

## **Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

### **Councillor Tony Briggs: Cabinet Lead for Environmental Services**

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#### **Refuse and Recycling**

Undertaking crew changes of our drivers /loaders so they experience working on other crews working in the North and South of the Borough.

Commenced use of Question 100 for National figures relating to waste and recycling tonnages, referred to as Waste Data Flow. Question 100 replaces a number of questions in the previous reporting system. Its aim is to provide granular detail into where waste and recycling is transported to, processed by or exported by responsible authorities. Whilst it will have little effect on authorities within the PI group, Question 100 will likely pose issues for authorities who claim higher recycling rates post MRF. This is because it can show end destinations for material transferred from local authority management, be this re-use, reprocessing, export or at worst, disposal.

The Garden waste service had just over 8,000 residents on the collection service by this Summer, with 6,693 existing customers renewing, and 1,333 new customers.

#### **Street Cleansing & Public Toilets**

The team continue to visit and cleanse, the 3 main town centres (Waterlooville, Leigh Park & Havant) for extended hours starting at 06.30 and working until 18.00. This extended service started a “Spring Clean” campaign earlier this year, and has resulted in the areas being cleaner for longer.

During the Summer, a local contractor was employed to undertake a deep cleanse in each of the public toilets. This was done to enhance their condition and to assist the team members who are responsible for undertaking the daily cleansing.

#### **Grounds maintenance & Open Spaces**

The GM team have continued to undertake the grass cuts throughout the season, and will continue with this work until the end of October, dependant on weather and ground conditions, with very few complaints being received. From early November through to February, all of the machinery will be inspected and fully serviced ahead of the start of next year’s Spring cutting schedule. We have received some extremely positive feedback on the meadow flowers, seeds which were planted on some roundabouts.

We have been successful in getting tier 2 approval from the Environment Agency for the potential cemetery development at Newlands. The Environmental Agency were satisfied

that a cemetery development on the site does not pose a significant risk to groundwater. This means that if deemed to be a suitable course of action, subject to further discussion by Members, the authority can now legitimately proceed to develop a cemetery on the site, subject to gaining agreement on suitable funding sources.

Memorial testing at the cemeteries and closed churchyards are being undertaken this Autumn.

New self management agreements are in place at Bartons Green, Emsworth Recreation ground, Bidbury Mead and Front Lawn recreation ground.

### **Beach Huts**

Operational Services have submitted a planning application to extend the beach hut estate by up to forty huts. The proposed location is the seafront road carpark between Alexandra Avenue and Chichester Avenue. Planning are expected to return a decision in early November. The new beach huts will be offered for sale on a seven year lease. The benefits of which are twofold; firstly the council is able to generate a significant income from the sale of the huts while reducing its liabilities to maintain and administer huts leased yearly.

Secondly the addition of beach huts to the existing estate will boost tourism and improve access to the beach area, contingent with the core strategy.

### **Vehicle Maintenance & Engineering Works Team**

Driver compliance - a phased approach is currently being undertaken to introduce digital tachographs recording of Driving hours, rest breaks and other work. By the end of October this will replace the existing log books. The digital tachographs recording system will be of benefit to drivers as it will automatically record their activities and it will provide accurate data to enable managers to monitor compliance.

The Engineering Works Team (EWT) have been busy during the Summer with work that has included the painting of street furniture (bins, railings, benches etc.) around the Borough, within the town centres and other shopping areas.

Storm Boards have been installed at Hayling to cope with Winter tidal surges and car park tarmac patching work at the Leisure centre in Havant has been undertaken as well. Several tonne of salt stored at Southmoor depot for emergency use ready for Winter maintenance will preparation.

### **Proposed Joint Venture Company (JVC)**

The development of a Business Case ready for the mobilisation of a Joint Venture company with Norse Commercial Services is ongoing ready for an April 2016 start date. The purpose of the JVC is to run services currently operated in-house to the same

standard as currently offered but deliver a substantial saving in line with those that could be achieved with fully outsourced contracted scenarios.

The JVC is a preferred option for the authority as it has a number of benefits over a standard outsourced arrangement.

- The authority has a stake in the company and can influence how services are delivered by it
- The approach is consistent – services are run from the same location with the same management team.
- The company can sell services to business, generating a profit for HBC each year.
- Members can still liaise with officers within operational services on issues that affect their wards.
- The operational financial risk is with Norse Commercial Services – HBC has, if required, a secure exit strategy and retains all of the assets that were transferred to the JVC
- There are no proposed redundancies from frontline staff as a result of this project

The draft Business Case has been considered by Members at Cabinet, and will also appear on the agenda for Scrutiny, following which Officers will submit a full Business Case for consideration by the Council in January 2016, and there will also be a presentation of the Business Plan by Norse for all Members of the Council on 29th Oct.

Cost savings / additional income would come from a number of sources:

- Operational efficiencies through higher productivity, including investment in new equipment.
- Review of the existing management structure to develop a more commercial approach.
- Reduction in current support services provided to Operational Services as NCS would provide HR, Payroll, Finance, ICT, Sales & Marketing, Procurement, Health and Safety (at an estimated 6% charge of costs) to the JVC.
- Profit share from additional business secured by the JVC – turnover is projected to be over double the existing turnover within 5 years.