

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environmental Excellence Panel** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **Thursday 27 June 2019** at **6pm** when there were present:

Mrs J Leggett – Chairman

Mr D J Britcher
Mr D King
Dr K E Lawrence

Mr G K Nurden
Mrs S M Prutton
Mr S C Walker

Mr J M Ward

Mr D M Thomas also attended the meeting for its duration.

Also in attendance were the Director People and Communities, Environmental Protection Manager (Special Projects), Private Sector Housing Manager and the Committee Officer (JO).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Fisher and Mr Kelly.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 GYPSY AND TRAVELLER NORFOLK PROTOCOL UPDATE

The Private Sector Housing Manager advised the Panel that the Council dealt with unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments through the Norfolk Gypsy and Traveller Protocol, which provided guidelines for partner agencies in terms of both welfare and enforcement issues arising from unauthorised encampments.

The Protocol was last revised in 2009 and over the last two years ongoing work on its revision had been progressing. The appointment of a new Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer at Norfolk County Council had resulted in further revisions and a greater focus on its completion. The Corporate Management Leadership Team had seen a draft of the revised Protocol and had suggested that further Police input was required. In due course the finalised Protocol would be brought to the Environmental Excellence Panel for consideration and a recommendation to Cabinet.

4 PROPOSAL TO CHARGE FOR THE PROVISION OF WHEELED BINS FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION RESOLVED

The draft Cabinet report proposed options for the introduction of a charging policy for household waste bins for new developments, in accordance with legislation, and to enable the Council to cover significant ongoing and rising costs of supplying them, which currently stood at £31,000 per year for new developments.

Breckland District, Great Yarmouth Borough, King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough, Norwich City and South Norfolk Councils already had in place charges for the provision of bins to both new and existing households.

A charge of £50.30 for two 240 litre bins would cover the £31,000 cost to the Council, but the report proposed that the charge be brought in line with South Norfolk Council's current charge of £70.85. This would generate an additional £13,000, approximately.

A Member suggested that it was morally wrong to charge for the bins, as the bins would continue to be the property of the Council and it was likely that developers would pass on the cost to house buyers. Another Member observed that the increase in Council Tax from new housing would bring in additional income for the Council as well. In response, the Director People and Communities emphasised that the cost of providing free bins was currently being borne by all Council Tax payers and additional Council Tax income from more housing would not offset the cost, as the Council received only a small amount of revenue from this source.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

To accept the proposals for charging for the provision of waste bins to new properties, agree to the use of the enforcement powers available under the EPA 1990 to require householders to use the specified types of wheeled bin or be refused a waste collection.

The Panel briefly considered if measures should be taken to discourage the use of larger 360 litre waste bins, but were reassured that the Council monitored their use on an annual basis to verify if they were still required and they decided that no additional action should be taken.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman advised the Panel that although the next scheduled meeting was on 12 September 2019, an additional meeting might need to be arranged to look at the Waste Service Review that was to commence shortly.

The meeting closed at 6.35 pm