

CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND THE ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR CROSS

Cleansing, Bins and Litter Management

As we move into the summer season, the Beach Cleaning Operations have commenced. This includes daily maintenance of amenity beach areas and revetment steps leading to the beach between South Pier and North Pier. The steps are free from algae growth through daily inspection and pressure washing and the beach is mechanically raked to clear away litter and general tidal debris.

A review of litterbins has been completed across the Town Centre and Promenade to replace those lost or damaged during the winter storms. The services are linked into tourism events in order to direct resources to manage litter generation.

Domestic Waste (including refuse collection and recycling)

Paper/ Card Collection Service

In April 2013, the decision was taken to remove a poor performing recycling route from Veolia and the operation was tendered to a local Third Sector group. Helping Hand, who took on the challenge to increase participation rates and tonnage in a highly transient area. In maintaining this service, Helping Hand have ensured continuity of service and are now actively working to increase the amounts collected through proactive marketing and education. Those efforts have seen just over 100 tonnes of material collected from the 8,000 homes during the first 12 months of operations.

In addition, Helping Hand are now undertaking wheeled bin deliveries to residents for replacement of new or replacement bins, removal of any unwanted wheeled bins and the repairs to wheeled bins. The last year has seen a big rise in the number of bins delivered from 243 in the first quarter last year up to 575 for the same period in 2014. The reason for this increase has been the changes made to the reporting system for lost or stolen bins. The Council's website now enables residents to report a lost bin online and request an additional recycling bin free of charge.

ROVER

Rover was introduced in October 2013 to deliver a mobile Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) to all areas of the town, particularly to those residents unable to get to the HWRC on Bristol Avenue, with 36% of our residents having no access to a motor vehicle. Rover is externally funded for 18 months through the Waste PFI contract, to develop a methodology for this unique service that provides an opportunity for all our residents to recycle waste not collected by the regular refuse service, much of which was being disposed of through the grey bins or black sack service.

Since the start of the service Rover has:

- Been visited by 3,102 Blackpool residents
- Collected 59 Tonnes of recycling
- Recycled or Reused 19,000 items.

Rover has collected 2,142 small electrical items, 2,439 household batteries and 2,398 books. Increasing amounts of this waste is being channelled through the RENEW workshop and some of the material is being sold in the HWRC reuse shop.

Further work is being done to look at expanding the service to other areas of Blackpool and the

possibility of working with neighbouring authorities to expand further the service.

National Recycling Awards

Blackpool has been shortlisted for the prestigious National Recycling Awards in the Local Government Innovation category along with eight other authorities from across the UK. The Blackpool submission was based on the partnership working with the Third Sector that has resulted in the new collection initiatives that has seen ROVER, RENEW workshops, HWRC shop and the paper/ card collection services. The announcement on the winner will be made on the 3rd July.

Fly Tipping

Levels of fly tipping continued to be monitored as part of on-going efforts to identify hotspots and take actions to reduce incidents and target those culpable for these environmental crimes. The table below details the monthly levels for the past three years. Last year did result in an increase in incidents but a reduction in the tonnage collected. Tonnages for fly tips collected over the last three years have decreased but the number of incidents has increased. .

Fly Tip Incidents / Tonnage Collected (in approximate figures)

Year	No. of Fly Tips	Tonnes
2011/ 2012	5386	1131
2012/ 2013	3979	837
2013/ 2014	4656	821

Commercial Waste Services

The Commercial Waste Service has continued to improve year on year and over the past two years capturing 48% of the Blackpool market. Even with high levels of businesses closing down the service has continued to grow and has seen a 58.5% increase in bin rather than sack customers from April 2011.

For the period January to March 2014, 1,408 tonnes of commercial waste was collected, this is an increase of 9% from the previous year and huge increase of 41% from 2012.

Commercial Glass Recycling/ Confidential Waste Collection

Glass bottles collected from our customers for the January to March 2014 period is also up by 14% from the previous year and a huge 68% from 2012.

In following the trend of increased customers and increased tonnages the service has achieved a sharp increase in businesses on service to the point we have the majority of the available market, with reducing expansion opportunities. Therefore, the challenge is continuing to develop new business ideas to keep generating income. One new area of service is the confidential waste collection and shredding, which the service is now undertaking for the Council, servicing all of the council office accommodation, which was previously contracted out to the private sector. By internalising this service the Council has been able to realise a cost saving, whilst also offering a new service to local businesses. Once the paper is shredded it is sold to a paper-recycling merchant.

Household Waste Recycling Centre

For the period January to March of this financial year we have experienced a decrease of over 20 tonnes when compared with the same period for last financial year. Performance in terms of percentage of waste recycled and composted at the HWRC's has also increased slightly up by 1.33% to 69.26%.

The latest development of the HWRC was completed in May 2014, with the construction of a new much larger reuse shop, 'Second Time Around'. This new facility was undertaken on the back of the very successful first year of retail sales with the shop contributing to the site operating costs and a £10,000 donation to the Mayor's charity. The shop will also contribute to the running costs of the ROVER service once the external start-up funding has ceased in 2015.

The new shop will see the retailing of electrical items including washing machines, ovens, fridges and small domestic appliances such as radios and TVs.

Bulky Matters Furniture Service

The RENEW Warehouse project was launched on Monday 2nd June 2014 and will refurbish electrical equipment for reuse, whilst training 75 local people in Blackpool each year in the skills required to carry out the work over a 10 week programme, building their skill base and increasing their opportunities for employment. The refurbished equipment will then be used to support residents who apply to the discretionary support fund, those on low income who cannot afford new items. Any surplus equipment not sold through these outlets will be on sale in the HWRC reuse shop to all residents. Work is underway to identify effective delivery methods for those residents unable to collect the equipment themselves and discussions are underway with interested third party groups willing to undertake this work with the intention of the service commencing in the autumn.

Bulky Waste Service

The table below details the performance level for the Bulky Waste Service that is contracted to local Third Sector group, Furniture Matters, for the period October to April for the last two years. The service has seen an increase in the amount of jobs completed and is currently achieving a recycling rate of 57% of the waste collected up from the 50% for the corresponding period in 2013. Work with the service is being targeted at increased marketing to raise the levels of activity for the service. One new area of work is delivering suitable materials collected through the bulky waste service back into the local community as part of the Discretionary Funding Scheme with 500 deliveries anticipated during this year. As well as being a welcome contribution to funding this statutory service, it is resulting in increasing amounts of material going back into the community and not being broken up for recycling or going to landfill.

	2013 October – April	2014 October - April
Number of Jobs	1326	1444
Collected Items	3618	4122
Overall weight (tonnes)	110.77	130.18
Weight to landfill (tonnes)	53.76	55.37
Weight recycled/reused (tonnes)	57.01	74.81

Grounds Maintenance – grass verges, sea wall and Promenade maintenance

Grass verge maintenance commenced in mid-March, May and June sees the grass verges at their optimum growing rate. Frequency for cutting grass verges is every two weeks and every effort is being taken to manage the frequency of cutting during May and June to present acceptable standards throughout the borough.