal from County – there is a stay of execution for 1 year, then reduced to 25%. A letter has gone to North Yorkshire County Council Leader, Carl Les, from the District Council Leader highlighting the Council's views. There has been further consultation on this as some authorities are challenging the move and we will monitor this area closely.

Fly tipping enforcement – this has been scheduled to be considered by Scrutiny Committee at the meeting in September and subsequently by Cabinet on 9 October 2018.

The fly tipping review is ongoing with a meeting with trading standards to discuss fly tipping and rogue scrap metal dealers etc. There is a co-ordinated national campaign.

The impact of Chinese decision has had a detrimental effect on prices within the market and we will investigate potential impact on our budget. There has been a slight recovery at Q1.

Resources at Bridge End House had caused an issue. A project officer has now appointed and advert has been released for a supervisor.

Stokesley welfare facilities - new build required, for health and safety reasons, potentially a significant spend.

Thirsk industrial estate and Leeming and Coney garth truck parking areas - a consultation is currently being carried out on Public Space Protection Orders. This will give the authority greater powers to take action. Some action has already been taken including evening enforcement visits and increased litter picking.

Environmental Health

Performance is generally good. Two new Environmental Health Officers have been appointed.

Forbes complaint- Caravan Site at Whorlton, Ombudsman found no maladministration.

Councillor Stephen Watson
Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health, Waste and Recycling