

CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND THE ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR CROSS

Cleansing, Bins and Litter Management

Street Cleansing services have seen the busiest half term holiday period for a very long time where the town centre, promenade and holiday areas were bursting on occasions. These circumstances together with the mild conditions gave the service a severe test in managing litter levels and servicing litter bins.

Layton residents were pleased to see the Local Environmental Action Force (LEAF) carryout deep cleaning of front and back streets including drainage gullies and grass verges. Leaf rangers cleared back streets of fly tipping, abandoned contaminated wheeled bins and engaged with the residents around environmental issues. The main focus of engagement with residents was around their issues with dog fouling our teams explained to the community that if they identify likely culprits we can make enquiries and challenge behaviour.

The winter season will offer the chance to review the service performance to identify where improvements can be made. The introduction to larger capacity litter bins along the promenade has certainly aided litter collection and a review of litter bin provision across the district centres throughout the borough will be carried out.

Fly tipping continues to be a significant part of reactive parts of the services and recent events include tipper vehicles discharging their loads whilst travelling through streets late at night. A recent event in broad daylight captured on camera is being vigorously investigated. It is envisaged that a prolific fly tipper will soon be taken to court where evidence obtained has now been finalised.

Domestic Waste (including refuse collection and recycling)

Blackpool Council has recently received news that the official recycling figure for 2013/ 2014 is 41.1%, which is Blackpool's best ever recorded recycling rate. So far this year we have treated 33,394 tonnes of waste, which month on month is similar to last year.

The trial for seagull proof sacks began in October with two sacks being delivered to each of the properties in the identified area. Monitoring of this area will be undertaken in the coming weeks to assess the impact that they have on the general cleanliness of the area especially on collection days.

The costs of waste collection still remain a significant cost to the Council with continuing efforts to reduce these costs. Detailed work is being carried out on collection rounds that have consistently failed to produce high levels of participation in the amounts of material being recycled. The costs of a collection round i.e. vehicle and staffing are the same whether 10% of residents are participating or 100% so the Waste team are working on a number of initiatives designed to boost these areas.

Rover

Rover in its first 12 months has proved to be a huge success and continues to be extremely popular with Blackpool residents. In the first 12 months of its operation it has diverted over 106.5 tonnes of waste from landfill and been visited by 5,681 residents. It has enabled us to prevent small electrical items being disposed of via the grey bin which was causing issues at the waste treatment plants. The routes that Rover takes are constantly being reviewed and revamped to prevent the service from becoming stagnant. This year it will also be a collection point for the 'Give a Little' campaign.

Commercial Waste Services

The service continues to operate successfully, with in excess of 3,000 businesses accessing the service. The feedback is excellent, with value for money regularly being highlighted by customers. The confidential waste service is now operational and proving extremely successful, with a review taking place to consider its future development.

Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)

The HWRC recycling rate remains steady at around 70% each month with the exception of September which saw a rise to 76%.

Bulky Matters Furniture Service

	April – September 2013	April – September 2014
Number of Jobs	1238	1537
Collected Items	3590	4515
Overall weight (tonnes)	111,934	143,470
Weight to landfill (tonnes)	51,487	63,070
Weight recycled/reused (tonnes)	60,448	80,401

As you can see from the above chart, Bulky Matters continues to be a growing and successful service. This year it has provided many residents in Blackpool with much needed support (over 800 items) through the Discretionary Support Fund.

Over 200 items have been repaired and refurbished to date at the RENEW Warehouse, which is a great start. We now have nine regular volunteers and six placements who all attend weekly.