



## CABINET

Tuesday, 07 December 2021

<b>Subject</b>	Review of Waste Management: Recommendations from Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report by</b>	Councillor James Mallinder Cabinet Member with responsibility for The Environment
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Kerry Blair Head of Operations 01502 523007 <a href="mailto:kerry.blair@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">kerry.blair@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a>

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
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## Purpose and high-level overview

**Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this report is to respond to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Committee review of the Council's Waste Management service.

**Options:**

Each recommendation has been considered in turn and a response provided.

**Recommendation/s:**

That Cabinet notes the response to the recommendations in the Scrutiny Committee Review of the Council's response to Waste Management.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

**Governance:**

The Scrutiny Committee has a role to scrutinise and review the action of the Council and has developed a set of recommendations to be considered in relation to Waste Management.

**ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

None.

**Environmental:**

The work covered in this report covers several important environmental issues for East Suffolk Council.

It includes recommendations on the enforcement of littering, and the way that East Suffolk Council manages flytipping.

**Equalities and Diversity:**

No impact.

**Financial:**

Additional resources may be required in order to deliver the work outlined by the Scrutiny Committee. At this stage, the financial impact has not been calculated. The approach taken will be to work with the council's waste collection operator to identify how improved outcomes can be delivered within existing budgets.

**Human Resources:**

No impact.

**ICT:**

No impact.

**Legal:**

No impact.

**Risk:**

No risks associated with these recommendations have been identified.

**External Consultees:** None.

## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</b>			

Many of the actions issues identified in the committee recommendations relate to making improvements in cleanliness to the public realm. Therefore, the biggest impact of this work will be to maximise community pride – by taking action on what matters most.

In addition, improved waste disposal – putting the right object in the correct bin – will mean that the council minimises waste, and increases recycling, another key council priority.

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	The primary purpose of the Scrutiny Committee review was to constructively review performance in terms of the Council’s response to Waste Management. In summary, a comprehensive review of all aspects of waste management in the district, to include litter, fly-tipping, recycling, waste education, penalty impositions etc.
1.2	The Council’s response was considered in two parts at two separate Scrutiny Committee meetings. At the first meeting, in March 2021, the Committee received a report dealing with fly tipping and enforcement. At the second meeting, in June 2021 the Committee received a report covering contamination, collection issues, littering, the public realm and civic pride.
1.3	The report attached to this report as Appendix A is the recommendations to Cabinet and the response to each individual recommendation is set out below.

2 Current position	
2.1	Each of the recommendations in the Scrutiny Committee Report is provided in full below, followed by the response.
2.2	<p><b>That, within six months of receipt of this report, Cabinet seeks the creation of a more integrated approach to waste management by closer working between Norse Commercial Services and the Council’s Environmental Enforcement Team.</b></p> <p>This is action is already in place, the processes of delivery of our services relies on full integrated of both East Suffolk and Norse - education and enforcement is a continued policy.</p>
2.3	<p><b>That, within three months of receipt of this report, Cabinet reviews the current staffing level of Waste Management Officers and consider increasing the establishment by a further three Officers.</b></p> <p>Resources will be considered and discussed with Norse. ESC is looking at proposals to create a stronger strategic waste function within the authority and will review the resources allocated to this area as part of this review.</p>
2.4	<p><b>That, within one month of receipt of this report, the Cabinet Member for The Environment lobbies the responsible Government Minister to seek a fully digitised and traceable waste management service.</b></p> <p><b>That, within one month of receipt of this report, the Cabinet Member for The Environment lobbies Highways England to seek a review of its current policy so</b></p>

