

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:
Council- 18th September
2019

REPORT OF:
Director of Law &
Governance

Agenda – Part:1	Item: 12
Subject:	Petition – Stop the bin collection changes
Wards:	All.
Members consulted: N/A	

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details the petition received with a request for the Council to stop the changes to the bin collections.
- 1.2 Under the Council's Petition scheme if more than 3,124 signatures are received it will be debated at Full Council.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is asked to receive the petition from the Lead Petitioner, and in accordance with the Councils Petition Scheme, allow consideration of the views expressed in the petition.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council's Petition Scheme enables Petitions with 3124 signatures (1% of the assessed population from the 2011 census as published by the Office of National Statistics) to be debated at Full Council.

- 3.2 Under the Council's scheme, a Petition can be signed by a person of any age who lives, works, studies or does business in the borough.

4. Stop the bin collection changes

- 4.2 An electronic petition requesting that the Council to stop the changes to the bin collections was submitted on the 28th August 2019.

- 4.2 The E-petition has been submitted with 3,974 signatures.

- 4.3 The petition statement is:

We the undersigned petition the Council to reverse its decision to change the bin collection service as it is at present and furthermore to cancel its intention to impose the annual charge or levy to collect green waste.

5. COMMENTS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS

5.1 Financial Implications

- 5.1.1 The decision to implement the waste changes was taken at Cabinet on the 13th February 2019 and will generate savings of £2.5m which have been built in to the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). It was also agreed in the same report that £500k per year would be reinvested in Street Cleansing and fly tipping along with additional resources for waste enforcement and recycling. If the Council were to reverse the decision, the benefits would not be realised in terms of contribution to the Council's overall financial position or the additional investment in key areas mentioned above.

- 5.1.2 In July 2019 a report on the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy updated the Council's financial position, which indicates that the Council has a budget gap of £14m in 2020/21 and a total gap of circa £40m over the 5 years of the MTFS. If the decision was reversed this would further increase this gap and require significant alternative savings to be identified to bridge the gap.

5.2 Legal Implications

- 5.2.1 The Council's statutory duty to have a petition scheme was repealed by s46 of the Localism Act 2011. Although no longer a duty, the Council has retained its petition scheme in the interest of promoting democracy. The Council's petition scheme is therefore still valid.

5.2.2 The request in this report to refer the petition to full Council is in line with the Council's petition scheme, a Petition with at least 3,124 signatures will be referred to full Council for debate.

6 KEY RISKS

Members of the Council note that the council petition scheme allows a debate at Full Council following the requisite number of signatures. There may be implications arising from any action's resultant from this consideration.

7. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES - CREATING A LIFETIME OF OPPORTUNITIES IN ENFIELD

Good Homes in Well-Connected Neighbourhoods; Sustain Strong and Healthy Communities; Build our Local Economy to Create a Thriving Place

The Council's Petitions Scheme ensures that the public are able to register their opinions on issues of importance to them.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

Corporate advice has been sought in regard to equalities and an agreement has been reached that an equalities impact assessment is neither relevant nor proportionate for the approval of this report.

9. PERFORMANCE AND DATA IMPLICATIONS

There are no Performance Management Implications

10. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

There are no Public Health Implications from the consideration of this petition. There may be implications arising from any action's resultant from this consideration.