



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Finance and Performance Scrutiny 13 March 2023
Wards affected: All wards

FRONT LINE SERVICE REVIEW: STREET SCENE SERVICES

Report of Director Corporate and Street Scene Services

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To report on the performance of Street Scene Services

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the report be noted.

3. Background to the report

3.1 Street Scene Services includes waste management, green spaces, clean neighbourhoods and car parks. This report sets out the key activities during the financial year 2022 / 2023 to date.

SERVICE OVERVIEW

3.2 The services are based at the Council's Jubilee depot on the Harrow brook industrial estate, Hinckley and are managed by the Head of Street Scene Services. Services support each other to deliver common goals, to deliver services and to deliver corporate priorities such as the climate change strategy.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

3.3 All collections are run in house and the service collects approximately 44,000 tonnes of rubbish / recycling and empties and estimated 3.4 million wheeled bins each year.

3.4 Collections have been delivered without disruption over this financial year but the local supply of agency HGV drivers remains limited due to high demand from the logistics sector. Driving support has been received from DPD but this has now ceased. One employee has successfully trained to be an HGV driver,

and one additional Supervisor post has been created to ensure Health and Safety (H&S) monitoring and driver resilience. Officers are currently looking at options to increase resilience on HGV driver provision.

- 3.5 Recycling performance 2021/22. This data from DEFRA is always 1 year in arrears and at the time of writing this report is not available nationally for 2021/22 to allow comparison. HBBC indicative data shows a recycling rate of 42.7% which is lower than 20/21 (44.8%) This drop is mainly attributable to dry recycling rates returning to pre pandemic levels which has been seen in all Leicestershire districts. Indicative data also shows residual waste per household is 523.36kg (527kg in 200/21). For national context the UK government target is 50% by 2020, and 65% by 2035, and the England average in 20/21 was 43.8%.NB Over 50% of local authorities in England now collect food waste which increases recycling performance significantly.
- 3.6 Participation in the garden waste service is high with 34,182 subscriptions / 78% of eligible households) compared to 2021 /2022 with 33,736 subscriptions. The amount of green waste collected is directly linked to the weather and in particular the grass growing conditions.
- 3.7 Trade waste collections are forecasted to generate £520,000 income in 2022/23 (£470,000 in the previous year), and the council provides collections for 743 businesses (707 in previous year).

WASTE STRATEGY

- 3.8 Defra Resources and Waste Strategy – full details are still not released but further consultations and announcements have been made including the introduction of the deposit return scheme for single use plastic, aluminium and steel drinks containers from October 2025. It is clear from updates and stakeholder engagement that separate weekly food waste collections will be mandatory for all households at some point in 2025. It is expected that packaging producers under the new packaging extended producer responsibilities (pEPR) will need to commence payments in April 2024 and payments to local authorities will come later in 2024. HBBC collections already collect the materials specified in the consistent dry recycling materials proposals and indications are that these will need to be collected separately. No clarity has emerged on the proposal for a free (or price capped) garden waste service. Defra have consistently stated that any additional collection costs will be a new burden and therefore funded by central government.
- 3.9 The Joint Leicestershire Waste and resources strategy 2022 – 2050 has been produced by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership (consisting of the 7 district councils and county council) and was adopted by council in February 2023. It includes 13 pledges for the Leicestershire waste partnership of which all 8 Leicestershire councils will work towards. These include reducing fly tipping, reducing and reusing waste and a commitment to the circular economy, introducing government mandated collections changes subject to funding (food waste collections, garden waste, consistent recycling collections), reducing waste to land fill, exploring alternative fuels and to a 65% recycling rate.

- 3.10 The Leicestershire waste partnership will need to be refocussed during the coming year and with current government proposals it is clear that the waste collection changes this council will need to deliver in the next 2- 3 years will be the most comprehensive seen in the last 20 years.

CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS

- 3.11 Clean neighbourhoods includes street cleansing, road sweeping over 400 miles of roads, bulky collections (large items) and enforcement of environmental crime.
- 3.12 1064 fly tips have been recorded during 2022 which is an increase of 22% from 2021. No single reason can be attributed to the increase. Officers are highlighting this problem through a focused fly tipping campaign “SCRAPIT” which took place between August and October and was jointly co-ordinated with the other Leicestershire councils.

