

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STREET SCENE and ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

11 June 2019

Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1. WASTE & STREET SCENE SERVICES UPDATE

Summary

This report highlights a number of issues & initiatives managed by the Waste & Street Scene Services team since the last meeting of this Board.

1.1 Public Convenience Cleaning – Extension of contract

1.1.1 The current Public Convenience Cleaning Contract, procured in 2013, was due to end on 28 February 2019, with an option to extend by one or both of two 12 month periods should both parties agree. The value of the contract, as provide by Specialist Hygiene Services (SHS), is around £65K per annum.

1.1.2 A Scrutiny review of Public Convenience provision across the borough was completed in late 2018, which resulted in a report to Cabinet in February this year. The recommendations approved at that meeting were as follows:

- Subject to agreement with the existing contractor, the existing public convenience cleansing contract be extended for 12 months in accordance with current contract conditions;
- meetings in liaison with the Estates Service Manager be undertaken with individual Parish/Town Councils to agree the leasehold or freehold transfer of ownership of the Council's public conveniences currently located in their area;
- the existing provision of public conveniences at Leybourne Lakes Country Park, Haysden Country Park, Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground and Tonbridge Cemetery be retained;
- the existing Priory Road and Castle Grounds public conveniences in Tonbridge be retained;

- the existing Angel Centre public toilets be closed with the public redirected to existing alternative provision;
- further investigation be undertaken into the suitability of alternative toilets in the vicinity of Tonbridge Castle to determine the future provision of Castle Grounds toilets;
- the Building & Estates Manager be requested to bring forward, if required, an improvement programme for those facilities to be retained/transferred;
- future reports be submitted to the Street Scene & Environment Advisory Board on the outcome of the review, accompanied by an Equality Impact Assessment and financial appraisal.

1.1.3 At the February 2019 meeting of this Board Members approved an Equality Impact Assessment and requested Cabinet to update the Special Expenses Policy for approval by Full Council. I can advise that the public toilets adjacent to the Angel Centre have been closed, and meetings with the relevant Parish & Town Councils will take place over the next few months. Members of this Board will be kept informed of progress.

1.2 Household Waste Recycling Centres

- 1.2.1 Within the geographical county of Kent, Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs or “tips”) are provided and managed by the relevant Waste Disposal Authority for their residents. Medway’s HWRCs are run by Medway Council for their residents, and Kent’s HWRCs by Kent County Council. There has been a reciprocal arrangement in place for a number of years whereby KCC pay Medway County Council an annual amount so that KCC residents who live nearer to Medway’s HWRCs can use them rather than having to travel further to a KCC site.
- 1.2.2 For many years TMBC have made representation to KCC to provide a HWRC facility within the borough, as the nearest alternatives for our residents are the HWRCs at North Farm (Tunbridge Wells), Tovil (Maidstone), Dunbrik (Sevenoaks) or Medway’s sites at Cuxton & Capstone. As recently as last month, KCC has indicated that two potential sites have been identified along the A20 corridor and that further work was being carried out to finalise a suitable site that might be up and running within 18 months. This will of course be dependent on the required planning & environmental permissions being forthcoming from the relevant authorities.
- 1.2.3 On 13 May 2019, TMBC Officers became aware via social media posts that Medway County Council had taken a decision to exclude Kent residents from its HWRCs. This was explained by Medway County Council to be a result of KCC introducing charges for certain non-household waste items (soil, rubble, plasterboard) at its own HWRCs from 3 June this year. This decision meant that many residents in the north & eastern parts of our borough would have to travel much further to use a KCC site. For example, a resident of Walderslade who

would normally have travelled 10 minutes to Medway's Capstone site would now have to travel all the way through Maidstone to the KCC site at Tovil, where heavy usage already causes traffic problems on the approach roads.

