



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Finance and Performance Scrutiny 6 June 2022

Wards affected: All

FRONT LINE SERVICE REVIEW: STREET SCENE SERVICES

Report of Director Corporate Services

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To report on activities 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 2021/2022.

4. SERVICE OVERVIEW

4.1 The services are based at the Council's Jubilee depot on the Harrowbrook 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

4.2 This service collects approximately 44,000 tonnes of rubbish / recycling and empties and estimated 3.4 million wheeled bins each year. As members will recall all collections are now run in house (since April 2018) and rounds were changed in June 2018 to accommodate new housing growth.

4.3 The national shortage of HGV drivers has caused significant operational disruptions from July 2021 onwards, with garden waste collections being suspended. HBBC were unable to source agency drivers and the issue was compounded locally by high demand from the logistics sector locally. To reduce our dependency on agency drivers (to cover holiday / sickness) two additional HGV driver posts have now been created and loaders are also being encouraged to train as drivers (career progression). Significant support was also received from DPD who provided drivers to assist. This is still continuing but at a lower level whilst driver supply from agency remains limited.

4.4 Recycling performance 2020/21 – this data is always 1 year in arrears. HBBC has increased its recycling rate from 43.9% in 2019/20 to 44.8% in 2020/21 and is now the second highest performer in Leicestershire. However, this is below the government’s target of 50% by 2020 and the DEFRA resources and waste strategy target of 65% by 2025. For context, the average for England is 43.8% whilst Wales tops the UK performance with 58% (this includes a weekly food waste collection).

LA	% HH waste sent for recycling	Rank	Residual HH waste per HH (kg)
Harborough DC	46.9	1	512
Hinckley and Bosworth BC	44.8	2	527
Oadby and Wigston BC	44.7	3	466
Blaby DC	44.1	4	503
Melton BC	43.5	5	540
Charnwood DC	42.8	6	495
North West Leicestershire DC	42.5	7	539

- 4.5 Participation in the garden waste service is high with 33,736 subscriptions (78% of eligible households). However the amount of residual waste collected per household is also high and this negatively impacts on the overall percentage of recycling achieved. The reasons for this are subjective but could be due to residents purchasing more products than neighbouring areas that are not recyclable or not recycling all the items they are able to.
- 4.6 Trade waste collections generated £470,000 Income in 2021/22 (£410,000 in the previous year), and the council provides collections for circa 707 businesses (689 in previous year).

WASTE STRATEGY

- 4.7 Defra Resources and Waste Strategy – A full set of consultation responses from DEFRA are still awaited at the time of writing this report but the changes proposed include a weekly food waste collection, a deposit return scheme for plastic drinks containers, extended producer responsibility scheme to fund source segregated household recycling collections, free garden waste collections and consistent collections across the UK (including separate collections for different types of recycling). The plan commits to recycling at least 65% of municipal waste by 2035, and DEFRA have stated that additional collection costs will be met by central government. As it stands significant changes to HBBC collections will be needed by 2025 and we expect these changes to include:-
- A separate weekly food waste collection for every household
 - Separated dry recycling collections for each material type
 - Free garden waste collections (or a price cap)
- 4.8 Leicestershire Joint Resources and Waste Strategy - This 10-year joint strategy by all the Leicestershire local authorities went to public consultation in Spring 2022 and sets the vision and pledges to move toward a circular economy and minimise the impact of waste on the environment. It includes modelling of different waste collection systems including food waste collections but further modelling is likely to be required once DEFRA confirms their position. It will also address waste disposal options which are a LCC function including a reduction in waste going to land fill. This strategy will come to council for endorsement later this financial year.

CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS

- 4.9 Clean neighbourhoods includes street cleansing, road sweeping over 400 miles of roads, bulky collections (large items) and enforcement of environmental crime.
- 4.10 Fly tipping has reduced by 39.5% during 2021 compared to 2020 with 870 fly tips recorded (1438 in 2020/21), although the numbers have reduced the

team has noted that the size of the fly tips have increased. No single reason can be attributed to the reduction, but this number probably reflects the re-opening of the recycling centres, re introduction of the bulky waste service and the reduction people on furlough (meaning less DIY waste). Officers are highlighting this problem through a focused fly tipping campaign at the end of May which will target trade businesses, such as kitchen fitters, plumbers etc.

- 4.11 Demand for large item collections continues to be popular, with all weeks being fully booked. Capacity was increased by 40% in November 2020) and wait times have now reduced to under 1 week. This team also provides a popular 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 17 parish councils.
- 4.12 Continued increase in abandoned and untaxed vehicles with a total of 308 vehicles investigated (102 in 2020). Of these 34 were removed by the council.
- 4.13 The number of fixed penalty notices issued April – December 2021 was 25 (mainly for littering and fly tipping) and 19 community protection warning notices were also issued. This is an increase from 2020, which reflects the Covid restrictions and the other work priorities being lifted.
- 4.14 30 group litter picks have been organised this year, and an additional 134 new litter volunteers. This takes our overall total of volunteers to 438. The efforts of these individuals should not be overlooked as they contribute significantly by removing litter thoughtlessly discarded by others. No school visits have been made but school are booked in / recommencing.