Locations with highest numbers of fly tips are:-

- Ferness Road Hinckley – 13
 - Heath Court Earl Shilton – 13
 - Anstey Lane Groby – 12
 - Red Hall Road Barwell – 12
 - Atterton Lane Witherley – 11
 - Fox Covert Lane Stoke Golding – 11
 - Ashby Road Stapleton – 10
 - Kirkby Road Barwell – 10
 - Leicester Road Markfield – 10
 - Markfield Road Ratby – 9
- 3.13 Demand for large item collections continues to be popular with 2746 collections made during the period April – December 2022. The guidance for the disposal of waste used upholstered domestic seating changed in December and these items now need to be collected and disposed of separately. Temporary changes have been made and a new fees structure and collection system will commence from April. This team also provides a special one-off waste collections for residents e.g. house clearances, shed and garage clearances, and they also carry out work for the Housing team and other services e.g. clearing empty council houses, removing small amounts of asbestos safely etc. Litter and dog bin emptying contracts are in place with 19 parish councils.
- 3.14 Continued increase in abandoned and untaxed vehicles with a total of 309 vehicles investigated (308 in 2021). Of these 35 were removed by the council.
- 3.15 The number of fixed penalty notices issued April – December 2023 was 15 (mainly for littering and fly tipping) and 12 community protection warning notices were also issued.

- 3.16 22 group litter picks have been organised this year, and an additional 44 new litter volunteers have been supported. This takes our overall total of volunteers to 482. The council also supports the South Leicestershire wombles with their litter collecting in the Borough. The efforts of these individuals should not be overlooked as they contribute significantly by removing litter thoughtlessly discarded by others. 19 schools across the Borough have been visited as part of the ASB Busters litter workshops.
- 3.17 A new waste transfer station has been opened by LCC at Bardon and this service are increasingly tipping waste there and thus reducing the waste transferred through the Jubilee depot. In 2023 an operational review will be undertaken to achieve efficiencies where possible.
- 3.18 The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) expires in 2023 and consultation will commence this Spring for the new order. This order covers matter such as littering, dog fouling, dogs on leads, use of illegal substances and alcohol.

GREEN SPACES

- 3.19 The green spaces team manage over 200 sites including the council's parks and open spaces, play areas, countryside sites, Ashby Road Cemetery, 8 closed churchyards, trees and allotments. They maintain 142 hectares of land (1.5 million square metres) and over 3500 mature trees.
- 3.20 A new Green Space Strategy and Delivery Plan will be agreed by Summer 2023 and will set out the priorities for the service including delivering our corporate climate change commitments. It will include a 10-year action plan and will identify the capital improvements needed to ensure our green spaces remain valued by residents. This work will link into the local plan and help to secure s106 funding.
- 3.21 Free tree scheme – a new initiative for this year and 23,000 trees were collected by residents for planting. This included the planting of 3.8km of hedgerows. Sponsors contributed £11,570 an HBBC funded £5,909. If all the trees planted grow to maturity then they will absorb over 10,000 tonnes of carbon over the next 40 years.
- 3.22 Tree planting - building on the success of last year's tiny forests the team has continued to focus on tree planting to fight climate change and support biodiversity. Planting the year included Wykin park, Langdale park and Burbage common.

Year	Trees planted
2018/19	83
2019/20	253
2020/21	548
2021/22	4288
2022/23	4146

2022 free tree scheme	23000
total	32,318

- 4.21 Tree maintenance – Increased funding is being provided from 2023/24 to manage the impacts of Ash die back (*Hymenoscyphus Fraxineus* syn. *Chalara*; a disease affecting Ash trees across the UK). The tree surgeons recruitment has been difficult and this is now being addressed but works have been completed by external contractors for the last year.
- 4.22 Current projects are improvements to the moat at Argents Mead and adding a new footpath at Clarendon park.
- 4.23 The adoption of open spaces within developments remains a long process and officers are working to adopt land at Waterside Park, the Greyhound stadium, the Greens, London Road, Sketchley Brook east, and Work House Lane. Outlands drive was adopted in early 2022 and is now managed and maintained by HBBC.
- 4.24 Performance wise the two green flags were retained for Hollycroft Park and Argents Mead. Grounds maintenance standards are at 89.5 (target 89%) which is a slight improvement on 88.9% in the previous year.
- 4.25 Green spaces also deliver the Parish and Community Initiative Fund which in 2022/23 supported 30 projects across the Borough with £112,007 of funding. Since 2005 the fund has supported 399 projects with £1.496 million of funding. 35 application for 2023/24 are currently being assessed and it is intended to refocus the scheme to support climate change projects in future years.
- 4.26 Burbage common open day continues to be a very popular event. The new measures put in place to deal with the greater numbers of visitors worked well last year e.g. additional parking and traffic management.
- 4.27 The crematorium will be operated by the green space team via a wholly owned company. This will be the major focus of work in future years, ensuring that the crematorium is ready to deliver a high quality and dignified service for the bereaved.
- 4.28 Further drainage works were completed in the Autumn to improve surface water drainage at the new section at Ashby Road cemetery and on-going monitoring indicates the drainage is working correctly.

