

**REPORT TO:** Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Communities

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** Physical Environment

**SUBJECT:** Minutes from Waste Topic Group

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a copy of the notes of a meeting of the Waste Topic Group which took place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That;**

**2.1 Members receive and comment upon the report,**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 At its meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011, the Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board resolved that the Waste Topic Group should be re-established to scrutinise the Council's Household Waste Collection Policy.

3.2 The Waste Topic Group met on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and the notes of the meeting are attached as Appendix 1.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Not applicable.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no policy implications as a result of this report.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None identified.

## **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None identified.

## **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

None identified.

## **6.4 A Safer Halton**

None identified.

## **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Not applicable.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Not applicable.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Household Waste Collection Policy – Executive Board 17/03/11.	Runcorn Town Hall	Jimmy Unsworth Divisional Manager Waste & Environmental Improvement

## APPENDIX 1

### NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE WASTE TOPIC GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011 AT RUNCORN TOWN HALL

Present : Cllr Hignett (Chair)  
Cllr Gerrard  
Cllr Hodgkinson  
J Unsworth (Divisional Manager – Waste)

		ACTION
1.	<b>Apologies</b>  Cllr Thompson Cllr Wainwright	
2.	<b>Matters arising from Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011</b>  There were no matters arising from the meeting of 16 <sup>th</sup> June that were not covered by the agenda.	
3.	<b>Alternate Bin Collection Scheme</b>  JU provided an update to Members on the pilot Alternate Bin Collection (ABC) scheme that had been extended into four other areas of the borough in August 2011. JU advised that results so far from the extended pilot show that the scheme continues to be successful with increases in recycling performance in those areas.  Following Members' enquiries JU advised of the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Households included in the scheme would be provided with a weekly collection of waste during the Christmas Holiday period.</li><li>• Residents in the initial pilot areas would receive letters advising them that the pilot scheme would continue beyond the originally planned pilot period.</li><li>• The government has announced that £250m will be made available for Councils that pledge to retain, or return to, weekly waste collection services for at least five years. Other assurances around increasing recycling rates and reducing fly-tipping or litter will also need to be given for councils to qualify for the grants. JU advised that the Council cannot form a view until the full details of the scheme are released but at this stage it would not seem that there would be any financial benefits for the Council arising from the fund. It was also unclear at this stage what the position was in relation to the separate collection of kitchen waste.</li></ul>	

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>HWRC Permit Scheme</b></p> <p>JU confirmed that the vehicle permit scheme for accessing the Council's two Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) was now in operation. The scheme is designed to give the Council greater control of commercial type vehicles entering the site in order to deter and reduce abuse by commercial traders. JU informed Members that the results from permit schemes that had been in operation at HWRC's across Merseyside for some time showed that waste deposited had fell by as much as 20-30% at some centres. Despite this, there was no evidence of increased levels of fly-tipping.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Scrutiny and Development of Waste Policies</b></p> <p>1) <u>Bin Charging</u></p> <p>JU circulated information to Members showing that since the introduction of the bin charging policy there has been a significant reduction in the number of residents requesting replacement bins.</p> <p>The current policy allows a charge to be waived where it would cause significant hardship, however, JU advised of occasions where, due to the particular circumstances surrounding the loss of a bin, discretion to waive the charge should be considered. Members agreed that recommendations should be made to amend the current policy to allow the delegated Officers and Members the discretion to waive bin charges in other exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Whilst the vast majority of residents requiring bins had paid for replacements, a small number were refusing to pay. JU advised that these residents were not claiming hardship but were simply not willing to pay for a bin. All such residents had been warned of enforcement action should they fail to pay for bins. Members supported enforcement action being taken in those cases where residents, who had been warned, simply refused to pay for replacement bins.</p> <p>2) <u>Enforcement</u></p> <p>JU confirmed that efforts were continuing to tackle residents who failed to comply with the Council's refuse procedures. In particular, those who failed to return their wheeled bins to their property after collection and instead left them outside other residents' properties. JU advised that some residents were ignoring warning letters and continuing to breach formal notices that had been served. Members supported enforcement action being taken in such cases where residents had ignored warnings and continued to breach formal notices.</p>	<b>JU</b>

		<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>3) <u>Charities Accessing HWRC's</u></p> <p>Cllr Hignett declared a personal interest in this matter as a result of his employment.</p> <p>JU advised Members that the Council has the discretion to allow a charitable organisation within the borough to access the Council's HWRC's to deposit waste. At present, the Council allows such access but there is currently no policy on this matter. Members supported the development of a HWRC access policy for charitable organisations.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>1) <u>Shopping Trolleys</u></p> <p>JU circulated information relating to the recovery of abandoned shopping trolleys since the implementation of a new Council policy in August 2011. The information included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those stores that had signed up to a Voluntary Protocol with the Council and those that had declined the opportunity,</li> <li>• The numbers of abandoned trolleys that had been collected by the relevant stores,</li> <li>• The numbers of abandoned trolleys that had been collected by the Council and the charges that the Council would be recovering from the relevant stores, and</li> <li>• The measures that had put into place by Tesco and Asda to both prevent trolleys being removed from their stores and quickly recover those that had been.</li> </ul> <p>Members asked that Tesco and Asda be written to and thanked for their efforts in helping to reduce the potential nuisance caused by abandoned shopping trolleys.</p>	<p><b>JU</b></p>