

Decision Maker: Environment PDS Committee

Date: 4th November 2014

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

Title: ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO PLAN 2014/15; HALF-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

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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 2014/15 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 2014/15 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 2014/2015 & LIP
 4. Total current budget for this head: £33m and £5.9m LIP funding from TfL
 5. Source of funding: 2014/15 revenue budget and 2014/15 LIP funding agreed by TfL
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 190 fte
 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 2014/15 was considered by the PDS Committee on 1 July 2014, 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”

3.3 Earlier this year, the Environment Portfolio Holder identified a selection of priority aims drawn from the 2014/15 Portfolio Plan in support of the Quality Environment objective.

- ◆ Appendix 1 sets out these priority aims and the progress made in achieving them.
- ◆ Appendix 2 summarises half-year performance against the remainder of the aims.

3.4 With regard to measurable performance, many indicators in the Portfolio Plan are only monitored annually but where monitoring is more frequent, half-year results are set out below.

3.4.1 Waste & Recycling: Tonnages of household waste continue to be higher than the equivalent period for the previous two years and higher than the 2014/15 target, placing pressure on budgets and recycling rates. This is part of a national trend. After the first six months, 247kg of waste had been produced by each household (against a year-end target of 440kg).

During the first half of the year, the household waste recycling rate was almost 49%. This is slightly lower than previous years’ performance and also lower than the 2014/15 aim for a 51% recycling rate. This reduced recycling rate is partially due to increased waste arisings (the recycling rate is a function of this) and partially due to reduced paper recycling tonnages.

The percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill was higher than the equivalent period in previous years and also higher than the year-end target. This is partly due to the closure of the SELCHP incinerator for its annual maintenance (which was lengthier than usual) and partly due to increased waste arisings (the amount which can be sent to incineration is capped, meaning if waste can’t be recycled it has to be landfilled).

	2012/13 6-month data	2013/14 6-month data	2014/15 6-month data	2014/15 12-month target
Residual Household Waste / Household (kg)	234 kg	234 kg	247 kg	440 kg
Household Waste Reused, Recycled or Composted (%)	49.57%	50.17%	48.83%	51%
Municipal Waste Landfilled (%)	33.01%	30.74%	35.57%	23%

3.4.2 Street cleansing: This data is collected on a pan-London basis three times a year – known as ‘tranches’. Tranche 1 was completed in July 2014 and the results of tranche 2 will be available in November 2014 and tranche 3 in March 2015. The survey covers four metrics: litter, detritus, graffiti and fly-posting and scores them according to the percentage of sites (known as transects) falling below a specified grade.

3.4.3 The table below shows data for the percentage of surveyed streets which fell below the specified grade for litter and detritus.

	2012/13 Tranche 1	2013/14 Tranche 1	2014/15 Tranche 1	2014/15 Target
NI 195a (litter)	10.76%	6.40%	7.2%	6%
NI 195b (detritus)	16.80%	7.90%	3.2%	8%

3.4.4 Although tranche 1 litter data is broadly in line with previous years, it is slightly worse than the year-end target. An assessment of the land use types surveyed does not indicate any trends in terms of specific environments; however observations from the surveys suggest problems with overflowing litter bins due to the dumping of domestic waste. A review of the frequency of emptying litter bins will be undertaken to target hot-spot locations with monitoring by the contractor to gather evidence for potential enforcement action. Levels of recorded detritus are better than previous equivalent tranches and also better than the year-end target

3.4.5 Graffiti and fly-posting: The table below shows data for the percentage of surveyed streets which fell below the specified grade for graffiti and fly-posting. It can be seen that tranche 1 data is generally better than in previous years and better than the 2014/15 target.

	2012/13 Tranche 1	2013/14 Tranche 1	2014/15 Tranche 1	2014/15 Target
NI 195c (graffiti)	0.83%	1.0%	0.0%	1%
NI 195d (fly-posting)	0.30%	1.6%	0.5%	1%

3.4.6 Fly-tipping data is recorded on a quarterly basis and at this six-month stage (see table below) it can be seen that the number of incidents (pro rata) is significantly higher than the 2014/15 target. Equally, the number of enforcement actions has also increased ahead of target.

