

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

17 December 2019

Waste and Street Scene

Green waste income is £783,825, 102% of last year's figure. Green waste collections will be suspended from week commencing 2 December. This allows for essential training and health and safety assessments and also allows the service to prioritise litter picking in several hotspots around the district.

However, fly tipping and littering continue to cause nuisance across the country and the Waste and Street Scene team have made progress with plans to tackle this anti-social behaviour and it remains a Council Plan priority. New vehicle banners will be deployed in the next few weeks concentrating on reporting fly tipping and encouraging community litter picks. The Waste and Street Scene Service has already facilitated 40 community litter picks as at the end of Quarter 2. Litter bin provision is also being reviewed across the district, prioritising problem areas.

The recycling contract continues to perform well with continued low rates of contamination. A campaign is being started to encourage residents to recycle more and help people understand what can and cannot be recycled.

Work is also underway to install in-cab technology that will enable route specific risk assessments to be loaded.

All Council Plan targets are performing well with the recycling rate at an estimated 54% for quarter 2.

Carbon Reduction

The Waste and Street Scene service is to have two electric vehicles and two charging points at the depot. These will be small vans and will help officers understand the benefits and any potential pitfalls of using electric vehicles in the future.

The Director of Environment is undertaking an exercise to gather details of all carbon reduction schemes and plans that are being carried out across the Council. This schedule will then be used to assess present measures and any areas that may require further action. A sub regional group is being set up to share knowledge and experience.

Environmental Health

Work continues to procure a new management information system which will greatly improve the efficiency of the team and their ability to report and retrieve information for casework. It is hoped that this work will commence early in the new year. A review of admin processes and a mini service review will be carried out following implementation.

There has been an increase in noise complaints across the district and Officers are working with residents, licensing, planning and other bodies to try to resolve these.

A new Commercial (Food) Team Leader has been appointed, Linda McWilliams joins us from East Ayrshire and a new Scientific Officer Peter Crass joins us from the Royal Air Force.

All Council Plan and service plan targets are performing well and on track, this includes 100% of high/medium risk food inspections and completing 100% of private water supply inspections.

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