

Environmental Health, Recycling & Waste Policy Development Advisory Group
13 JULY 2023

Present: Councillors: Jay Mercer (Chairman), Philip Circus, Nick Grant, Joan Grech, Kasia Greenwood, Warwick Hellowell, Lynn Lambert and Mike Wood

Apologies: Councillors: Emma Beard and Jonathan Taylor

Also Present: Councillor Mike Croker

1 **TO AGREE THE TIME OF MEETINGS OF THE PDAG FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR**

It was agreed that future meetings of the PDAG would commence at 5.30pm.

2 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the Recycling & Waste PDAG meeting held on 1 March 2023 were received.

3 **SERVICE BRIEFING: WASTE AND RECYCLING**

The Head of Recycling and Waste gave a presentation on the Council's Waste and Recycling service.

Members were briefed on the range of services provided by the team based at the Hop Oast depot. Some of the key statistics identified in the presentation were:

Waste and Recycling

- There were 85 operational members of staff who collected from 65,000 properties.
- 4.25 million bins were lifted each year.
- 14,676 tonnes of garden waste, 24,036 tonnes of refuse and 14,895 tonnes of recycling was collected last year.
- The Council's recycling rate in 2021/22 was 53.1%, which was the highest in West Sussex and the 36th highest in the country.

Litter and Cleansing

- There were 24 operational members of staff who emptied 839 litter bins and 350 dog bins two to three times a week.
- Since November 2021, 124 fines had been issued for fly-tipping and littering. Of those fines, 89% had been paid.

The Council was part of the West Sussex Waste Partnership. This comprised all of the district and borough councils within West Sussex as well as the disposal authority, West Sussex County Council. One of the functions of the Partnership was to deliver projects, such as the award-winning project relating to houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) that was delivered in 2017. The Council was also working with the Partnership with regard to food waste collection strategies.

The Council's Waste and Recycling service had an ageing fleet of vehicles, and it was looking to replace this with more sustainable alternatives such as electric or hydrogen powered vehicles within the next six to seven years. This would help the Council meet its target to be carbon neutral by 2030. Members were advised that steps had been taken with regard to the electrification of smaller vehicles, with two electric sweepers being used in Horsham town centre.

Projects that were being undertaken by the service included the 'Podback' scheme; hot bins; and a project aimed at improving the recycling rate for flats, which was being carried out in partnership with West Sussex County Council. Modelling was also being undertaken for food waste collections.

Following the presentation, the Head of Recycling and Waste took questions from Members.

ACTIONS:

- The Head of Recycling and Waste to confirm the number of fly-tipping incidents that occurred in the district.
- The Head of Recycling and Waste to circulate some statistics with regard to the amount of waste per household.
- The Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, Recycling and Waste to liaise with West Sussex County Council with regard to reuse facilities.

4 **TYRE PROCUREMENT**

The Head of Recycling and Waste gave a presentation on a joint tyre procurement exercise that Horsham District Council intended to undertake with Crawley Borough Council for supplying and fitting tyres to council vehicles.

Two separate contracts would be awarded. These were worth £350,000 in total over five years. Horsham District Council's contract was worth £250,000 and Crawley Borough Council's contract was worth £100,000. Contracts would be weighted 60% on quality and 40% on price.

The rationale behind the joint procurement exercise was that it had the potential to save costs, both in terms of the prices offered by suppliers and the costs of the procurement exercise itself.

There was an emphasis on sustainability and using remoulded tyres where possible. It was noted that remoulded tyres were as durable as new tyres but cost less and had a less harmful impact on the environment.

The Council intended to go out to tender on 14 July and to seek authority from Cabinet at its meeting on 28 September to award the contract. It was hoped that the contract would take effect from 1 November.

Following the presentation, the Head of Recycling and Waste took questions from a Member.

5 **SERVICE BRIEFING: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Members received a presentation from the Head of Environmental Health and Licensing, the Principal Environmental Health Officer for the Commercial team, the Team Leader – Environmental Protection for the Pollution team, and the Principal Environmental Health Officer for the Private Sector Housing team.

It was likely that Members would be briefed on taxi licensing and other licensing functions at a future PDAG.

Commercial team

One of the main areas of work undertaken by the Commercial team was around food safety. There were approximately 1,200 food businesses within the district, 91% of which were rated as either '4 – Good' or '5 – Very Good' on the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. There were also 11 Primary Authority Partnerships.

It was noted that 471 food premises were inspected, 74 food complaints were investigated and 42 food handlers were trained by the team in the previous year.

Another area of work undertaken by the team was around health and safety at work. One aspect of this was inspecting premises following complaints or accidents, or when required to do so by the Health and Safety Executive.

Members were advised that emerging issues included social media sales and food crime.

Pollution team

The Pollution team undertook work relating to:

- Noise
- Land contamination
- Rural drainage (sewage) – if outside the remit of the Environment Agency or Southern Water
- Polluting processes

- Air quality
- Planning consultations
- Quality of private water supplies

Members were advised that there was increasing work in the area of private water supplies.

Private Sector Housing team

The Private Sector Housing team undertook work relating to:

- Complaints from tenants (and enforcement action e.g. serving notices)
- Licensing of caravan sites
- Houses in multiple occupation (HMOs)
- Hoarders, and filthy and verminous homes
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Empty homes
- Energy efficiency
- Drains, rats and nuisance relating to homes

Members were advised that recent trends included an increase in the number of complaints, an increase in the number of HMOs and legislative changes.

Community Link team

Community Link was a non-statutory service provided by the Council that involved providing personal safety devices to residents for a monthly fee. The Community Link team were part of the Environmental Health and Licensing department.

Members asked questions of officers throughout the presentation. One matter that was discussed was the Council's responsibilities in relation to animal licensing. It was stressed that the police, and not the Council, were responsible for dangerous dogs; the Council's responsibility was limited to stray dogs.

ACTION:

- It was agreed that the Food Safety and Health & Safety at Work Service Plan for 2023/24 would be circulated to members of the PDAG for comment.

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FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, RECYCLING & WASTE PORTFOLIO

There were no relevant items to note on the Forward Plan for the Environmental Health, Recycling & Waste portfolio.

The meeting closed at 7.03 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm

CHAIRMAN