

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 22 OCTOBER 2013  
title: GENERAL REPORT  
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## 1 PURPOSE

To update Committee on various aspects of Waste Management, and developments within Leisure and Arts.

## 2 WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 2.1 Waste Paper Collection

The Council's dedicated in-house waste paper collection service has now been operating for 3 months, and a full review of the service is due at the 6 month mark. The tonnage of material collected has been steadily rising, and currently stands at 169 tonnes per month, which represents a 13% increase on inherited collection figure. This figure, if projected for 12 months without further growth, would be some 180 tonnes below the original target collection figure. There is still, however, capacity for growth, both in the amount of paper that is potentially available, and in the capacity to collect it. Areas of the borough that are showing a low participation rate are, therefore, to be targeted to encourage householders to recycle their suitable material.

Arrangements to change the paper collection days so that the fortnightly paper collection coincides with the same day as the collection of a householder's green or blue bin, are now being developed. This measure, if introduced, would see a more dramatic increase in the weight of material collected as householders, who are already accustomed to presenting their wheeled bins out for collection on the same day of each week, would have a more simple collection calendar to follow.

### 2.2 Health & Safety Executive Inspection of the Refuse And Recycling Collection Service

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has a programme of formal inspections to scrutinise the health & safety arrangements for all the domestic waste and recycling collection services that are either operated or provided by the waste collection authorities.

In September of this year, this HSE completed their planned two day visit to the Council's Salthill Depot. No formal adverse comments, on any aspect of the service as provided by this Council, were made by the HSE inspection team.

All aspects of the waste and recycling collection service were inspected, the first day of the HSE's visit consisted of an inspection of the Council's policies and procedures relating to the management of health & safety and included a close examination by the HSE officers of the safe working arrangements, risk assessments, and incident reporting procedures of the collection service. Day two involved further interviews by the HSE officers of the management and the operatives of the service. The inspection also involved the HSE officers joining the collection rounds, so that the working practices of the crews could be observed and evaluated.

The formal inspections are seen as a testing time. Despite authorities being given notice of the impending examinations, it is common that the inspections conclude with authorities being required by the HSE to produce action plans, setting out steps and targets with agreed timescales to bring about the improvements deemed necessary by the inspection teams. More formal enforcement actions may also be deemed necessary. In such case, the costs incurred by the HSE, as a result of their interventions, may be recharged to the authority under inspection.

We are pleased to report that HSE gave the Council a clean bill of health, and made no such requests or subsequently levied any costs against the Council.

### **2.3 Larger Green Bin Scheme**

Members have been previously advised that the Tender for the supply and delivery of larger 240 litre green wheeled bins has been awarded to MGB Plastics Ltd, and that the total cost for the scheme is within budget.

TJK Logistics Ltd is the logistics sub contractor that has been employed by MGB Plastics Ltd to carry of the delivery, and associated activities, required within the contract.

Delivery of the 240 litre wheeled bins will commence on Monday 28 October 2013, with completion by Friday 29 November 2013.

Householders covered in weeks one and two of the delivery programme have already been sent letters advising on a specific day and date for exchange of their green wheeled bin. The letter also explains that their 140 litre green wheeled bin must be empty, and be presented at the curtilage of their property.

### **2.4 Co-mingled Waste Audit**

Since the opening of the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) at the Waste Technology Park at Farington, Officers have resisted efforts by the County Council to impose a standard contamination rate on the Council. Your officers have continued to argue that the composition of the co-mingled recyclate we collect is of a much higher quality than the reject rate the County Council wishes to impose.

Between 29 July 2013 and 2 August 2013, a compositional analysis was undertaken by a contractor employed by Lancashire County Council, of the co-mingled recyclate waste stream collected through the Council's refuse and recycling kerbside system.

During the analysis, samples were taken from every load of co-mingled material our collection vehicles deposited within our waste transfer station. This information will be useful in future, by pinpointing the areas where improvement could be made.

The results of the analysis concluded that our overall contamination rate for co-mingled recyclate was 2.35% by weight. Whilst this rate is based on the type of unacceptable materials found within the loads, some of this material has been further passed on for recycling, for which we are awaiting the net benefit.

## **2.5 Guidance on the treatment of leaves recovered through the street cleansing operation**

Members of the Committee were advised on 6 November 2012 that, having instigated limited trials, the Environment Agency had updated their guidance on the recovery of untreated street sweepings, with the result that leaf litter should not be used as feedstock for composting, or used as feedstock to produce quality compost.

This had significant implications on this Council by reducing recycling credit income (estimated at between £35k-£45k), and additionally by reducing the Council's overall recycling performance (estimated at 3.5%-4.5%).

Further trials have since been undertaken, and, unfortunately, have not resulted in any change to the change of practice.

## **3 SPORTS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT**

### **3.1 Service Area-Action Plans**

There have been various changes in personnel, and in the delivery of the operations within Sports and Arts Development, The Platform Gallery, and Ribblesdale Pool facilities. Whilst Healthy Lifestyles may well see certain changes as the Health and Wellbeing re-organisation takes effect.