GREEN SPACES

- 4.15 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.
- 4.16 The intention is that 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.
- 4.17 Residents use of green spaces remains high with the public in general still appreciating and using green spaces more following covid. Services have had to adapt and in particular litter bin sizes have had to increase and in some cases locations moved to address changing behaviours.

- 4.18 A new Green Space Strategy and Delivery Plan will be agreed during 2022 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.
- 4.19 Green space management needs to both adapt to climate change and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The growing season will be longer, there is a need to change some maintenance practices for biodiversity (increasing areas of longer grass, no pesticides etc), and we need to plant more trees to absorb carbon and reduce the impact of increased temperatures (trees cool the air). Work will continue during 2022 to address these changes.
- 4.20 Tree planting- This year green spaces created 6 new Tiny Forests (3600 trees) and planted 843 trees through the LATF fund. Total trees planted 4443 compared to 548 trees planted in 2020/21. In particular the community involvement in the tree planting was successful.
- 4.21 Tree maintenance - Managing Ash die back (*Hymenoscyphus Fraxineus* syn. *Chalara*; a disease affecting Ash trees across the UK) will also need to be addressed over the next 10 years. The disease is now significantly affecting Sheepy and Burbage woods. The tree surgeons posts have also been vacant and we have been unsuccessful in recruitment, and this too needs to be addressed. Works have been completed by external contractors for the last few months.
- 4.22 Current projects are improvements to the moat at Argents Mead, enhancing the Battling brook corridor for wildlife by sowing wildflowers at key locations, and installing gym equipment at Hollycroft 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 88.9% (target 89%).
- 4.25 Green spaces also deliver the Parish and Community Initiative Fund which in 2020/23 will support 30 projects across the Borough with £112,007 of funding. Since 2005 the fund has supported 399 projects with £1.496 million of funding

- 4.26 Burbage common open day continues to be a very popular event. The net cost of managing this event (£8,500) now exceeds the budget (£7,000) as new measures have had to be put in place to deal with the greater numbers of visitors e.g. additional parking and traffic management. Donations / event income totals £1,700.

CAR PARKS

- 4.27 This service manages 15 pay and display car parks and 12 free car parks and enforces restrictions on these car parks. Car parks have remained open and operational during the Covid pandemic, but occupancy and income were significantly reduced. Car parks occupancy has recovered with occupancy across all car parks during January 2022 being 61% compared to 25% during January 2021. Holliers walk car park was used as a Covid test centre for the whole of 2021 and reopened as a car park late April 2022. The Leisure centre car park also supported vaccinations at the Leisure centre.
- 4.28 Works to upgrade pay and display machines are now complete and cashless payment now possible on all but one pay and display car parks. Cashless payments now account for 27 percent of all income. Pay by phone parking was introduced on 1 April and was used 1734 times in the first month.
- 4.29 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). In the first 11 months of operation the charge points were used 1323 time with the level of use increasing by approximately 50 % per quarter reflecting the increase in EV sales. 10 EV residents' permits have been issued to those living close to these car parks. External funding has been awarded for charge points in HBBC car parks in Market Bosworth, Earl Shilton and Barwell. These will be installed in the current financial year.

JUBILEE DEPOT AND FLEET

- 4.30 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.
- 4.31 The council remains fully compliant with the environmental permit to operate the waste transfer station on site.
- 4.32 No changes have been made to the fleet during this period. However, the Green Fleet Route map has been written and considered by the Climate members group. Vehicle emissions account for 44% of HBBC carbon emissions and removing these is therefore key to the council's climate emergency declaration to be net zero by 2030. Some electric grounds maintenance tools are also being trialled.

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

5.1 Open session.

6. Financial implications [CS]

6.1 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.

7. Legal implications [MR]

7.1 None

8. Corporate Plan implications

8.1 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.

9. Consultation

9.1 None

10. Risk implications

10.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

10.2 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.

10.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
SS41: Ash die back. This disease is now impacting on tree health in particular at Burbage common and woods	Report to be written by green space manager to identify management options.	Ian Pinfold

11. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

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

12. Climate implications

12.1 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:-

- Transport emissions account for 44% of the councils emissions, with waste collections being the largest proportion of this. A green fleet route map has been developed to seek to reduce these emissions by 2030.
- 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 and tree planting can help mitigate the impact of climate change.

13. Corporate implications

13.1 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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