

Report No.
ES11132

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Environment Portfolio Holder

**For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by Environment PDS Committee
on**

Date: 15 November 2011

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO PLAN 2012/13

Contact Officer: Gavin Moore, Assistant Director Customer and Support Services
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Director of Environmental Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

The report sets out a recommended structure for the 2012/13 Environment Portfolio Plan.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Portfolio Holder approves the proposed structure for the Environment Portfolio Plan 2012/13.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Environment Portfolio Revenue Budget & LIP funding
 4. Total current budget for this head: £36m, and £6.680m LIP funding from TfL (2011/12 budget)
 5. Source of funding: 2012/13 Revenue budget, and 2012/13 LIP funding agreed by TfL
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 225 fte (2011/12)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: No statutory requirement or Government guidance.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 This report provides an early opportunity for Members to consider the priority outcomes recommended for inclusion in the Environment Portfolio Plan for 2012/13. Services provided within the Environment Portfolio affect the daily lives of every Bromley resident. Many of the challenges in delivering a quality environment are long-term.
- 3.2 The Portfolio Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Council's performance management strategy. This is one of the Council's eight corporate Foundation Strategies which have been identified as being the key building blocks on which to grow and improve the authority to be 'excellent in the eyes of local people'.
- 3.3 The Council uses a range of local and national performance indicators and measures to assess whether we are achieving our Building a Better Bromley (BBB) service delivery outcomes. Portfolio Holders are identified by the strategy as having responsibility for ensuring the creation and delivery of their Portfolio Plans; setting the vision and identifying priorities for their service remit. The respective PDS committees provide wider views before those plans are agreed, and then hold the Portfolio Holder to account for performance and delivery of the final plans.
- 3.4 It is intended that a first draft of the Portfolio Plan for 2012/13 will be reported to the Environment PDS Committee at its 17th April 2012 meeting, and subsequently to the Environment Portfolio Holder. The broad approach recommended is that of consistency with the priorities of the 2011/13 Portfolio Plan.
- 3.5 A final draft of the 2012/13 Portfolio Plan will then be presented to the Committee in early summer 2012. The final version will show the progress that has been achieved against the service expectations agreed in the 2011/12 Plan.
- 3.6 The Committee will be aware of the continuing prominence given to environmental issues and the need to take action on this locally. These issues affect not just the Environment Portfolio, but the Council corporately.
- 3.7 In the previous municipal year the Environment PDS Committee expressed its support for the use of the 2011/12 Portfolio Plan to provide a clear statement of Portfolio priorities for the benefit of the public and staff. In particular, the Committee wanted the Plan to provide a yardstick to measure achievement against objectives that could be used by the public and Members to hold the Portfolio Holder and Environmental Services Department accountable. The Committee wanted some form of benchmarking so that it could assess the performance of the Portfolio, plus judge the value for money delivered by the services offered.
- 3.8 In taking this approach forward the 2012/13 Plan will therefore be drafted to facilitate:
- Accountability for the achievement of 2011/12 milestones and performance expectations
 - Understanding of the Portfolio's objectives for 2012/13
 - Setting milestones and local performance expectations for 2012/13
- 3.9 The abolition of the Place Survey in 2010 has meant that there is no longer national benchmarking data available on residents' satisfaction with services such as street cleaning, waste collection, recycling, parks, and roads & footway maintenance. At its April 2011 meeting, the Environment PDS Committee asked that consideration should be given to replacing existing benchmarking methods with a superior method, if available, to establish residents' satisfaction with the services delivered within the Environment Portfolio. In the light of the current financial climate it has not been possible to take this aspiration forward. The 2012/13 Environment Portfolio Plan will therefore not contain measurable targets for public satisfaction services.

3.10 The recommended priorities for the Plan are set out in Section 4 below, together with background on their significance as the key outcomes which should be sought in 2012/13.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Improving the street scene

The quality of the street scene (including street cleaning and graffiti reduction) continues to be of major importance to local people. Residents have consistently identified “clean streets” as one of their most important priorities (alongside health and levels of crime) in making Bromley a pleasant place to live. Public expectations of the quality of these services continue to rise, and Members have emphasised the need to further improve the standards of road sweeping. The Council is also seeking to expand the Street Friends scheme.

4.2 Minimising waste, and increasing recycling and composting

Over 520 kg (1,150 lbs) of waste per household was collected in Bromley during 2010/11. Levels of waste have significantly declined in recent years, but this needs to continue being reduced for both environmental and financial reasons. The Council has made a priority commitment to its Recycling and Composting for All policy borough-wide, aiming to divert even more waste from landfill. The Council is also committed to improving facilities for producing energy and fertiliser from organic waste.

4.3 Enhancing our parks and open spaces

There is continuing recognition of the importance of high quality green spaces to the character of the borough. Residents appreciate the importance of a continuing programme of improvements to the borough’s parks and green spaces, and this priority is reflected in the number of active Friends of Parks Groups. The Council is committed to expanding this scheme.

4.4 Improving transportation

Traffic congestion continues to be a major issue. Businesses are concerned about the effect on the local economy, and many local people believe tackling congestion should be a priority. The Council seeks to achieve this aim through better highway design and tackling delays at key junctions. The Council has successfully promoted school travel plans, seeking to reduce congestion at peak times. Road safety is another key priority and here again partnership with schools is important. The Council will continue to lobby for extensions to the Docklands Light Railway and Tramlink into the borough.

4.5 Maintaining our transport infrastructure

Road and pavement repairs are cited as a key issue by many residents. Bromley has a good reputation in responding to snowfall, and this needs to continue. Effective controls on utilities are essential to ensure good standards of work and to minimise traffic delays.

4.6 Customer Services and Cross-Cutting themes

A range of cross-cutting services support improved delivery across the Portfolio, for example in customer focus, communications, ICT, performance management, efficiency, service reviews, and depot & fleet management. The Portfolio plays a leading role in energy efficiency and meeting carbon management responsibilities. In addition, the Council’s parking services are an important customer service for both motorists and residents.

4.7 The Council's overall objectives, as set out in Building a Better Bromley, are:

- Safer communities
- A quality environment
- Vibrant and thriving town centres
- Supporting independence
- Ensuring that all children and young people have opportunities to achieve their potential
- An excellent Council

4.8 The objectives recommended for the Environment Portfolio Plan support these overall objectives, predominantly in working towards a quality environment.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The priorities, as set out in this report will be delivered within the resources identified in the Portfolio budget for 2012/13 and any external funding that can be secured.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel, Legal implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Environment Portfolio Plan 2011/12 http://sharepoint.bromley.gov.uk/ielistDocuments.aspx?Cid=127&Mid=3746&Ver=4