

Cabinet Lead for Environmental Services – Councillor Lulu Bowerman

Delivery of environmental and amenity services under Norse contract

Waste collection and disposal

Front line service delivery operatives and the HBC Environmental Services officers continue to work hard for the best service levels possible in the borough while also improving the processes behind the scenes and working on projects for the future.

Glass Collection

As part of an ongoing review of the glass collection sites, an additional glass collection point has been located at the car park adjacent to The Spring Arts Centre in Havant Town Centre which is hoped to ease pressure on other nearby sites. This is in addition to the new glass collection point at St Albans in West Leigh.

There are still issues with some residents leaving their bottles next to the skips instead of putting them into the skip itself and the possibility of pubs and restaurants adding to the pressure at some locations where we are still experiencing issues. Signage is being arranged to encourage responsible recycling and to highlight the new locations and Norse are continuing to clear bottles and waste left adjacent to skips. Further work is needed to encourage responsible behaviours and the council's enforcement team will support this work by engaging with local businesses who may be using the skips.

Garden waste renewals

Garden waste renewals have commenced for 2023/24 and the process is working well. There are 12,600 subscribers who must make a payment through the contact centre or online by the end of April. Letters are being sent to all subscribers and promotion through social media and other channels is supporting this process.

A Third garden waste round is being planned which will enable thousands more residents to sign up for the service from June this year. Planning is underway to deliver this, with close working between Norse, Capita and the Council team. We are hoping that this will go 'live' in the next few months.

"No Mow May"

The team will be researching and developing plans for how best to manage "No Mow May" this year with our resources and we will be working with the Climate Change and Environment Panel to investigate the best options for locations across the borough that will showcase this initiative and explain the rationale behind it.

Environment Act

Part of the Environmental Services work is also to plan for the future and the implications of the Environment Act.

The services are faced with significant new issues which will impact from early 2023 and over the coming years. Developments in national policy are addressing the challenges of climate change and resource use and will have wide ranging impacts on how waste and recycling is collected and processed. The Environment Act 2021 is enabling legislation which sets out a framework for government to direct councils to improve recycling services, such as introducing food waste collections and separating recycling into different containers to improve material quality. This will have environmental benefits but will require additional resources to deliver with uncertainty over funding and timescales.

A briefing for members will be scheduled in the next few months.