

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 25th NOVEMBER, 2014

Present – Councillors Spencer (Chairman), Silvester (Vice-Chairman), L. Byrne, Evans, G. Harkin, Haslam, Kellett, Mistry, Pickup, Richardson, A. Walsh, J. Walsh, Watters and Wild (as deputy for Councillor Allen)

Also in Attendance

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| Councillor Peel | Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services |
| Councillor Bashir-Ismail | Cabinet Member for Community Services |
| Councillor Chadwick | Cabinet Member, Highways and Transport |
| Councillor D. Burrows | Cabinet Member for Police and Community Services. |
| Mr. M. Cox | Director of Environmental Services |
| Mr. S. Young | Assistant Director Highways and Business Development |
| Ms. J. Pollard | Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy |
| Ms. S. Schofield | Assistant Director Neighbourhood and Community Services |
| Ms. D. Dixon | Recycling Officer |
| Mr. I. D. Mulholland | Principal Democratic Services Officer |

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Allen and Bury.

Councillor Spencer, Chairman.

19. MRS GILLIAN HUGHES MBE

The Chairman referred to the recent sad death of Gillian Hughes MBE who had worked for the Council for many years.

Members stood in silent tribute to her memory.

20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7th October, 2014 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be received and signed as a correct record.

21. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2014/15

The Committee received the proposed work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme as submitted be approved.

22. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES QUARTER TWO FINANCE REPORT

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which set out details of the financial position for quarter two of 2014/15 for the Environmental Services Department.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

23. DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE, QUARTER ONE, 2014/15

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report

which provided Members with an update on the quarter one performance for the Environmental Services Department.

The report summarised delivery against both qualitative and quantitative indicators, recognising the balance between hard and soft outputs taking into account the current financial pressures facing the organisation.

Members in their deliberations referred to matters around the regeneration in the town centre and the involvement of the Environment Department.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

24. RECYCLING AND WASTE, THE IMPACT OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS

Ms. Daniela Dixon, Recycling Officer gave a presentation on matters concerning recycling and waste and the impact of the new arrangements.

Ms Dixon outlined matters around the waste and recycling service and the success of the managed weekly collections in terms of -

- minimal complaints from residents, Councillors and staff performing the service;
- grey bin waste reduced more than expected in 2013/14;
- the £2.6m saving target achieved.

The Committee was also informed of matters concerning –

- positive press releases;
- engagement with residents;
- awards achieved;
- roadshow events;
- recycling bin deliveries;
- waste audits;
- kg of household waste collected per household;
- recycling rate performance; and
- performance by waste stream.

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In terms of the impact on the Waste Disposal Levy members were informed that the introduction of managed weekly collections had significantly reduced the amount of grey bin waste collected, which in turn had reduced the levy costs. It was also highlighted that the amount of grey bin waste needed to be further reduced.

It was highlighted that in 2014/15 the focus was going to be on the following –

- reduction in the kg of residual waste collected per household;
- increasing the recycling rate;
- reducing contamination; and
- changing behaviour.

Ms Dixon went onto explain how the above targets would be met in terms of –

- slim your bin;
- GMWDA Life +;
- Right stuff right bin campaign;
- partnership working;
- new and improved bulky waste collection service;
- door to door engagement;
- WRAP funding; and
- Recycling calendars.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- collections for fridges;
- the percentage of missed calls at the call centre regarding waste and recycling and the direction of travel;
- the good progress being made generally;
- the clearing up of spillages by staff whilst on collections; and
- the positive way in which staff have responded during the period of change.

Resolved – (i) That Ms Dixon be thanked for her informative presentation; and

(ii) That members be provided with statistical information relating to missed calls at the call centre regarding waste and recycling and the direction of travel.

25. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

The Committee received the minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee, viz :-

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environment Services held on 20th October and 17th November, 2014; and
- Neighbourhood and Community Services Policy Development Group held on 22nd October, 2014.

Resolved – That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 6.26 pm)

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NOTES