

# Scrutiny Committee

26 January 2016

## Neighbourhoods and Streetscene Cabinet Portfolio

### Progress Report



**Lead Member: Councillor Mullineaux**

**Lead Officer: Mark Gaffney**

## **Neighbourhoods and Streetscene Cabinet Portfolio - Progress Report**

### **1. Background**

This report provides members of the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the progress of the Neighbourhoods and Streetscene Cabinet Portfolio.

### **2. Progress**

#### **a) Overall Position**

The cabinet portfolio is making good progress and achieving good levels of performance.

#### **b) Areas of Significant Progress/Achievement**

- 3 Green Flags retained.
- Increase in wildflower areas.
- High recycling performance.
- High levels of customer satisfaction.
- Waste procurement and mobilisation.

#### **c) Areas for Further Action/Monitoring**

- Expiry of the cost sharing agreement in March 2018.

### **3. Progress against Key Actions/Projects**

#### **3.1 Parks and Open Spaces**

- ▶ 3 Green Flags at Worden Park, Hurst Grange Park and Longton Brickcroft retained.
- ▶ Good progress with capital schemes to support delivery of the Vision Plan for Worden Park.
- ▶ Continuation of events programme and educational visits to parks and nature reserves.
- ▶ Increased from 15 to 25 wildflower areas across the borough.....well received by the public.
- ▶ Cabinet commitment to invest in parks/open spaces. Capital budget of £348k for 2015/16.
- ▶ 11 Friends and volunteer groups in place which meet regularly to carry out voluntary maintenance and improvements to parks and open spaces.
- ▶ Capital programme update:
  - Worden Park Entrance repositioned and a new wider safer entrance created, main car park realigned and resurfaced with total spaces including overflow now 239. Works completed with car park fully open.

- Works to Worden Park Fish Pond ongoing. Pond dredged and retaining wall constructed. Remaining works involve creation of a deck area and dipping platforms which will be carried out in 2016.
- Farington Park improvement works now completed with final surface dressing applied to the footpath network.
- Successful funding bid to Sport England for Gregson Green Sports field Drainage. The funding breakdown is Council £45,083, Community Groups £11,270 and Sport England £56,352. Consultants appointed by Sport England are designing and tendering the scheme on behalf of the Council. It is anticipated that the work will be carried out during 2016/17. The scheme will cover the football pitch, cricket pitch and an activities area.

### **3.2 Waste and Recycling**

- ▶ DEFRA has now confirmed the recycling rate as 49.40%.
- ▶ New waste contract with FCC went live week commencing 15 June 2015 with smooth transition:
  - Significant savings of £600k per annum and £4.2 to £8.4 million over the contract period if all extensions are granted.
  - All vehicles are fitted with in cab technology. Training on the new technology has been provided to all FCCs employees.
  - The changeover of contractors has gone well, with no negative feedback from the residents. We have not had an increase in contacts via Gateway regarding the service.
  - Temporary additional staff have been employed by the Council to monitor the contract until it is fully mobilised and embedded.
  - The waste team is closely monitoring the service ensuring it is delivered to the usual high standards, engaging with residents as necessary and ensuring the day to day running of the service is maintained.
- ▶ Three Big Heap compost events held during June year this year at Worden Park, Withy Grove and Kingsfold.
- ▶ Delivery of 6 new waste vehicles in Nov/Dec representing £1.1 million investment into front line services:
  - The vehicles are 4 Split Body collection vehicles to be used for collecting co-mingled recycled material; and 2 Narrow collection vehicles for collecting residual waste and garden & food waste.
  - Vehicles delivered and in service.
- ▶ Some round changes following an FCC review smoothly introduced in November.
- ▶ High performance maintained for collection rates. Grey bins 99.975%, Blue bins/Green boxes 99.966% and Brown bins 99.992%.

▶ Emerging issues:

- Waste cost sharing with Lancashire County Council.
- County-wide review of waste collections and cost sharing outcome may result in review of Lancashire Waste Strategy.

### **3.3 Streetscene**

▶ The schools educational programme continues to target Years 3 and 6 with all of the primary schools in the borough included in the programme.

▶ Proactive approach to enforcement with 51 Fixed Penalty Notices issued so far this year:

- 38 Fixed Penalty Notices dogs off leads
- 7 Fixed Penalty Notice littering
- 3 Fixed Penalty Notices dog fouling
- 3 Dog Ban area
- 45 written cautions

▶ Dog fouling awareness project in liaison with local councillors.

▶ Investment in streetscene/parks and open spaces through purchase of 6 new mowers at £160k.

### **3.4 Customer Satisfaction**

▶ Gateway survey for 2014/15 identified high levels of customer satisfaction in the Neighbourhoods and Streetscene portfolio:

- 86% of residents satisfied with the cleanliness of the borough.
- 92% of residents satisfied with the waste and recycling collection service
- 84% of residents satisfied with parks, playgrounds and open spaces.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

It is considered that the Neighbourhoods and Streetscene Cabinet Portfolio is making good progress and achieving good levels of performance.