

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND
ENVIRONMENT****PETITION – KEEP OUR BLACK BINS CAMPAIGN****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to respond to the issues raised in a petition presented to the County Council on 14th January 2016 by County Councillor Jason Zadrozny.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council has a PFI contract target of recycling and composting 52% of household waste by 2020, which aligns with the EU Framework Directive target of 50% by 2020. The Council's current recycling rate stands at around 43% and has plateaued in recent years highlighting the need for schemes that will significantly increase the recycling rate.
3. Reports to Finance and Property Committee on 9th November 2015 and to Environment and Sustainability Committee on 19th November 2015, detailed an invest to save project to increase recycling performance in the Ashfield District Council area.
4. Working in partnership with Ashfield District Council the County Council would fund the purchase of new smaller 180 litre residual waste bins and pay for the re-purposing of the old 240 litre bins for the collection of green waste. Ashfield District Council are then to offer residents a free garden waste collection scheme for two years, due to begin in April 2016. The costs of establishing the scheme and operating the scheme in years one and two, both revenue and capital, would be funded by the County Council from the PFI reserve.
5. The County Council will take the full benefit of any savings through the shift of residual waste to other waste streams and all associated waste disposal savings, for the life of the service. The scheme is modelled to generate a surplus by the end of year three, pay back the set up capital cost by year five, and to save the County Council a total of £6.2m in waste disposal costs (and generating a net saving of £3.4 million) over 10 years.

6. The resultant savings over the term of the contract will reduce the requirement for future funding from the reserve and so enable this funding to be released to be invested in this initiative. As noted above the 10 year saving for the County Council is predicted to be £3.4million, with a payback period of 5 years.
7. Ashfield District Council are operating the project which is now in the implementation stage. The collection rounds have been reconfigured and orders for the new residual bins and collection vehicles have been placed.

The petition: “Back our Campaign to keep the black bins”

8. A 3611 signature petition was presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the meeting of 14th January 2016 by County Councillor Jason Zadrozny.
9. The petition was from residents of Ashfield District who were opposing the service change of providing a free garden waste service for two years starting from April 2016 and replacing the current 240 litre residual bin with a 180 litre bin.

10. The petition states:

- The scheme is expensive and will not achieve the desired outcomes;
- The scheme penalises families;
- Calls to investigate other options to improve local recycling without reducing the size of the General Waste bins, e.g. food waste collections, textiles, free garden waste without reducing the black bin size; and
- The scheme will increase fly-tipping.

11. Ashfield District Council, with the support of County Council, have carried out a substantial amount of work to answer the concerns raised in the petition and all the information is readily available on their website. In addition a report went to Ashfield District Council Cabinet on 5th November 2015, and the issues were discussed at the Ashfield Council meeting of 10th December 2015.

12. In response to the issues above:

- Nottinghamshire County Council is funding the scheme through its PFI Reserve monies. Although there are initial capital and revenue costs it is an invest to save scheme and as noted above will result in significant financial savings. A clear business case to support the scheme exists.
- Ashfield District Council will assess on a case by case basis and put in place support policies to provide additional capacity for particular needs e.g. larger families and residents with medical waste;
- Feasibility studies into other options to improve recycling have been carried out both locally and nationally. Reducing the residual waste bin capacity or the frequency of residual waste collections has been proven to increase recycling performance whilst reducing waste disposal costs. Currently the introduction of additional recycling services, for example food waste collections, are not financially viable. Smaller residual bins will reduce waste disposal costs allowing the County Council to fund the

improvements to green waste services being implemented by Ashfield District Council.

- Collection of other materials such as textiles will not have any significant impact on the recycling performance as most textiles are currently already captured through charity shops or door-step charity collections for re-use.
- Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and offenders could be subject to prosecution. The majority of fly-tipped waste is commercial or industrial; not residual household waste and it is not anticipated that incidents of fly-tipping will increase substantially as a result of this scheme.

Statutory Responsibilities

13. The decision to amend the service provided to residents by introducing a free garden waste collection for two years and reduce the capacity of the residual waste bin was taken by Ashfield District Council's Cabinet on 5th November 2015.
14. Although the County Council have agreed to fund the project it is recommended that the lead petitioner be informed that the decision to change the service falls under the remit of Ashfield District Council, and not the County Council.
15. It is therefore proposed that the following response be sent to the lead petitioner:

"The County Council acknowledges receipt of the "Back our Campaign to keep the black bins" petition to full Council on 14 January 2016 presented by County Councillor Jason Zadrozny.

The issues raised in the petition have previously been considered by Ashfield District Council in a report to Cabinet on 5th November 2015, and at the Ashfield Council meeting of 10th December 2015.

And by the County Council in the report to Finance and Property Committee on 9th November 2015 when funding for the project was approved, and in a report to Environment and Sustainability Committee on 19th November 2015.

Finance and Property Committee agreed that a clear business case for the County Council to fund the scheme as an invest to save project existed and agreed to fund the scheme from the PFI reserve monies.

The detailed implementation and operation of the scheme does not fall under the remit of the County Council and is a matter for Ashfield District Council as a statutory Waste Collection Authority."

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below.

Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Recommendation

17. It is recommended that approval be given for the proposed response detailed in paragraph 15 to be sent to the lead petitioner.

Jas Hundal

Service Director, Transport, Property and Environment

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Mick Allen, Group Manager, Waste and Energy Management

Constitutional Comments (EP 01.02.2016)

The recommendation falls within the remit of Finance and Property Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Any response to a petition by the County Council should be dealt with in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

Financial Comments (SES 02.02.2016)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers

Minutes of the County Council meeting 14th January 2016.

Report to Environment and Sustainability Committee – Ashfield District Council Green Waste Incentive Scheme - 19th November 2015.

Report to Finance and Property Committee – Ashfield District Council Green Waste Incentive Scheme – 9th November 2015.

Report to Ashfield District Council Cabinet on 5th November 2015

Report to Ashfield District Council meeting of 10th December 2015

Electoral Divisions

Hucknall, Kirkby-in-Ashfield North, Kirkby-in-Ashfield South, Selston, Sutton-in-Ashfield Central, Sutton-in-Ashfield East, Sutton-in-Ashfield North, Sutton-in-Ashfield West.