

CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND THE ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR CROSS

Cleansing, Bins and Litter Management

The number of fly-tipping incidents reported from April to January 2014/ 2015 was 3,740 compared with 3,896 incidents in the same period last year. Tonnage of waste disposed because of fly tipping is down April to January 2014/ 2015 was 590.7 tonnes compared to 665.6 tonnes in the same period last year. Tonnages of waste collected from street cleansing this year is also down 2499 tonnes comparing to 2698 tonnes last year.

Street Cleansing teams have been involved with the clearance of fly- tipping from the dyke system, which is part of the larger highways project around Yeadon Way with approximately 2.5 tonnes cleared to allow drainage systems to run as they were intended to. Residential cleaning continues to meet its four weekly objective with the addition of deeper cleaning to streets, identified by residents and the LEAF team. The service leaflets people the day before to try to ask residents to park their vehicles elsewhere on that particular day.

The treatment of weeds on highways and footpaths will commence in early March and will be the services priority activity, weather permitting. A successful application during March is vital to being able to maintain cleanliness standards currently being achieved.

Domestic Waste (including refuse collection and recycling)

Kerbside collections from April 2014 to January 2015 to date collected 43,764 tonnes of waste, 34.7% of this was recyclable material, which is in line with the same period last year and the previous year.

As the Council is continually striving to improve recycling rates the Council has planned communication campaigns around plastics and recycling in general, as well as engaging with residents through events such as Area Forums where the Council has the opportunity to educate them on what can be recycled.

Following the introduction of seagull proof sacks in an identified trial area, community engagement has been undertaken and as a result, an increased number of residents have used the sacks having a positive impact on the quality of the environment. Consideration is now being given to other areas that may benefit.

Blackpool's total waste arisings, April to December 2014 was 56,826 tonnes, a rise of 5% on the same period last year. Total waste arisings includes all the waste that has been collected by Blackpool Council from all its regular sources, kerbside collections, street cleansing, Household Waste Recycling Centre and Commercial Waste. There is a planned programme of communications from residents, which will inform them of their recycling responsibilities. This communication will stress the need to continue with the great results Blackpool has achieved in raising its recycling rate to an annual figure above 40% for the first time.

Commercial Waste Services

Commercial Waste Service continues to hold a large share of the market with the contracts having collected 5,132.8 tonnes of waste between April 2014 and January 2015. This is processed through the Waste Treatment Plant and so 57% of the waste is diverted from landfill. There was also 245 tonnes of commercial glass collected, 100% of which was recycled.

Household Waste Recycling Centre

The recycling rate for the year to date is currently 69.5% compared with 70% over the same time period last year. Tonnages are also down at 6,704 tonnes compared with 6,869.

This year from April to January 2015 Rover has collected 111 tonnes of waste from 6,386 visitors who have brought 37,000 items. The items collected from Rover have generated £2,127 of income through the shop.

Lancashire Waste Private Finance Initiative

The direct management of the previous Private Finance Initiative arrangements is now fully established. New management and reporting arrangements are in place and considerable effort is being made to ensure the new company, Lancashire Renewables, fully adopts local government practices, particularly in procurement and reporting. Lancashire County Council (LCC) has appointed a high-level officer to the role of Client Manager to assist in the transition process and Blackpool Council will continue to maintain its presence at board meetings.

As part of the Woodlands from Waste project, the final 100 street trees have been planted across Blackpool. The new grant arrangements for future planting have changed and will come into force during the summer. Officers from Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council are currently awaiting further guidance on the implications of future planting of woodland across the county. It is anticipated that should the programme continue in some form then there will be opportunities for Blackpool to plant further street trees albeit in smaller numbers than over the past four years.

Bulky Matters Furniture Service

Bulky Matters collected a total of 615 items in January, with 12% of the items reused as part of the Council's Discretionary Support Fund which distributes large pieces of household furniture to families in Blackpool in need. The remainder of the bulky waste collected was recycled, 45% and 43% items landfilled.

The ReNew Workshops, a social enterprise partnership with Calico, receives over 50 large electrical appliances from a contract Calico has with a large take back redistribution company, DHL. DHL is in receipt of appliances people from across the UK removed from households following a purchase of a new appliance from one of the high street electrical retailers. The 50 units received by ReNew and those delivered from the Household Waste Recycling Centre, Rover and the Household Waste Recycling Centre are the basis for the training workshop courses that will see approximately 72 people in the year trained to repair large electrical equipment as well as training in the computer workshop, also based within the ReNew facility.

The last quarter resulted in 47 large domestic units have been refurbished and delivered to local homes through the Social Discretionary Fund and sold at the Household Waste Recycling Centre Reuse Shop to residents of Blackpool. All remaining units refurbished at ReNew are sold by Calico in a variety of outlets across Lancashire, to other social enterprises on the Fylde and other parts of the county. In year two of this project the Council intends to further increase amounts of equipment utilised within the local area.

Pest Control.

The Pest Control service during the winter months carries out sewer baiting to approximately 1,000 'man holes' per year together with general requests for the service. Progress to date is that 600 have been completed. The service continues to offer their expertise to commercial and residential premises on a daily basis with nothing unusual to report.

Keep Britain Tidy Awards

During February Keep Britain Tidy group held their Diamond Jubilee Awards ceremony at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. Blackpool Council's Rover Service, the mobile recycling unit, was nominated for Campaign of the Year. Rover received a highly coveted runner up award in this very competitive category.

In addition, Rover has been nominated for Local Council Innovation of the Year for the National Recycling Awards in London later this year following last year's highly commended placing for all the innovative work in Blackpool with local Third sector groups in increasing recycling and delivering social benefits to the local community.

Do Walkers Campaign

The Street Cleansing service has been supporting the "We are Watching You" campaign. The campaign sets its sights on irresponsible dog owners, with recent research showing that dog walkers are more responsible, and pick up after their dogs, when they think that they are being watched. In partnership with Keep Britain Tidy "We are watching you" signs were installed during December 2014. Initial results have shown a 17-45% reduction in level of dog fouling incidents. Streets in Layton, Claremont and Victoria wards were chosen for the initial campaign where its findings at the end of March 2015 will determine whether to continue and or expand the project.