



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Date 29th January 2019

Subject: Review of Waste Collection in ten foot areas of Gainsborough

Report by:

Executive Director of Operations and Head of
Paid Service

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

*For members to decide on future waste
collection methodology for areas currently
receiving sack collections*

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. Current sack based waste collection methodology to continue in ten foot areas of Gainsborough**
- 2. An updated Environmental Assessment to be presented to Prosperous Communities Committee in a February 2020 as part of the programmed review of Gainsborough South West Ward Place Based Strategy**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: Under current legislation, collection authorities are able to specify the receptacles to be used by residents for the collection of waste

Financial: None

FIN REF: FIN/196/19/TB

Staffing : None

HR REF: HR082-1-19

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : N/A

Risk Assessment / *Mitigating action:*

As the proposal is to carry on with current collection methodology, there are no new risks

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : N/A

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Gainsborough South West Ward Place Based Strategy

<https://democracy.west-lindsey.gov.uk/documents/s6680/Agenda%20Item%206k%20-%20Gainsborough%20South%20West%20Ward%20Place%20Based%20Strategy%202017.pdf>

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

x

1. Background

- 1.1 On 11th September 2018, the Prosperous Communities Committee approved a process for reviewing the waste collection methodology for properties in Gainsborough which currently receive a sack collection service. This followed a motion from Councillor Trevor Young, submitted to full Council, which called into question the suitability of the present system.
- 1.2 The motion contended that the waste collection scheme results in environmental health issues and poor living conditions for many residents, and that it negatively impacts on the appearance of the town.
- 1.3 Prosperous Communities Committee appointed a Task and Finish Group to oversee the delivery of the work as specified in the South West Ward Collections Review Scope.
- 1.4 Following the agreed process, and reporting regularly to the Task and Finish group throughout, Officers have worked collaboratively to review the impacts (positive and negative) of waste collections in area.

2. Scope of the review

- 2.1 Since September, Officers have engaged with residents in the study area in an attempt to ascertain their satisfaction with current service provision, whilst seeking suggestions for areas of improvement.
- 2.2 Officers have also undertaken the following work;
 - a) Formed and conducted meetings with a steering group consisting of Ward Members, representatives from Prosperous Communities Committee and key officers from Operational, Business Improvement and Enforcement teams.
 - b) Undertaken extensive and wide ranging engagement with all sections of the community in the defined study area.
 - c) Delivered communications activities to support this engagement and assessment process including delivering an information leaflet, drop-in sessions and door stepping.
 - d) Arranged a satisfaction survey with residents and encourage input from all other stakeholders including Members, businesses, a residents group, Lincolnshire Highways and any other relevant bodies
 - e) Carried out an Environmental Assessment Survey.
 - f) Consulted with national forums such as APSE and LARAC regarding best waste collection practice in this area
 - g) Carried out an initial options analysis of alternative collection methods and regimes considering those undertaken by other authorities both locally and nationally.
 - h) Undertaken a headline financial analysis of identified options.

- i) Identified potential methods and areas of improvement.
- j) Maintained a risk register for these activities.

3. Summary of the Review Findings

3.1 The conclusion of the work of the task and finish group is summarised under the following headings:

a. The Waste Collection Methodology

b. The Waste Collection Environment

a. Waste Collection Methodology

On the whole, feedback from surveys, drop in sessions and resident group meetings has shown that residents are satisfied with the current collection regime and value the work done by operational staff. There is little appetite from residents to move to the alternate weekly bin collection service that is standard in the rest of the district.

Consultation with, and visits to, other waste collection authorities have revealed that there is no agreed best collection practice for areas of high density housing, where storage for bins is limited. Investigations have shown evidence that waste collection and related street scene issues can have a negative impact on the local environment in certain circumstances, regardless of whether waste materials are collected in bags or bins. Indeed, officers visited two other authorities where the streetscene was in a much worse condition than that in West Lindsey, there is clear evidence that linking waste collections with street cleansing operations results in much improved outputs.

After reviewing all of the evidence, the Task and Finish group viewed weekly waste and recycling collections as an important positive factor in influencing environmental health conditions and the appearance of the parts of Gainsborough which are in receipt of a sack collection service.

A high level review of costs of the waste service provision has shown that collections in the parts of Gainsborough that rely on a sack collection cost an average of £45.82 per property per annum. This is compared to £45.30 per property, per annum in the rest of the district.

Given the similarity in costs, the apparent lack of public appetite for a change, the lack of viable alternatives at present and the absence of any strong driver to upend the current collection methodology, Members of the task and finish group recommend the continuation of a weekly sack refuse and recycling service at this time.

b. The Waste Collection Environment

Much of the sack collection zone in this study is made up of Gainsborough South West Ward (SWW) – an area has long been identified as a priority neighbourhood in which environmental improvements are to be delivered, in the context of wider proposals for the area.

Given this context, the public engagement exercise (see Appendix 1) highlighted high levels of concern about a number of environmental crimes including fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, commercial waste dumping, abandoned shopping trolleys and early waste presentation.

During the last 6 months, the council has done things such as increasing our enforcement presence and CCTV in the area. Officers have used new powers to tackle environmental crimes such as fixed penalty notices for offenders.

It is encouraging to note that some improvement has been noticed from residents who were engaged with, particularly on early waste presentation and abandoned shopping trolleys. This suggests that current measures are having some impact.

Set against this however are the results of an Environmental Assessment Survey, which provides strong empirical evidence that high levels of fly tipping are occurring in some parts of Gainsborough. Street cleansing teams remove bags of rubbish, litter and discarded items every day in some parts of Gainsborough. During the six week assessment period, more than 11 tonnes of materials were removed from 333 separate recorded incidences in the study area. This carries a significant cost to taxpayers both in terms of resources needed to constantly deal with issues and keep streets clear and accessible, and in the additional waste transport and disposal costs.

It is clear from the public engagement work undertaken, that residents in the area support strong action to tackle enviro-crime that they feel blights their streets. The vast majority of survey respondents support fixed penalties (or prosecution for fly tipping and commercial waste dumping), rather than verbal or written warnings. Suggestions as to what else WLDC should be doing to tackle these issues included:

- Have more enforcement officers on the street
- More CCTV
- Street lighting
- More enforcement action
- Harsher enforcement action
- Communal skips placed at strategic sites on a regular basis
- Street wardens

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Officers have consulted widely with stakeholders and other authorities both nationally and locally. There is a clear message from those residents who engaged with the project that they are happy with the current collection methodology and have no desire to move to wheeled bins. Evidence from other authorities' shows that changing to an alternative collection methodology would not result in improved outcomes for residents.
- 4.2 Residents have noticed some small improvements in the streetscene in recent months following an increased enforcement presence and work undertaken with supermarkets around the retrieval of trolleys. This study and associated survey should feed in to the wider work undertaken as part of the South West Ward Place Based Strategy agreed by Members in early 2018.
- 4.3 Officers in CCTV report that a scheme is underway to expand the amount of cameras in the area. Five permanent new units will be located in the South West Ward with an additional two mobile units being available. These should be in place by the end of March 2019, subject to relevant permissions.

5. Recommendations

- **Current sack based waste collection methodology to continue in ten foot areas of Gainsborough.**
- **An updated Environmental Assessment to be delivered to Prosperous Communities Committee in a February 2020 as part of the programmed review of Gainsborough South West Ward Place Based Strategy.**