

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2013

MINUTE TO NOTE

103. Motion at Council - Green Waste Collections

The Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services and the Head of Public Protection and Streetsmart submitted a joint report concerning the Council's proposed measures for the management of demand for garden waste collections and responding to a motion submitted to the Council meeting held on 20th September 2012 (Minute 47 of the Council refers).

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, referred to the problems that had occurred during the summer of 2012 with garden waste collections. She referred to the exceptional demands placed on the service as a result of the wet summer and the steps that had been taken to respond to the problems at the time. She highlighted the proposed measures to be introduced to improve the management of demand for garden waste collections and explained her reasons for believing that these offered the most practical solution.

Councillor Foley referred to issues raised by Chiseldon Parish Councillor Mr Eric Shaw at the Open Forum held immediately prior to the Cabinet meeting where he had highlighted the problems likely to be faced by those residents who supported their communities by cutting Highway verges adjacent to their homes and by collecting leaves in autumn from street trees. He had also highlighted the problem for some residents of transporting green waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centre from rural parts of the Borough. In view of these issues and other comments she had received from Councillor colleagues she intended to add an additional recommendation to request that a further report be submitted to the next Cabinet meeting on these and other operational issues.

Councillor Bob Wright believed that the cost of using wheeliebins for green waste collections should again be investigated. He also suggested that different coloured bags could be issued to those who were undertaking grass cutting and similar activities for their communities to avoid any confusion with householder generated green waste.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, referred to the success of Swindon's Recycling Service and that Swindon offered a better service than many other local authorities, and the problems experienced in an exceptional summer should not detract from the success of the service. He commented on the proven success of initiatives like community composting and his confidence that this could also be successful in Swindon.

Councillor Foley thanked Councillor colleagues for their comments and suggestions. She confirmed her support for initiatives that would encourage greater composting of green waste.

Resolved – (1) That the investigations that had taken place into the problems experienced with garden waste collections, and the findings outlined in the joint

report, be noted.

(2) That the communication measures planned in respect of garden waste collections to be carried out by the Head of Public Protection and StreetSmart, be noted.

(3) That the Board Director, Service Delivery be authorised to introduce a limit on the volume of garden waste presented from each house to four bags per fortnight (maximum 90 litres per bag) from 1st April 2013.

(4) That the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, and the Board Director, Service Delivery, be requested to submit a report to the Cabinet meeting on 20th March 2013 relating to any operational issues around the new green waste scheme and other related matters that have been brought to Ward Councillors' attention.

(5) That the Council be advised of the contents of the joint report and of the decisions set out in (1) to (3) above in response to the Council Motion on 20th September 2012 (Minute 47 of the Council refers).

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.