



# Minutes

## Policy Review Committee

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|------------------------|--|
| Venue:                 | Committee Room   |
| Date:                  | 10 December 2012   |
| Present:               | Councillor M Jordan (Chair), Councillor K Ellis, Councillor R Packham, Councillor I Reynolds, and Councillor Mrs A Spetch                              |
| Apologies for Absence: | Councillor Mrs E Metcalfe and Councillor R Musgrave  |
| Officers Present:      | Karen Iveson, Executive Director (S151); Sarah Smith, Business Manager; Keith Cadman, Lead Officer - Contracts and Richard Besley, Democratic Services |

### **27. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

### **28. PR/12/13 – Chargeable Green Waste Collections**

The report was presented by the Executive Director (s151) who gave the Committee the background of the report that went to the Executive on 6 December 2012.

The Committee was informed two extra meetings of the Policy Review Committee had been arranged to consider the brief from the Executive, this meeting and the now activated Provisional meeting scheduled for Tuesday 18 December. This would allow the Committee to be in an informed position to consider the Budget Report scheduled for the January 2013 meeting.

The Director confirmed that this first session was to focus on the practicalities of the proposal and introduced Sarah Smith, Business Manager Access Selby and Keith Cadman, Lead Officer – Contracts; who would take the Committee through the detail.

Councillor Packham, referring to the report's recommendation, asked whether the Policy Review Committee would consider whether charging should be introduced.

The Director explained that this session and the next would allow the Committee to consider the background and issues to the proposal in order to fulfil the brief on green waste charging and that the committee would have the opportunity to comment on the proposal itself as part of the budget consultation, which was due to be considered at the scheduled meeting in January.

Keith Cadman took the committee through a presentation on the details of the issue.

The Officer confirmed that the Environmental Protection Act 1990 recognised Selby Council as a Waste Collection Authority (WCA), which has a duty to arrange for the collection of household waste and can specify the type of receptacle to be used.

As a WCA the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 set out what type of waste a WCA can charge for.

The Budget proposal is to recover the cost of the green waste collection service.

Access Selby Officers surveyed 80 local authorities who had already introduced this charge and focused on a few that matched Selby by way of size, numbers and its rural structure.

The presentation highlighted costs were based on the current take-up of 71% of 30.5k properties currently provided with a green waste bin, a number are not suited to green waste collection. The percentage figures are an estimate of participation in a chargeable service, ie 71% being the maximum we could expect if every participating household subscribed.

The presentation also featured various Charging Options, Practicalities encountered with the introduction of a charge, how best to Communicate the strategy and an Implementation Timeframe.

The Officers confirmed that of the surveyed Councils, contact had been made with Rushcliffe Council (Nottinghamshire) whilst not directly comparable in terms of property numbers was a predominantly rural district that had recently introduced a charge. A visit to Rushcliffe was to be made by Officers.

The Chair thanked Officers for their presentation and invited questions from the Committee.

Responding to questions Officers confirmed that 1½ staff would be required to administer the service, with on-line registration and Direct Debit payment, after an initial mail shot and day to day management.

Set up costs were considered to be £130k (NYCC estimate).

Both Rushcliffe and Forest of Dean saw no increase in residual waste and no increase in fly-tipping. As it is a paid for service indications are that use of the service has gone up.

With regard to stopping the service, although the collection cost would be saved the recycling credit would be lost and a level of reduced take up would be agreed to ensure continued viability.

To allow the Committee to offer direction on the Charging Option the Chair asked the Officers if there were preferred options to follow.

Officers felt that the payment year would be best suited to a service start date, to fall in line when the service could be introduced and there would be no concessions or part year discounts and full charge for extra bins.

It was confirmed that no authority, surveyed, had introduced charging had had to withdraw the service.

The Committee felt no part year rate penalised new homes and asked Officers to bring to the next meeting costing assumptions based on further reduced take-up rates.

The Committee asked that Officers consult with Parish Councils, Community Partnership Boards, CEF's (time allowing) and whether an on-line poll on the website could be set up.

Officers were also able to confirm there was evidence to support seasonality with take up and payment year.

Based upon the information received to date the following draft recommendations to the Executive were formulated:

- i) A consultation on the proposals towards charging for green waste collection should be carried out;**
- ii) Service start date option at peak of growing time;**
- iii) No Concessions;**
- iv) To look at part year rate for new homes;**
- v) Full charge per bin;**
- vi) All practical points approved without prejudice to the future adoption of the Budget proposals to appear before Policy Review in January 2013.**

The meeting closed at 6:30pm