

Decision Maker: Environment PDS Committee

Date: 19th November 2013

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO PLAN 2013/14; HALF-YEAR
PROGRESS REPORT

Contact Officer: Gavin Moore, Assistant Director Parking and Customer Services
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Executive Director Environment and Community Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

The report outlines progress at the half-year stage against the commitments made in the 2013/14 Environment Portfolio Plan. The Environment Portfolio Holder and the Executive Director Environment and Community Services will attend the Committee to answer questions.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Committee is asked to note and comment on the progress of the 2013/14 Environment Portfolio Plan.

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 2013/2014 & LIP
 4. Total current budget for this head: £31.4m and 6.3m LIP funding from TfL
 5. Source of funding: 2013/14 revenue budget and 2013/14 LIP funding agreed by TfL
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 194.9fte
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: No statutory requirement or Government guidance.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable.
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Customer Impact

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

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 The final draft of the Environment Portfolio Plan for 2013/14 was considered by the PDS Committee on 16 April 2013, and subsequently agreed by the Portfolio Holder.

3.2 Services within the Environment Portfolio support the Council’s objective of Building a Better Bromley through a Quality Environment -

“For a **Quality Environment** we will:

- ◆ provide a clean, green and tidy environment, meeting and maintaining standards of quality, which reflect service levels agreed between local communities and their elected Members
- ◆ encourage further improvements in recycling and continue to encourage and expand friends groups within the community to take responsibility for their environment including looking after parks, their streets and providing assistance during severe winter weather
- ◆ ensure enforcement is a key approach to our business and the Council will ensure regulations are enforced
- ◆ look at investment opportunities to reduce wherever possible costly maintenance and repairs in order to sustain the quality of our infrastructure, environment and street furniture”

Earlier this year the Environment Portfolio Holder identified a selection of priority aims drawn from the 2013/14 Portfolio Plan in support of the Quality Environment objective. Appendix 1 sets out these priority aims and the progress which has been made in achieving them.

3.3 A summary of half-year performance against the remainder of the milestones agreed in the Environment Portfolio Plan 2013/14 is included as Appendix 2.

3.4 With regard to measurable performance, many indicators in the Portfolio Plan are monitored on an annual basis. Where monitoring is more frequent, half-year results are set out below.

3.4.1 During the first half of the year recycling rates have been just over 50%. This is comparable to performance in 2011/12 and 2012/13, but falls slightly short of the aim for a 51% recycling rate. Quantities (234kg) of residual household waste produced in the first six months have been similar to those produced in the first half of 2012/13; these quantities are however slightly greater than anticipated (full year 440kg). As occurred last year, the proportion of waste sent to landfill was higher than expected in the first six months due to the closure of the SELCHP incinerator for 6 weeks. However, Veolia have been asked to provide sufficient incinerator capacity for the annual target to be achieved by the end of the financial year.

3.4.2 In 2012/13 the new cleansing contract had reduced the frequency of cleaning for rural roads, from fortnightly to monthly. Combined with exceptional rainfall in spring 2012, this led to a build-up of litter and detritus. There was also a problem with overflowing litter bins in some areas. A number of steps were taken to address performance: the frequency of litter bin emptying was increased; and targeted additional cleaning of rural roads was introduced. Standards improved significantly before tranche 2 and 3 monitoring inspections in 2012/13. The first two tranches of data on litter and detritus for 2013/14 are now available and show a marked and sustained improvement on the performance in summer 2012:

	2012/13 Tranche 1 performance	2013/14 Tranche 1 performance	2013/14 Tranche 2 performance	2013-14 year end performance expectation
NI195a Litter	10.76%	6.40%	3.90%	6.00%
NI195b Detritus	16.80%	7.90%	5.00%	8.00%

3.4.3 Graffiti and fly-posting clearance have been sustained at the very high performance level achieved in previous years (less than 1% of inspected areas were found to be unsatisfactory).

