

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY DECISION MEETING

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety Decision Meeting held on Wednesday, 5 February 2014 at 12.00 pm in the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Sandra Stockdale (in the Chair)

Councillor John Ferrett

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Robert New sent his apologies.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

No interests were declared.

3. Income Generation - Environmental Health

Alan Cufley, Head of Corporate Assets, Business and Standards, Corporate Assets, Business & Standards and Richard Lee, Environmental Health Manager introduced the report and in response to questions, clarified the following points:

- It is anticipated that there may be fewer requests for the service; however the service will continue to be advertised on the council's website and in Flagship. Despite the increase in price the charge remains excellent value for money and below the market leaders.
- As a result of the introduction of new poisons, treatments are much more effective. The numbers of treatments necessary has therefore been reduced.
- Other professional organisations are used to assist with the management of the service.
- The service will be monitored closely; we aim to balance our operation between full cost recovery and providing treatments for households on benefits.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety approved:

- 1. The introduction of charges for the treatment of rats in line with those levied for mice;**
- 2. The concession for householders in receipt of a qualifying benefit to be 50%;**
- 3. Due to an improvement in the potency of the poisons available, a reduction in the number of visits carried out within each treatment for rodents to three, following which a further charge will be levied;**
- 4. Only households where the homeowner/tenant or partner is in receipt of a qualifying benefit are eligible for the subsidised rate;**
- 5. All charges are increased, from the 1st April 2014, in line with inflation.**

4. Update on the Green Waste Club

Andrew Morrison, Waste Collection Contract Team Leader introduced the report.

In response to questions, Mike Thomas, Waste Strategy and Disposal Manager from Southampton City Council, Paul Fielding, Assistant Head of Service-Environment & Recreation, Susan Aistrop, Finance Manager, Portsmouth City Council clarified the following points:

- The recycling collected has been displaced from other areas.
- The discounted rate of £30 per bin per year will continue to be offered to the first 5,000 customers until the end of the contract.
- The cost of waste disposal per tonne at the incinerator is £27.81 and £21.84 for garden waste¹.
- Customer satisfaction with the scheme is high.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety acknowledged the progress of the Green Waste Club and supported the further promotion of the campaign.

5. Incentives to Recycle - Update

Nicola Waight, Environmental Change and Sports Development Team Manager introduced the report and then in response to questions she was joined by Paul Fielding and Mike Thomas to clarify the following points:

- Market forces of supply and demand control the prices. The price for dry recyclables was very high when the scheme was devised. Since then it has been low for a while but started to increase again.
- The price for textiles and glass is currently high so textile collections will be promoted in Flagship.
- Although the registration rates have been good across the city, this is not shown clearly on the map.
- The take-up is currently being reviewed and the areas where it could be improved will be targeted.
- Some other Local Authority areas have more gardens and offer a free green waste collection.
- Portsmouth has a better recyclable collection rate than Southampton.
- The DCLG funding received for the campaign has been re-profiled to either allow for the behaviour change campaign to continue to 2017 or £75,000 pa for 2015/16 and 2016/17 to be used as a contingency in case the savings targets are not achieved.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety acknowledged the progress of the BIG Recycle reward scheme and supported the further promotion of the campaign and agreed the re-profiling of the budget as described in table 9.3 of the report.

¹ Since the meeting, the following updated figures have been provided: Incinerated - £27.86 and - £26.70 for garden waste.

6. Portsmouth Recycling Centre Management Contract

Mark Woolnough, Built Environment and Recreation Manager introduced the report.

In response to a question, Paul Fielding explained that retendering a new contract for Paulsgrove with Hampshire and Southampton should bring economies of scale greater than could be achieved if Portsmouth were to tender the site alone.

DECISION

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety agreed that:

- **The report be noted.**
- **The contract for the operation of the Paulsgrove HWRC is retendered as part of the Hampshire retender procedure for all 26 HWRC sites in Hampshire.**
- **The contract allows flexibility for PCC to operate the Paulsgrove HWRC in a way that suits local requirements.**
- **Delegated authority be given to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety in consultation with the Head of Transport and Environment and on the advice of Legal Services to enter into the new HWRC contract and to agree the terms of the contract within existing budget limits.**
- **PCC continues to work with Hampshire County Council on agreeing a reduced allocation of costs to PCC for the new contract that reflects the different levels of trade waste controls and different management options that are in place at HWRC sites used by Portsmouth residents.**
- **Details on any cost savings as a result of the new HWRC contract will be finalised once the procurement process has finished.**

The meeting concluded at 12.35 pm.

Councillor Sandra Stockdale
Chair