

CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND THE ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR CROSS

Cleansing, Bins and Litter Management

Mid July saw an initiative by the Local Environmental Action Force (LEAF) and Grounds Maintenance Services to carry out a joint quality street scene maintenance intervention to the perimeter arterial routes around Stanley Park. The area was chosen, as it was an alternative location to the town centre and promenade and would benefit both tourists and Blackpool residents. Highway grass verges were cut and edged, shrubbed areas pruned and litter picked and carriageways deep cleaned. The project re-established the importance of the Stanley Park area to residents, visitors and the 1000's of commuters who pass through.

In addition, routine cleaning to the streets surrounding the park were part of the week's project and the Blackpool Council trailer was located daily to allow the public to have their say on our services. The project was well received by local residents who spoke to the operatives on site and those that visited the information trailer.

Blackpool Council continues to support 'Love my Beach' campaign in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy by inviting staff to attend beach litter picking days once a month. The last event was Friday the 22 August with further dates to be announced on the Council Hub. The autumn season will see the end of daily beach cleaning operations following the illumination and firework events although the pressure washing of the steps to prevent algae growth and general street cleansing will continue under normal operational activities.

Domestic Waste (including refuse collection and recycling)

In the first three months of this year, 14,000 tonnes of domestic waste was collected at the kerbside, with 40% being recyclables and the 60% non-recycled waste going for disposal at the waste PFI facility at Thornton.

Data shows that the green and blue bin materials are increasing, with the tonnage of paper and card collected remaining static, when comparing the same period in 2013 and a reduction in the amount of general waste collected.

The ROVER service continues to exceed all expectations in the number of residents using the service and in the tonnage of material collected. Since the service started in October 2013, 90 tonnes of material has been collected comprising of 29,130 individual items of which 4,550 have been discarded electrical items from fridges and ovens down to hairdryers and toasters. All the intact electrical items are safety tested and those that pass are sold in the HWRC Reuse Shop "Second Time Around".

Blackpool Council's work in the waste sector has been recognised in the recent National Recycling Awards held in July. The Council's partnership working with local Third Sector organisations in the collection of paper and cardboard, Rover and the RENEW Warehouse received highly commended status one of only five organisations entered for the awards to receive the accolade.

Commercial Waste Services

The Commercial Waste Service, in conjunction with Facilities Management, over the past three months has begun the process of internalising the Council's confidential waste contract, representing a significant saving to the Council's previous arrangements. With Bickerstaffe House already being

serviced, the remaining main sites will be rolled-in by the end of the year. The service has worked closely with the Council's Information Governance Officer to ensure compliance with the Information Commissioners Office and will be seeking British Standard Institute compliance going forward. Once bedded in, the confidential waste service will be offered to schools and local businesses too.

In terms of core trade waste operations, the service continues to perform to the highest level, firmly establishing itself in the market, providing comprehensive waste management solutions to local businesses in Blackpool and Wyre. This summer has also seen intensive commercial waste enforcement being undertaken by the service to ensure that seasonal businesses operating in the town are managing their waste responsibly.

Skip Waste Initiative

The use of skips as part of improved street cleansing operations was introduced in August as part of a concerted effort to reduce the amounts of waste dumped in our streets, particularly fly-tipping in back alley ways. For a trial period of nine months, the 50 skips purchased will be used in a range of initiatives across the town that will seek to reduce the waste dumped. The initiative will afford many of our residents without access to a motor vehicle, so unable to transport their waste to the tip at Bristol Avenue, an opportunity to dispose of waste that is not collected by the regular domestic waste collection service.

The new skip service allows an opportunity to provide a low cost skip hire opportunity for Blackpool residents, with the derived income offsetting the capital costs of start-up and other expenditure. All waste collected will utilise the Council's existing waste disposal arrangements.

The first waste amnesty occurred on 27 August in the Central Drive area, with four skips deployed strategically around the area. All skips were monitored by officers from waste, street cleansing and community liaison officers engaged with the local residents and volunteers. Over ten tonnes of waste was collected on the day and the area will be monitored for impact and to determine timescales for repeat events. Other areas of town will also be having similar waste amnesty events prior to the review of the new skip service next year.

Household Waste Recycling Centre

Waste brought into the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) has seen an increase in the first three months of this year compared with the same period last year. The recycling rate for the site remains at a constant 70%.

Items brought into the HWRC that can be reused are being sold in the Reuse Shop. This prevents items being needlessly thrown away, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Dispose. Items collected by Rover and refurbished electrical goods from the Renew Workshops are also sold.

Bulky Matters Furniture Service

	2013 April - June	2014 April - June
Number of Jobs	597	747
Collected Items	1746	2281
Overall weight (tonnes)	54.18	71.17
Weight to landfill (tonnes)	24.69	28.17
Weight recycled/reused (tonnes)	29.49	43

Bulky Matters continues to recycle or reuse 60% of the waste collected. In recent months, the service has increased the number of collections by over 15% through increased door-to-door advertising and through the Council website. Many of the household items that are not recycled or reused are because of them being left outside exposed to bad weather. The waste service continues to

encourage collections from inside the property and the benefits this material is having in providing large household items to residents through the Council's Social Fund.