3.4.4 There have been less than 800 recorded fly-tipping incidents, fewer than expected. 195 enforcement actions have been undertaken, more than were originally expected.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The 2013/14 Environment Portfolio Plan reflects current policy.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The priorities set out in this report will be delivered within the resources identified in the Portfolio budget for 2013/14 and any external funding which can be secured.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal and personnel implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Environment Portfolio Plan 2013/14 http://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/547/environment_portfolio_plan Building a Better Bromley priorities http://onebromley/CExec2/Dougs%20emails%20to%20all%20staff/Autumn%20In%20Touch%20101013%20FINAL%20V3.pdf

Appendix 1

Priorities Identified by the Environment Portfolio Holder for 2013/14:

- ***Consolidate our improved recycling rates, building on the success of 'Recycling for All' to divert waste from landfill.***
 - Recycling rates have been sustained at 50%
 - Green Garden Waste promotion utilised to promote all recycling
 - WEEE banks installed on 5 sites
 - On request WEEE collection service planned for January 2014
 - Can banks now accept both cans and plastic containers

- ***Introduce a textile collection service, incorporating new bring banks and kerbside collection.***
 - Bring banks installed on all Council sites
 - Tonnages are increasing
 - Options for on-request kerbside collection are being assessed
 - Potential for schools collection is being explored

- ***Expand take up of the Green Garden Waste collection service.***
 - Three collection rounds in place
 - 11,500 customers at end September 2013
 - High satisfaction rates and low proportion of drop-outs

- ***Support the development of facilities for producing energy and fertiliser from organic waste.***
 - We have provided assistance to businesses seeking to introduce Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facilities in Bromley for the disposal of organic waste
 - Planning permission was previously granted to CountryStyle for an AD plant at Cookham Lane

- ***Improve the standard of street cleanliness.***
 - Standards in 2013/14 show a marked improvement on the equivalent period in 2012/13
 - Additional programmes of non-scheduled work
 - Deep cleansing and weekend channel cleaning programmes are being reviewed and adjusted
 - Intelligence-led improvements to ensure better deployment of autumn leaf fall resources
 - Inspections show 94% compliance with required standards
 - Independent survey required by contract shows a high level of resident satisfaction, at 75%
 - Resident satisfaction with grounds maintenance will be analysed in Quarter 3

- ***Expand the Street and Snow Friends schemes.***
 - Snow Friends conference held in September
 - There are now 16 co-ordinators and over 4,100 volunteers
 - Biggin Hill specific promotion
 - Specific training will be provided for Street Friends tree initiative
 - Planning under way for the Linkage pilot in Shortlands ward

- ***Continue to support the activities of Friends of Parks.***
 - 56 Friends groups are being supported
 - Dog Awareness campaign promoted at major parks
 - 2012/13 achievements reported to Committee in June 2013

- ***Commence the major 'invest to save' project to replace 8,000 lamp columns and 4,000 lanterns by 2015.***
 - First phase completed
 - Central Management System in place

- ***Sustain our investment in roads and pavements.***
 - Resurfacing of A208 (White Horse Lane) and A233 (Main Road) commenced and on-target
 - 2012/13 out-turn shows standards are being maintained

- ***Continue to take effective action to improve road safety and reduce accidents.***
 - 19 sites cluster sites reviewed; first designs completed for 10 priority sites
 - Nine pedestrian crossing schemes are being progressed
 - Ward members and PDS Committee are consulted on all relevant schemes
 - Three schemes to improve off-road cycling routes are being progressed
 - Programme of engagement with schools continues, providing targeted road safety education

- ***Seek to reduce traffic congestion and improve journey times.***
 - Eight junction schemes are being progressed, focusing on the A222, A224 and A233
 - Ward members and PDS Committee are consulted on all relevant schemes

- ***Build on the successful establishment of a shared parking service in partnership with LB Bexley.***
 - Shared service went live in April 2013 with a smooth transition
 - Shared ICT system go-live delayed but now scheduled for completion in November
 - Parking Working Group reviewed progress in October
 - Report to November Committee covers progress in more detail