	2012/13 6-month data	2013/14 6-month data	2014/15 6-month data	2014/15 12-month target
Number of Fly-tipping Incidents	1,129	739	1,322	1,500
Number of fly-tipping enforcement actions	239	195	181	300

3.4.7 There are two underlying factors: a surge in fly tipping incidents in Penge, the Crays, and Mottingham and the introduction of Fix My Streets, which facilitates increased reporting levels.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The 2014/15 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 Environment Portfolio budget for 2014/15 and any external funding which can be secured.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal and Personnel implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Environment Portfolio Plan 2014/15 Building a Better Bromley priorities

APPENDIX 1

PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY THE ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR 2014/15

Outcome 1: Improving the Streetscene

Continue to work closely in partnership with local people, forging deeper links with residents associations and Friends groups (Aim 1.2)

- ◆ Street Friends: 1,103
- ◆ Shortlands Linkage pilot to help develop autumn leafing programme and alert residents (by SMS) to service disruption (e.g. due to severe weather)
- ◆ Friends Forum conference held in June 2014
- ◆ Snow Friends: 4,506 (and 398 Snow Coordinators)
- ◆ Preparations made for Snow Friends conference: 30 October 2014

Sustain improved standards of street cleanliness (Aim 1.3, 1.4)

- ◆ 2014 public survey of street cleanliness shows high levels of satisfaction in town centres (91%) and residential areas (71%). However, this is 1% and 7% lower respectively than the 2013 survey data
- ◆ Littering is broadly comparable with previous years but is slightly worse than the year-end target, possibly due to domestic waste being dumped in litter bins (which overflow)
- ◆ The amount of graffiti and fly posting activity is significantly better (i.e. lower) than target
- ◆ Tree survey aerial photography data now used to plan autumn 2014 leaf fall collection
- ◆ Chewing gum removal programme undertaken in main town centres, targeting problem areas (e.g. transport interchanges and fast-food outlets etc).
- ◆ Enhanced cleansing regime for Bromley North Village incorporating street washing and preventative measures to reduce staining of natural stone paving

Outcome 2: Minimising Waste and Increasing Recycling and Composting

Increase take up of the Green Garden Waste collection service to 15,000 homes (Aim 2.4)

- ◆ Target was achieved in August 2014. Customer numbers are now at 15,750, with the majority of customers renewing a second time.
- ◆ Further promotional options are being explored, with the existing activities being maintained.

Pilot a kerbside textile waste collection service (Aim 2.5)

- ◆ Veolia are now exploring vehicle adaptations to enable a trial to be implemented
- ◆ The textile contractor is developing a proposal for a schools textile project

Extend the range of recyclables we accept (Aim 2.8, 2.9)

- ◆ Household Waste Reuse & Recycling Centres: exploration of markets continues with option for recycling ink cartridges and recycling 'hard plastics' (garden chairs, bins etc) to commence in Q3
- ◆ Recycling waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) continues with large advertisements at Waldo Road, press advertising and a dedicated link on the Waste homepage to the free WEEE collection service, which continues to perform well

Outcome 4: Securing our Transport Infrastructure

Complete the major 'invest to save' programme to replace 8,000 lamp columns and 12,000 street lanterns by March 2015 (Aim 4.1, 4.2)

- ◆ Planned outputs changed following report to Environment PDS in July 2014
- ◆ 90% of concrete columns and 65% of lanterns now replaced
- ◆ Proposal that lantern programme be increased (subject to Executive approval)
- ◆ All new columns and lanterns connected to Central Management System

Improve the condition of the Highways Network by completing major road surfacing programme (Aim 4.4)

- ◆ Most recent highway condition data is included in the Planned Highway Maintenance Programme report on this agenda (ES 14093)
- ◆ Principal roads maintenance programme is focusing on the A208 and A233, and is on target for completion by February 2015

Develop and adopt a Local Flood Risk Strategy (Aim 4.11)

- ◆ Local Flood Risk Strategy: advanced draft agreed. Next steps are to consult and then publish in Q4

Outcome 5: Improving Transport

Decrease congestion and reduce journey times on priority routes including the completion of work on key junctions on the A222 and A224 (Aim 5.3)

- ◆ Priority Route activity included identifying funding for 'Smart Studs' to assess driver reaction as a precursor to the proposed 'Tidal Flow' initiative
- ◆ Junction improvements: A222 - surveys completed and now moving towards design. A224 - three of the four junctions now complete (final junction to be finished by Q4)

Work with our partners to improve parking at Orpington rail station and Princess Royal University Hospital (Aim 5.7 and 5.8)

- ◆ Orpington rail station parking scheme: dealt with in a report on this agenda (ES 14075)
- ◆ Princess Royal University Hospital: Meetings have taken place with Ward Members and separately with the Kings Trust. Options being considered to improve parking both on site and in surrounding streets. Consultation commenced in surrounding roads at end of September 2014

Continue to take effective action to improve road safety and reduce accidents (Aim 5.9, 5.10, 5.11)

- ◆ Road safety education resources have been offered to children at over 100 Bromley schools and colleges covering all age groups
- ◆ Analysis of locations for 2015/16 accident reduction measures available Q4
- ◆ Skidding sites: Programme to be presented to Environment PDS (4 November 2014)

Outcome 6: Improving Services for our Customers

Make it easier for customers to contact us on-line through Fix My Street (Aim 6.1)

- ◆ Fix My Street (FMS) is being actively promoted and communicated through all available channels, including *Environment Matters*
- ◆ 9,391 FMS reports in first six month of 2014/15