

# **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**10<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

## **RESPONSE TO**

## **REASONS FOR CALL IN**

### **Part 1**

#### **Relating to the Following Decision:**

**Decision:** The Green Bin Service Change

**Decision Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Decision of:** Cabinet

**Key Decision No:** KD4376

#### **1. Introduction**

Since 2010 Enfield Council has had to find savings of £118m and now faces finding additional savings of £56m by 2019/20.

The green bin collection service was put forward as a viable means to find significant savings through alternative service provision, particularly as it is non-statutory, unlike refuse and recycling.

Options around the different variations of the green bin collection service, which is currently a free weekly collection, were explored in terms of their savings potential, impact on recycling performance and potential impact on resident satisfaction.

After extensive evaluation, two options were taken forward to public consultation:

- **Free fortnightly** combined green bin and food collection service
- **Weekly charged (£60 per year)** green bin collection service with a separate free food collection service for all kerb-side properties.

The consultation responses showed a clear preference for Free Fortnightly combined green bin and food collection service (87% supportive). For this and other reasons set out by officers in the Cabinet report of the 19<sup>th</sup> October it was decided to adopt a Free fortnightly combined green bin and food collection service starting in March/April 2017.

## 2. Reasons for Call In

The reasons why the decision was called in are as follows: -

1. **Reduction in service.** The decision will result in a reduction in service for residents.
2. **Consultation.** Fewer than 1% of the residents of Enfield responded.
3. **Swapping of bins.** The first period of time that residents can swap is too far away from the proposed change over from weekly to fortnightly. The second period needs to be a month longer because it will only be when summer hits that you will really notice how much green waste you actually create.
4. **Savings.** The decision does not make consideration for introducing a seasonal service with the additional savings being found from reducing contamination.
5. **Background research.** The report gives little information about what work has been done regarding the costings of the IT for example if it were to stay weekly at a charge also how it would have been implemented.
6. **Consultation document.** Not all people understand the comment section. The section did not ask for other service alternatives, it was up to people to work that bit out.

## 3. Response to Reasons for Call In

### 1. Reduction in service

The Council is faced with making savings of £56m, which means we have to deliver services differently. The green bin service is non-statutory and as stated in Section 3 of the Cabinet report, 58% of English local authorities and 50% London boroughs already operate a fortnightly service, with only 18% of English local authorities still operating a free weekly service. It is likely that this number will reduce still further.

### 2. Consultation

The green bin service is a household service, not a service for individuals. The Council received 3,191 responses from approximately 90,000 households representing a 3.5% response rate. This is one of the Council's highest ever response rates received to a public consultation and the largest ever online response, using the Council's website.

### 3. Swapping of bins

The extended time period for a free bin swap has been set as the 1<sup>st</sup> June to allow residents up to the end of May, the busiest month for use of green bins based on previous years, to review the use of their bin following the transition from weekly to fortnightly collections. Furthermore, there will be an extensive

communication campaign to advise residents of their options and so enable them to make informed decisions in advance of the change.

#### **4. Savings**

A seasonal option was considered and referred to in the report (Section 4.2). However, it did not meet the criteria of providing a significant and ongoing saving.

With regards to contamination, we are already taking action to reduce this through borough-wide resident communication, together with an extensive targeted campaign against persistent offenders .

#### **5. Background research**

Detailed modelling was undertaken and validated for both options that were considered for consultation. This included all implementation costs and was based on waste industry knowledge and by benchmarking with other councils that have delivered comparable service changes.

As part of this process a high-level implementation programme was also produced for both options that included the cost and delivery of, for example, IT solutions that would be required to support the service change to a charged service.

The Cabinet report in section 3.27 (Table 3) provides a comparison and the net position of the two options. This comparison, for example, takes into account a longer implementation period for a weekly charged service due to the complexity of this option. However, once again, it should be noted that 87% of those who responded to the consultation rejected a charged for service.

#### **6. Consultation document**

The survey explicitly requested respondents provide suggestions or further comments on what was proposed to which many responses were received.