

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

**MEETING:** Environment and Economy Select Committee  
Monday 6 January 2014 Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors: J Hollywell (Chair), P Bibby, J Brown, J Mead, R Parker CC, and P Stuart.

**ALSO PRESENT:** L Myers (Head of Environmental Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	ACTION/LEAD
<p>An apology for absence was received from Councillor B Underwood.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	G Moody Ext 2203
2. MINUTES – 21 OCTOBER 2013	
<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment &amp; Economy Select Committee held on 21 October 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	G Moody Ext 2203
3. REVIEW INTO REFUSE AND RECYCLING	
<p>The Committee received the draft report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Refuse and Recycling.</p> <p>After a full discussion of the report Members suggested a number of changes to the report and amendments to the recommendations which are detailed in the resolution below.</p> <p>A question was raised concerning the recycling rates obtained from revamped recycling facilities in the Town.</p>	

The Committee was advised that it was impossible to isolate data from specific recycling bank collection points; however the Head of Environmental Services undertook to provide data on overall recycling rates.

Members were divided over whether to include a comment agreeing with the Portfolio Holder that the waste and recycling service was best delivered at a local level as the Committee had not researched this and suggested that this was a matter for the Executive and Officers to explore. Therefore Scrutiny Officer was requested to delete the final sentence of paragraph 3.10.1 from the report. Councillor J Brown requested that his objection to this be recorded in the minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The report be amended to reflect the views of the Committee and circulated (as a track changes copy) for final approval to all Committee members prior to the report being submitted to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and the Head of Environmental Services for consideration and formal reply. The Scrutiny Officer was also requested to send a copy of the final report to Duncan Jones and Craig Thorpe who had both attended the October meeting.
2. The recommendations in the report be amended as follows:
  1. That the Environment and Economy Select Committee considers the findings of the review contained within this report and the recommendations below be presented to the Environment and Regeneration Portfolio Holder and the Strategic Director (Environment) and that a response be provided from these and any other named officers and partners within two months of the publishing of this report.
  2. That notwithstanding that each inclement weather incident produces a different outcome, that Officer look to draw together an agreed action plan that can be followed during inclement weather so that Members and the public are kept informed of the impact to services by such means as the use of roadside signage and text messaging and that this information is displayed prominently and updated regularly on the Council's website.

L Myers  
Ext 8710

G Moody  
Ext 2203

3. That Officers investigate how the reviews 'Critical Friend' from Dacorum Borough Council has managed to encourage 5000 residents to sign up to the text scheme, with a view to increasing usage of the Council's own parallel scheme, which would help during periods of service disruption.
4. That Officers report back to Members on the data trends that have been recorded with complaints following at least six months of using the Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) IT software.
5. That Officers develop further the policy for missed bins. Officers to consider adopting the 'Critical Friend' Dacorum Borough Council's approach to missed bins which involves classifying them as 'justified or unjustified' as described at paragraph 3.2.1 of the report. The policy could determine when and whether to revisit an unjustified missed bin at a time that is convenient to the service and therefore not incur any additional expense. Members recommend that Officers use the experience described by Dacorum as a starting point for further developing the policy for missed bins, including recycling contamination, with a view to making savings in future years.
6. That the service continue to replace broken or stolen/misplaced bins but monitor patterns via the CRM from specific addresses for both commercial and residential to challenge any misuse of the service.
7. That Officers consider a pilot to provide a smaller residual waste bin to new properties or for replacement bins to encourage recycling.
8. Consider withdrawing the disposable nappy collection service and making a direct cashable saving of £3500 for the purple refuse sacks.
9. Investigate alternative simpler vandal proof on-street recycling facilities for the centre and community shopping areas around the town to replace the current vandalised facilities.
10. That Officers provide Members with the results of the surveys currently being undertaken with

<p>residents of flats and tower blocks into the recycling available at these properties, acknowledging that funding for any amendments would have to be drawn from the Housing Revenue Account and noting that the surveys do not cover those living in privately rented, or owned, accommodation.</p> <p>3. That a new recommendation be added to the report that requests that Officers undertake a review of the cardboard recycling blue box service as the current receptacles were too small for most household needs.</p> <p>In reply to a question it was confirmed that the Portfolio Holder should reply to the report within two months and that the Committee would review the response at an appropriate meeting.</p>	
<p><b>4. URGENT BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p>None</p>	
<p><b>5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p>	
<p>Not required.</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>
<p><b>PART II</b></p>	
<p><b>6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p>None.</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>