CAR PARKS

- 4.29 This service manages 15 pay and display car parks and 12 free car parks and enforces restrictions on these car parks. Car parks occupancy and income have not recovered to pre-covid levels which reflects the changing retail patterns nationally. Occupancy remains fairly stable with 58% of spaces occupied in January 2023 compared to 57% in January 2022. Pay and display income was

£413,000 April 22-mid February 2023 which is an increase on the same period 21/22 (£350,000), but this remains below pre covid levels (2019/20 £498,431). Season ticket sales in particular have reduced since covid which reflects the reduction in numbers working in offices in the town centre area.

- 4.30 Pay by phone parking was introduced on 1 April 2022 and now accounts for 10% of all income. Payments by chip and pin / card now account of 27% of all income. Electronic permits/season tickets were introduced in summer 2022.
- 4.31 The first electric vehicle charge points were installed and operational at end of April 2021, with 12 points at Lower Bond street car park and 12 at Castle car park (Hill Street). EV charge points were used 2915 times in 2022, which is a 220 % increase on usage on the first 11 months of operation. The estimated carbon saved was 24,134kg. 6 EV residents' permits have been issued to those living close to these car parks. 8 charge points were opened at Hallfields, Earl Shilton in January 2023. A further 8 at Stanley street Barwell and 6 at Rectory Lane Market Bosworth should be live in March 2023. In 2023/4 charge points are planned for installation at the Hub and at the Jubilee to support staff green travel and new electric fleet. We continue to work with partners to seek funding for further charge points.

JUBLEE DEPOT AND FLEET

- 4.32 Significant changes were made to the depot during 2019 to improve health and safety and the site continues to operate safely with the infrastructure changes and under these new site rules.
- 4.33 The council remains fully compliant with the environmental permit to operate the waste transfer station on site. As noted in 3.17 the volume of waste transferred through the site is reducing.
- 4.32 The HGV fleet switched to running on HVO (hydrogenated vegetable oil) in February 2023, which lowers the carbon emissions by 90%. This switch reduces the councils total carbon emissions by 23%.
- 4.33 The council's light fleet is due for replacement in September 2023. 27 replacement vehicles will be delivered in September 2023 and 5 of these will be electric. A further 20 vehicles are due for replacement and a procurement exercise will be run shortly.
- 4.34 The service changes needed for waste collections mean the current depot may not be sufficient size to accommodate the significant increase in vehicle and staff numbers. Officers are currently determining requirements.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

- 4.1 Open session

5. Financial implications [CS]

- 5.1 Budgets for Streetscene services are monitored on a monthly basis and presented quarterly to this committee. Any changes to budgets have to be approved in line with financial procedure rules.

For next financial year budgets have been increased to allow for Light Goods Vehicle replacement.

6. Legal implications [MR]

- 6.1 None

7. Corporate Plan implications

- 7.1 Street Scene Services contribute to all three priorities in the corporate plan, helping People to stay healthy and reducing crime; improving Places by keeping our borough clean and green, and protecting parks and open spaces; and by delivering Prosperity by supporting town centres and our rural communities.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 None

9. Risk implications

- 9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.
- 9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report/decisions were identified from this assessment:

Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
S54 Depot – insufficient space to accommodate food waste collections	Reviewing options and awaiting confirmation from Defra on service changes and funding	Malcolm Evans
SS41 Ash die back	Monitoring disease, funding increased and looking at options to increase tree officer capacity	Ian Pinfold

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 Street scene services takes into account equality and rural issues as part of planning and delivering its services.

11. Climate implications

11.1 Street Scene Services has an important role to play in meeting the council's climate emergency ambition to be net zero by 2030. These are noted within the report and issues of particular importance are:-

- The HGV fleet now running on HVO which saves 23% of total HBBC emissions
- 5 electric vehicles due for delivery September 2023
- Significant increases in the numbers of trees planted including the first free tree scheme
- Electric vehicle charge points - now totalling 32 and saving 2.4t of carbon during 2022 (14 more imminent).
- Changes to the waste collection system which are within the 2021 Environment Bill will increase recycling and reduce carbon emissions. Of particular importance is the introduction of kerbside food waste collections.
- Grounds maintenance practices will need to adapt to the changing climate

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers: None

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