

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

16 July 2019

Waste and Street Scene

Green waste income is £752,000 (98% of last year's total and set to achieve the target).

Recycling contract was allocated to UPM and is going well. Many people will be watching Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's new series highlighting the global problems of plastic. There have been a lot of members of the public concerned that plastic collected for recycling is ending up in Far Eastern Countries where it's left to pollute the environment.

All our kerbside collected mixed recycling (excluding glass) is sorted and sent for reprocessing at Shotton in North Wales. UPM provide us with detailed information about where the sorted materials have been sent for recycling. Since the start of the contract in April our plastics have been recycled by licenced companies in the UK, Germany and Slovakia, it would be good to keep it all in the UK but there just is not enough reprocessing capacity in this country. Please be reassured and reassure others that all the plastic collected on our kerbside collection scheme is recycled and is not ending up in a plastic mountain in Malaysia. Please check the HDC website for greater detail of what happens to Hambleton's recycling.

New DEFRA Waste Strategy launched by Michael Gove (2019- 2050) Highlights include:-

- Polluter pays principle- producers bear full responsibility and cost of packaging
- Tax on plastic packaging that doesn't include 30% recycled material
- Extend producer responsibility in other areas- i.e. tyres and textiles
- Consistent LA set of dry recyclables to be collected, so most UK recycling schemes would like similar or the same
- Consult on compulsory food waste collections
- Consult on deposit schemes.

The potential impact on collection authorities is significant in terms of collections, costs and funding with implementation expected from 2023.

Fly tipping and littering continue to cause nuisance across the country and the Waste and Street Scene team are engaged in a range of measures to tackle these problems, these include:-

- increased publicity for fly tipping;
- developing shared fly tipping campaign with the York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership; and
- implementing an electronic fly tipping reporting system, which is presently being tested pre going live.

A full report will go before the Scrutiny Committee shortly.

All other areas within my portfolio are on track.

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