

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

Cabinet Reports

The Scrutiny Review of the Recycling Service, carried out between July 2019 and January 2020 has been completed. A report was submitted for consideration by Cabinet at their meeting on 11 February and the recommendations were approved.

Council Plan Projects and Targets

Recycling Rate

The Council Plan target is 47%, the estimate at the end of Quarter 3 is 52%. The recycling booklet is to be relaunched in the new financial year and publicity and promotional work continues to be undertaken to maximise the collection of recyclables. A recent Scrutiny review of the service showed that Members were very satisfied with the work being done by officers to ensure a first class service.

Fly Tipping and Littering Improvements

Progress is on track with joint working being carried out with North Yorkshire Police in tackling fly tipping.

The winter litter picking programme has prioritised a number of problem areas and work continues until green waste collections start again week commencing 17 February. In quarters 1 to 3, 52 community litter picks have been supported across the District. Further actions include:

- purchase of CCTV, vehicle cameras and body cams;
- publicity, including purchase of magnetic signs, number of press releases and joint York and North Yorkshire Waste Partnership campaign; and
- production of enforcement pack to include policy, work instruction, Fixed Penalty Notice, flowchart.

Littering and fly tipping at Seamer Traveller Site continues to be an issue and officers are working with the local community and the site managers to try to maintain the site's refuse collection area in an appropriate manner.

Carbon Reduction

A schedule has been drawn up of all the actions presently being taken across services that have a carbon reduction benefit. These include LED street lighting and providing electric vehicle charging points. An internal project group has been established and seeks to develop a carbon reduction strategy and action in the coming months, with clear targets to achieve national goals. External help is being sought to provide a carbon baseline figure.

Waste and Street Scene

Green waste licence sales are going well with 3600 licences sold for the 2020/21 season (end of January 2020).

Work is also underway to deliver a new management information system which will also install in-cab technology that will enable route specific risk assessments to be loaded.

Work is being carried out with the Human Resources Team to improve recruitment and retention of staff. This is particularly important as there is an ageing workforce and the service needs to ensure that there is capacity to continue to deliver despite this.

Health and Safety Performance

Health and Safety performance is good across all corporate areas with Key Performance Indicators for risk assessments and premises inspections all being on target. Within waste there have been no serious incidents.

Environmental Health

A contract has been awarded to Civica to provide a new management information system which will greatly improve the efficiency of the team and their ability to report and retrieve information for casework. A project kick off meeting has been held with Civica, following which a detailed project plan will be drawn up, with an aim to complete implementation by the end of September 2020. A review of admin processes and mini service review is being carried out alongside the project.

All service KPIs are performing well at quarter 3. Food inspections and Private Water supply Inspections are performing above target.

Work is continuing to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty and winter deaths by engaging in various projects to access funding streams, in particular two further bids to the Warm Homes Fund have been successful to install gas central heating in off gas properties and install air source heat pumps in other suitable properties.

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Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health, Waste and Recycling

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