	<p>that electronic anti-littering message signs can be displayed again on the overhead gantries on both carriageways of the A14 between Ipswich and Felixstowe.</p> <p><b>That, within one month of receipt of this report, the Cabinet Member for The Environment lobbies the Port of Felixstowe to seek improved and affordable facilities for drivers at the Port (to minimise littering in lay-bys and potential health hazards).</b></p> <p>It is not realistic for Cabinet to lobby on an endless list of issues to Government Departments and / or other agencies. It is open for Scrutiny Committee to do so if they wished.</p>
2.5	<p><b>That, within three months of receipt of this report, Cabinet seeks a review of the current schedule of lay-by clearing to ensure it is operating at maximum efficiency.</b></p> <p>All waste services are monitored and periodically updated. This ongoing review will now be led through our new Waste and Business Improvement Manager.</p>
2.6	<p><b>In welcoming the trial of sensors on bins, the Committee recommends that, within three months of receipt of this report, Cabinet seeks trials of the following additional measures to aid the reporting of full bins – (a) a Quick Response (QR) matrix barcode (or two dimensional code) on bins that identifies specific locations and when the bins are nearing capacity; and (b) that the Council’s current online reporting system be enhanced, perhaps to mirror the reporting system of Highways at the county council, so that it tells a user if an incident of fly-tipping has already been reported.</b></p> <p>In order to test its effectiveness, a trial can be carried out within six months. If it proves to be successful, we could consider a wider rollout. There is a massive transformation piece being undertaken at present in waste and we need to be mindful of our resources.</p>
2.7	<p><b>Having considered the fly-tipping initiative implemented in Northamptonshire in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), the Committee recommends that, within six months of receipt of this report, Cabinet seeks exploration of the replication of this initiative, including funding contributions from the PCC (which aids private landowners to deal with fly-tipping and receives funding from the PCC for the tackling of littering issues as anti-social behaviour)</b></p> <p>This request will be referred to the Suffolk Waste Partnership. The PCC covers the entire county and therefore ESC cannot negotiate this in isolation. It should be noted however that waste enforcement responsibilities fall to ESC and the Environment Agency, not the police.</p>
2.8	<p><b>That, with three months of receipt of this report, Cabinet explores the possibility of financial assistance/grants to residents on low income or in receipt of Universal Credit towards the cost of collection of large and bulky items</b></p> <p>This recommendation is not supported. It will be very difficult, in practice, for Norfolk to determine whether someone is in receipt of UC when they bill for a collection. Therefore, it is open to abuse. In addition, it starts a precedent of</p>

	<p>reductions in fees and charges for people in receipt of UC that would in practise mean the council subsidising refuse services, adding pressure to the system.</p> <p>This has been raised with our Housing Team who have in turn spoken with Housing Associations to give assistance.</p> <p>Residents need to take responsibility for their actions, the message the cabinet member of the environment will be articulating is reuse, repurpose and reduce</p>
2.9	<p><b>That, within two months of receipt of this report, Cabinet authorises the Fixed Penalty Notice for littering to be increased to the maximum amount permissible and, in addition, that those being sent a FPN also receive a leaflet explaining the impact of their actions on the environment (rather than an ashtray)</b></p> <p>This recommendation is not supported. Each individual case will continue to be looked at on its own merits. Applying the maximum penalty has its drawbacks, as the larger the fine the greater number of people will default leading to increased workload with follow-up and prosecutions.</p>
2.10	<p><b>That, within two months of receipt of this report, Cabinet seeks a communication campaign to advise residents of how to find reputable waste management carriers and what licensing documentation to seek before hiring</b></p> <p>The Environment Agency licence waste carriers and already publicise the rules around this. Our message to residents is that they need to be responsible for checking any company credentials and illustrate how to do this.</p>
2.11	<p><b>The Committee acknowledged the benefit of school visits to the Energy from Waste facility for school parties but wished to recommend that, within two months of receipt of this report, the Cabinet Member for The Environment seek the incorporation of the RSPCA's Generation Kind initiative in the curriculum (which highlights the damage done to wildlife by litter)</b></p> <p>This recommendation will be raised with the Suffolk Waste Partnership. ESC does not have the staff to engage with schools or have any controls over the curriculum.</p>
2.12	<p><b>That, in general, campaigns such as that launched on 17 June to help people understand recycling requirements, be expanded beyond social media to ensure as wide an audience as possible and avoid digital exclusion</b></p> <p>This recommendation will be raised at the Suffolk Waste Partnership, who plan and resource these campaigns.</p>
2.13	<p><b>That, within three months, the Community Partnership Board be asked to consider providing funding towards the prevention of littering (it is suggested that this be implemented along the lines of the Local Area Committees scheme successfully implemented by Sheffield City Council).</b></p> <p>The Community Partnership Board is responsible for allocating funds in line with its own priorities and does not seek outside recommendations for projects. It is not the role of Scrutiny or indeed Cabinet to seek to influence this process.</p>

### 3 How to address current situation

3.1	<p>If cabinet approves the recommendations, it is proposed that a working group is formed of officers to take forward those recommendations that are within the gift of East Suffolk Council. That is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The completion of a proposal to engender closer working between the waste enforcement function and East Suffolk Council – including whether additional resource is needed.</li><li>• A review of layby cleaning schedules is completed as part of a wider review of street cleansing schedules.</li><li>• A trial of the use of smart bins and QR codes is completed, with a review and recommendations for a wider roll out if successful.</li><li>• That proposals around campaigns in schools are raised with the Suffolk Waste Partnership – with a view to increasing the visibility of these campaigns.</li></ul>
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### 4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	Each recommendation has been considered and the response is set out in section 2 above.
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## Appendices

### Appendices:

<b>Appendix A</b>	Review of Waste Management by the Scrutiny Committee
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### Background reference papers:

None.
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