

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY
DATE: 12 DECEMBER 2013
RECIPIENT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

The draft Waste Management Policy brings together all aspects of waste management including local environmental quality issues such as litter, graffiti and fly tipping as well as domestic waste and recycling collections. It also provides an education and enforcement framework which will enable the council to take prioritised enforcement activity relating to enviro-crime and waste management offences.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

- 1 The Waste and Recycling Service is currently undergoing a major transformation programme funded by a government grant of £8.28 million from the Waste Collection Support Scheme. The transformation programme has highlighted the need to update the previous Collection of Residential Waste and Recycling Policy to include new services, reflect changes to existing services and to include all other aspects of waste management and local environmental quality. (Local environmental quality (LEQ) issues include litter, fly tipping, fly posting, graffiti and dog fouling.)
- 2 The transformation work has also identified the need for an education and enforcement framework that will encourage improved behaviours, increase recycling quality and quantity and enable the council to prioritise its limited resources to target education and enforcement activities to where it will have the biggest impact, and to take action against those who consistently fail to manage their waste properly.
- 3 Bringing waste and recycling collections and other local environmental quality issues into one policy document will hopefully make it easier for the public to understand the role of the council and the role of residents in helping to make Southampton more attractive and sustainable.
- 4 The new policy builds on the previous service standards and policies and the most significant areas of change are around collection of side waste, the chargeable garden waste service, the new glass collection service and the new education and enforcement framework.
- 5 The education and enforcement framework provides a flexible approach to allow the council to take appropriate action for the appropriate offence. The council will determine enforcement action on a case by case basis. Movement between stages and escalation will be done at the discretion of officers. The policy includes a risk based prioritisation matrix that gives greater priority to high risk areas for example where there is a risk to public health or obstruction to the highway. The framework includes education and advice, informal and formal warnings and formal enforcement activity up to and including the issue of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) or in extreme cases prosecution.
- 6 The framework will allow the council to undertake a range of education and enforcement activities depending upon the nature and seriousness of the offence. This includes awareness activities for offences such as bin contamination, followed

BRIEFING PAPER

up with warnings and potentially alternative service provision for residents who are consistently getting it wrong; and on the spot fines for offences such as littering. Intelligence on enviro-crime hotspots will enable officers to use limited resources on specific, targeted interventions.

- 7 Generic Section 46 notices were issued to all households as part of the direct mail introducing the Bin it to Win it recycling rewards scheme. The notices set out the detailed legal arrangements for waste and recycling collections in Southampton (including what should and should not be placed in each kind of bin, where they should be placed for collection and when they should be taken back in etc.) and enables the council to consider action against those who do not comply with the notice. Any formal action against individual residents will require individual notices to be served as appropriate.
- 8 The waste and recycling service are looking to move to a new 'sweep system' of collections which will greatly simplify and balance the collection rounds and will be area based. This will enable the service to focus collection, education and enforcement resources in one area on one day more effectively and hopefully reduce service failures. This new collection methodology may result in a change of bin collection day for some residents but this will be kept to a minimum where possible. A full communications plan will be developed to publicise these changes.
- 9 Consultation with staff, unions, and the Cabinet Member has taken place and has informed the development of the policy. Targeted consultation has been undertaken with members of the public via the waste and recycling customer engagement group and customer distribution lists.
- 10 The draft Waste Management Policy can be found at appendix 1.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Financial

- 11 The policy does not have any significant financial resource implications. The transformation of the service is being funded by the government grant. Education and enforcement activity will be achieved by up skilling and training existing officers within relevant front line services.
- 12 There may be minimal financial costs in terms of promoting the new policy but where possible this will link to other planned promotional work and will be funded by the transformation programme.

Property / Other

- 13 None.

Legal

- 14 The policy has been developed in line with the Council's duties under the Environmental Protection Act (1990) and Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005). The policy will be reviewed and refreshed in light of any changes to legislation as necessary.

BRIEFING PAPER

- 15 The policy has been developed having regard to the Council's duties under the Equalities Act 2010, together with the Human Rights Act 1998. Any enforcement action that may be taken in pursuance of the policy will only be considered having regard to Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights (right to a fair trial) and where considered necessary to addressing a pressing social need and proportionate to the nature of the offence committed. The policy has also been developed having regard to the Council's duties under s.17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and the need to eliminate or reduce enviro-crime in the Southampton area.

Policy

- 16 The Waste Management Policy is in accordance with the Council's policy framework including the Council Plan.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

Appendix 1 Waste Management Policy

Further Information Available From:	Name:	Helen Saward
	Tel:	023 8083 2884
	E-mail:	helen.saward@southampton.gov.uk