

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

19 July 2016

Green Waste Charges

Following the Cabinet decision and recommendation to Council on 7 June 2016 on the introduction of charges for the collection of green waste work has started on planning for its introduction in April 2017. There will be a Member seminar on 26 July 2016 which will cover the level of the charge and the policies on how the service will operate. This will be followed by a further report to Cabinet in September on both these matters. A second Member seminar is planned for 1 November 2016 to update Members on progress with the project, the details of how the service will operate and key dates for implementation.

Route Optimisation

The Waste Strategy approved by Council in April 2015 includes a commitment to review how the rounds for the collection of household waste, recycling and green waste are organised with the aim of ensuring they are both effective and efficient. This is needed to respond to the new demands on the service including the new recycling service and the possible introduction of green waste charging. It was anticipated that significant efficiency savings could be made and these have been included in the Financial Strategy. At this point the changes are planned to be implemented in September and will impact on all residents. There will be no change to fortnightly collections but current collection days may change. This will be covered in the seminar on 26 July and there will be thorough communication with residents including letters to every household.

Performance of the new Recycling Service

The new recycling service is operating as planned and has been well received by residents. Overall recycling performance at the end of Quarter 1 2016/17 is estimated to be 57% against a Council Plan target of 53%. Also feedback from the recycling contractor is that the quality of materials recycled is good with low levels of contamination of less than 5%. Communications with residents on materials that can and can't be recycled will continue to ensure that the service operates efficiently and reduce the risk of the Council being penalised because of contamination.

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