

Report to Stronger Place Select Committee

Date of meeting: 9 December 2019



Portfolio: Contracts & Technical Services (Councillor N. Avey)

Subject: Waste Management Contract – Current Performance

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee note the current performance of the waste management contract.

Report:

1. The waste management contract is performing well, the key performance indicators for quarter two (2019-20) show that there continues to be a reduction in household waste and an increase in recycling:
 - M.8 (reduction in household waste) – result was 183kg, (target was 196kg (maximum)); and
 - M.9 (increase in recycling) – result was 62.58% (target was 57%).
2. The tonnage summary is overall lower on average, and garden waste was not as high this year as last year. Also, because of the dry weather in September, the leaves had fallen earlier this year. Streets mechanical (broom) waste was calculated separately to Essex County Council waste and transported to the Rainham depot to be recycled. On the cleansing of streets waste, not all litter bin rubbish could be recycled but the refuse vehicles had split compartments to help crews in this sorting.
3. A Waste Management Review Task and Finish Panel had been set up by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to look at five main items and would conclude in January 2020. The recommendations of the Waste Management review would then go to Cabinet, and if there was a service change, the proposals would come back to the Waste Management Partnership Board or go to the Innovation Forum.
4. The task and finish panel are looking at:
 - the feasibility of introducing a third wheelie bin to replace clear recycling sacks;
 - the future collection of food and garden waste in separate containers and the option to charge for the collection of garden waste;
 - the possibility of not collecting garden waste in certain months of the year when demand was low;
 - a review of street cleansing arrangements to achieve improvements in cleansing standards; and
 - improvements in the provision of waste and recycling containers and cleansing operations on the high street including the segregation of recycling materials.

5. The task and finish panel have noted that if Panel members decided to pursue the option of introducing a third wheelie bin, the operational costs and contractual implications with Biffa would be looked at through an innovation forum. This would also be done outside of the timeframe of the Task and Finish Panel as it would involve substantial work and officer time.
6. Although the current street cleansing arrangements offered an excellent service, it was not an ideal use of all the resources. Therefore, rubbish thrown from vehicles in these litter prone areas on the through roads in the District, could be targeted more often if the two-weekly frequencies were reorganised. There were over 300 litter bins in the District particularly in the high litter zones around shop premises. The Council was proposing to remove some of the Brunel bins and change the bin design to ones with separate compartments for recyclable litter and residual refuse. Splitting the waste would encourage more usage by the public and reinforce the recycling done at home.

Resource implications:

N/A

Legal and Governance Implications:

N/A

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

N/A

Consultation Undertaken:

N/A

Background Papers:

N/A

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

N/A

Equality: