

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

13 December 2016

Waste Services

Green Waste Charges

The project is on track to be operational from 1 April 2017. A successful seminar for members was held on 1 November and a further one is planned for January 2017. It is anticipated that residents will be able to pay for the service from February 2017. Extra temporary staff have been taken on in Waste and Street Scene and in Customer Services to cope with the extra demands that delivery of this service will bring.

Route optimisation

This project seeks to further address inefficiencies in the waste and recycling collection rounds. There has been a delay with the implementation, originally planned for 1 September 2016, this is due to availability of staff and production of the data required to build the rounds. A revised date has been set for 20 February 2016. This may involve changes to the days of the weeks residents have their waste collected.

Recycling

The new recycling service continues to deliver a valued and enhanced service that has seen recycling increase to almost 55% for the year to date. However, levels of contamination have been increasing as residents get used to the scheme. Waste and Street Scene Officers and Operational Crews will be cracking down on levels of contamination and will be putting stickers onto contaminated bins. A publicity campaign will run alongside this to encourage and educate people to place the correct materials in their boxes and bins. Common forms of contamination include heavy metal items, such as golf clubs, disposable nappies, wood, polystyrene and plastic bags. Further information is available on the website.

Street-Scene

I'm sure Members will join me in sending the Council's condolences to the family of the late Robert (Tommy) Walburn. Tommy died suddenly at home and will be sadly missed by all his work colleagues. Tommy was always first to volunteer and last to leave and his commitment to his duties was a shining example to all.

Environmental Health Service

Service Review

The restructure in Environmental Health will become complete in the New Year with the retirement of the part time manager and the redundancy of the project officer. A full time manager will be in place by the end of February with extra staff resources also being allocated to food inspection and enforcement work.

Pending Prosecution

A recent case regarding food standards was due to be heard in court in November but has been put back till December as the defendant claims he had not received certain papers. This is incorrect and the case will be heard on the 20 December.

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