To ensure that there is focus on achieving the desired outcomes for each service area, specific action plans have been refreshed with the respective key staff involved in their delivery for the period up to the end of March 2014. This is to help with short term achievement of identified targets, and how best to apply the resources available within the current budget.

A questionnaire is being prepared for sending to the Council's Citizens Panel and for general availability for Ribble Valley residents with the purpose of finding opinion on the current provision of Sports, Leisure and Cultural Facilities and Open Space availability and amenities; and in identifying if needs are being met. It is eight years ago since the last extensive survey of residents was undertaken and it will provide information on which to base an over-arching Sport and Recreation Cultural Strategy. The Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) produced a vision plans in 2008 and an updated R.V.B.C Strategy is now considered necessary.

### **3.2 Cross Authority Partnership working within the Lancashire Chief Cultural Leisure Officers Group (LCCLOG)**

The 12 Districts, 2 Unitaries, LCC, Marketing Lancashire and Lancashire Sport have developed a Business Plan following consultation with colleagues in the wider culture and sport landscape. Three themes have been identified with specific objectives in each workstream;

1. Public Health
2. Inward Investment and Efficiency
3. Visitor Economy

There is to be a champion for each theme who will sit on the Steering Group and 4 groups including the key officers from each district of Lancashire. The groups being; Arts, Libraries, Heritage and Sport and Physical Activity and they will consider elements of each theme. It is proposed that the respective Ribble Valley Officer will be able to contribute towards the delivery of the plan and where to concentrate efforts.

### **3.3 Platform Gallery / Visitor Information Centre**

Since merging the services the operation has aimed to combine the administrative procedures so that staff resources are utilised more effectively. This has progressed to an extent but efforts continue with the support of the finance section and it is expected to have a business-focused approach to the managing of artists and stock held on site.

The new exhibition for Christmas (Winter Crafts), commences Saturday 12 October and, will run until 11 January 2014. This is an important time for maximising visitors and sales, and it is intended to open on Sundays 15 and 22 December, as, from past years these have proved to generate a high level of sales.

### **3.4 Summer Activity provision for young people**

The Summer Activities Booklet organised in conjunction with many other partners and agencies and funded by Ribble Valley Children's Trust received over 2000 attendances over the summer period. The activities included a whole range of cultural, sporting, educational, and physical activities. The activities that Ribble Valley Borough Council were directly delivering were the Orienteering sessions in Clitheroe Castlefield and John Smith's Park in Longridge with over seventy children and adults attending. The Sports Development section also delivered in partnership with Stephen Park Activity Centre hugely popular and exceptionally well received 'A Taste of the Outdoors' sessions which were 7+ years old sessions which included Mountain Biking in Gisburn Forest on the new Skills Loops, Archery in the Forest and Climbing on the 30ft high four-way climbing wall. The youngest of the participants was 7 and the eldest being 70. The sessions were both fully subscribed having 72 people participating over both days and these places could have been filled three times over. The average rating for this activity was 9.2/10.

Other activities run by partners included - Cricket Coaching camps, Golf Summer Activity Camps, Multi-Sport Sessions, Reading sessions, Tennis camps, Summer Playscheme, Gym sessions, Performing arts summers schools, Walking activities, pool sessions, Art sessions, Youth clubs, and Streetgames Festival. The booklet which was delivered to all 37 schools in Ribble Valley was funded by Ribble Valley Children's Trust, who also funded transport for activities, and further activity sessions for disabled young people and additional swimming lessons for struggling children in October half term.

### **3.5 Cricket Development**

The Ribble Valley District Cricket sides have had a hugely successful year with the U13's Boys team winning the Lancashire county final and the U15s team winning the county and regional final. The U11s and girls sides have also competed very well in their respective groups. All district cricketers are playing their cricket within Ribble Valley clubs so it's a fantastic achievement and showcases what fantastic talent (Players and Coaches) we have in Ribble Valley. A key role in district cricket is the hardworking Ribble Valley Cricket Development Group that helps to enable district cricket, supports clubs, and develop cricket in Ribble Valley.

### **3.6 Ribble Valley Cycling Map**

A promotional map featuring 5 cycle rides of varying distances around Ribble Valley is being produced in conjunction with Lancashire County Council and partners with an interest in developing cycling in the area. The routes range from short family rides; 5 miles in Gisburn Forest, to 29 miles around the Ribble Valley villages. There will be 5,000 copies available and this has been funded by LCC, who have enabled similar maps to be produced across East Lancashire districts.

### 3.7 Updated Ribble Valley Sports Club Directory

A refresh of the details relating to all sports clubs is to be undertaken as this information is required on a regular basis for various development purposes. The voluntary sector continues to play a significant role in community provision and an important way of supporting their growth is in keeping them informed of funding opportunities and how they can improve facilities and developing instructors/coaches.

## 4 **CONCLUSION**

Any further relevant developments will be reported to Committee.

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