

CABINET DECISIONS ON REPORTS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OSC

The following report was presented to the OSC on 6 February 2019 for comment prior to determination by the Cabinet on 12 February 2019.

The following is an extract from those Cabinet minutes:

(1) Review of Waste Strategy - Kerbside Collection of Household Waste

The report outlined the modelling and options appraisal work undertaken in 2018 in order to review and update the Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2003 - 2020. The modelling work evaluates the current kerbside collection service delivered to Northumberland residents, and identifies and evaluates alternative approaches in order to 'shortlist' options for further, more detailed modelling and evaluation (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix F, along with the report of the Communities and Place OSC circulated at the meeting).

Councillor Sanderson reported that this was an exciting opportunity which would help to improve recycling rates, hopefully up to 50% over the term of the strategy. The improvements outlined were not easy or cheap, but there were options detailed in the report which were affordable and should be popular with residents.

- Councillor Jones supported the proposals for kerbside glass recycling, which had previously been very popular with Castle Morpeth Borough Council residents. She also welcomed the proposal for food recycling but queried the effect of the garden waste collection proposal within the Strategy. Councillor Sanderson replied that it was hoped not to have any effect. This would need to be subject to future negotiation so was not yet built into the plans.
- Councillor Oliver queried whether there was more that could be done to encourage people to compost their own food waste.
- Councillor Riddle commented that glass recycling was popular with the public and should be progressed. He suggested that the public would also like to see more advisory labels on the bins to assist with what could be recycled.
- The Leader commented that the environment was now much more in public focus and the Administration was committed to raising awareness of what happened to plastic in the environment as part of its overall strategy.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the key findings of the waste service modelling work that had been undertaken to date be noted;
- (b) the selection of the preferred options that will go forward to the next stage of more detailed modelling and evaluation be approved, namely:-

- option 2c : four weekly glass collections with the option of introducing plastic Pots Tubs & Trays as well as food waste collections at a later date so that at least a 50% recycling rate is achieved, and
 - option 4 : kerbside sort (multi-stream) recycling with food collections.
- (c) slippage of £14,000 from the anticipated year end underspend within Local Services be approved and the £21,000 funding contribution from WRAP be accepted in order to fund the overall cost of £35,000 associated with undertaking the further modelling and evaluation work;
- (d) an audit be undertaken to identify measures to cut paper consumption and improve paper recycling, as well as removing the use of single-use plastics where possible to do so, thereby demonstrating that the Council is leading by example and;
- (e) the report of the Communities and Place OSC be noted.

(2) Proposed Introduction of Charges at Tourism and Railway Station Car Parks - Consultation Response

The report provided feedback on the outcome of the consultation exercise regarding the proposed increase to some existing car parking charges and introduction of parking charges at selected tourism/coastal, railway station car parks and at Tyne Riverside Country Park car park in Prudhoe. The report summarised the main issues raised during the consultation exercise and the Council's response to those issues and made recommendations for refinements to the proposals in light of the consultation feedback (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix G, along with the report of the Communities and Place OSC circulated at the meeting).

Councillor Sanderson was pleased to report that a genuine consultation had been undertaken, with proposals amended at Cresswell, Blyth and Prudhoe in light of responses made. However, the investment programmes would be continued. Blyth in particular was in real need of investment and funding had been allocated for the coming year.

Members commended Councillor Sanderson and the staff for the work which had gone into this. It was commented that genuine consultation led to good outcomes for communities, and that a good balance had been achieved which would improve tourism, without over developing some of the most beautiful areas of the County. Pragmatic solutions had been found and charges would allow investment in additional spaces, thereby providing extra capacity for more people to use the train.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the main issues raised from the consultation exercise be noted;
- (b) the amended proposals be approved as detailed in Appendix A i.e.:-

- a. withdraw the proposals to introduce charges at Haltwhistle Rail Station, Prudhoe Rail Station, Tyne Riverside Country Park, Cresswell, Blyth and Seaton Sluice car parks, and;
- b. amend some of the tariff structures at the remaining car parks where new charges will still be implemented, in order to take into account feedback received during the consultation exercise;
- (c) the allocation of £27,000 capital funding be approved from the 'Invest to Save' reserve, required to implement the proposals;
- (d) the following policy statement on car parking be approved, namely that *'The County Council will maintain its policy of free parking in main town centres to support the local economy. However, the County Council will introduce car parking charges at tourism/visitor coastal car parks and at railway station car parks where appropriate to do so, in order to help manage the high demand in these locations, make the management and maintenance of these facilities more financially sustainable and to generate income that will assist in financing future investment in parking services. Where significant capital investment is required to support the provision of additional car parking capacity, the Council will also consider whether or not there is a need for car parking charges in the project business case, as part of the decision making process for its capital investment; and*
- (e) the report of the Communities and Place OSC be noted.