

Council – 11th January 2016

Notice of motion – Waste Collection Service

A notice of motion has been received from Councillor Smith as detailed below:

This Council notes the decision taken by the former administration in its budget announced in February 2015 to move from weekly to fortnightly collections of household waste in order to cut costs. It further notes, with regret the recent Cabinet decision of 16th December 2015 that confirms how the present administration will implement that decision, thus demonstrating an almost seamless approach by the past and present administrations in terms of moving from a weekly to a fortnightly collection of household waste.

Background

- 1 Refuse and recycling collection is one of the most high profile and highly valued services provided by the Council. Financial pressures have necessitated that the Council review how it delivers this service.
- 2 At its meeting on 26 February 2015 Council approved the budget for 2016/17 to help deliver significant savings required by the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Detailed within the budget was a proposal to change the waste and recycling collection service to one involving Alternate Weekly Collections (AWC).
- 3 An options appraisal of AWC was subsequently undertaken during the Summer of 2015 and two options were identified for detailed consideration:
 - Option 1 – Bin Swap - Swapping garden waste and residual waste bins so that the 140 litre grey bin becomes used for garden waste and the 240 litre brown bin becomes used for general waste, with the 240 litre green bin remaining for recyclable waste and all bins collected alternate weekly.
 - Option 2 – No Bin Change - 140 litre residual waste bins collected alternate weekly with larger bins for larger families
- 4 On 22 July 2015, Cabinet approved the proposed strategy for consulting with residents on their preferred option. A wide and detailed programme of consultation on how AWC could be delivered was undertaken between 6 August and 30 September 2015. Consultation was mainly quantitative (by questionnaire) with a lesser degree of qualitative (face to face) consultation also taking place. The scientific approach to data collection means that the results were representative at the borough level and are robust and accurate to within a small and predictable range.

5. The outcome of the consultation process determined that half of the residents (50%) preferred Option 2, and just over a third (35%) preferred Option 1. The remaining 15% preferred another option, which was to retain the existing service. The full consultation report was considered by the Corporate & Public Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 22 October 2015 and Cabinet on 16 December 2015.
6. On 16 December 2015 Cabinet agreed to implement Option 2 - No bin change, all bins emptied every other week, with implementation scheduled to commence October 2016.
7. Cabinet have asked the Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review and comment on the Implementation Plan and Communication Plan prior to the launch of the new service.

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23 December 2015