- 1.2.4 The Leader of the Council swiftly made representation to both KCC and to Medway County Council regarding the decision and arrangements were put in place to expand our weekend bulky waste collection service. I am pleased to report that as of 23 May, Medway County Council's decision has been reversed and KCC residents will still be able to use their nearest facility for the next 18 months. If the HWRC falls within Medway's boundary, all users will have to take with them a form of identify which has their address on it. This will allow Medway to monitor usage of the sites and identify the proportion of users that live within KCC's boundary.
- 1.2.5 More recently, KCC has publically confirmed that they have identified a suitable site for a new HWRC within TMBC's boundary and that the facility should be available to our residents within 15 months or so. It is likely at that time that Medway County Council will again review its policy on allowing KCC residents to use its sites.

1.3 Kent Resource Partnership - End Destination Report

- 1.3.1 The Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) is made up of 13 local authorities (KCC and the twelve District Councils). The purpose of the KRP is to deliver three strategic objectives:
- to deliver the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy which has been adopted to manage Kent's municipal waste;
 - to deliver financial & performance benefits to kent taxpayers, managing the risks to financial & performance as appropriate; and
 - to contribute to; and set as a national lead; delivery projects that manage supply chain issues in the leanest and most effective ways, securing value from discarded materials and proactively identifying innovation & excellent practices.
- 1.3.2 Each year the KRP publishes its Materials End Destination report. This publication provides information on what happens to the municipal waste collected within the KCC area, both recycled & non-recycled. The data in the report has been audited by DEFRA through its national Waste Data Flow system to which every local authority has a legal duty to provide tonnages. This includes data for each waste stream collected and where they are disposed of, including the final reprocessing facility.
- 1.3.3 The latest publication, with audited data for 2017/18, is attached at **Annex 1** to this report. The KRP's key headline performance indicators for Kent are:

- 46.7% of household waste was sent for reuse, recycling or composting (target of 50% by 2020);
- 1.1% of all municipal waste sent to landfill (down from 18.2% in 2013/14);
- 709,000 tonnes of waste collected, a 3% reduction on the previous year; and
- 76.1% of waste collected was processed in Kent, with an additional 15.2% processed within the UK and just 8.7% sent abroad for treatment.

1.3.4 The equivalent indicators for TMBC's household waste are:

- 41.7% of household waste was sent for reuse, recycling or composting. This is expected to improve to around 48% following the full roll out of the new collection services later this year;
- 0.1% of all municipal waste sent to landfill (down from 8% in 2013/14);
- 50,008 tonnes of waste collected, a 1% reduction on the previous year; and
- 86.4% of waste collected was processed in Kent, with an additional 11.2% processed within the UK and just 2.4% sent abroad for treatment (mainly some plastics for reprocessing in Europe and textiles for reuse & recycling projects).

1.4 Great British Spring Clean

1.4.1 The Great British Spring Clean is a national initiative launched several years ago by Keep Britain Tidy, the national campaign organisation which aims to raise awareness of litter and its impact on the natural & built environment. In 2019 the theme of the campaign was to reduce the amount of single use plastics being discarded and thus reduce the harm those items cause to wildlife.

1.4.2 All 13 KRP councils supported this year's Great British Spring Clean campaign which took place from 22 March to 23 April 2019. In Tonbridge and Malling this Council supported more than 70 events borough-wide from Walderslade to Tonbridge, and from Borough Green to Waterringbury. As a result:

- at least 575 volunteers took part in helping clean up their communities;
- over 900 sacks and many bulky items were collected and safely disposed of; and
- an estimated 1,500 hours of volunteer time was recorded just within the campaign period, with many more from our regular litter pickers across the borough who carry out clean ups throughout the year.

1.4.3 Organisers & participants came from businesses, schools, uniform groups, Parish Councils, “friends of” groups, street monitors, places of worship and Borough Councillors. The events attracted many good news stories for the local and national media, with huge support on social media.

1.5 Legal Implications

1.5.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide refuse and recycling collection services. The extension of the existing Public Convenience Cleaning is in accordance with contract conditions and relevant procurement regulations.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.6.1 None.

1.7 Risk Assessment

1.7.1 Careful planning, good communication with residents and coordinated arrangements for collections, help to ensure minimal disruption and effective delivery of these high profile services.

1.8 Policy Considerations

1.8.1 Communications

1.8.2 Community

1.8.3 Customer Contact

Background papers:

Nil

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