



## Cabinet Member Report for Environment

### Northampton Borough Council

11 March 2019

#### Environmental Services Contract

Refuse and recycling collections continue to perform well and a project is underway to trial single use sacks in Far Cotton, this will improve service delivery and assist in keeping the area cleaner.

Refuse and recycling container deliveries are now up to date and 6 monthly supplies of sacks to terrace properties are also underway.

Street cleansing schedules continue to be reviewed in order to target those areas in most need, separate teams continue to empty litter bins and remove flytips within the prescribed timescales. The transformation (deep clean) teams continue to work their way through the borough, some 250t of materials have been removed and disposed of - additional resource is also in place to provide a leaf fall removal service.

Winter maintenance schedules, pruning shrubs and hedges and planting bedding are well underway and work being undertaken to plan this year's grass cutting regimes. Both the trees and woodlands service are undertaking surveys and any subsequent works, such as removing epicormic growth around trees, along with planning and executing the enhanced tree program.

Allotments and cemetery services are also providing a good service. Contract meetings continue to take place to monitor and improve the services received by residents of Northampton

#### Fly-Tipping

Since June-2018 we have seen a 14% drop in the number of reported incidents of fly-tipping and we will shortly be starting further projects to ensure this trend continues.

Total Reported Fly Tips	
17-18 (Jun - Jan)	21,704
18-19 (Jun-Jan)	18,614

On 4<sup>th</sup> March working with Veolia we re-started a Kangaroo Run. The run was promoted to a set number of local streets and we will assess the success level before potentially starting further runs in other areas.

With the budget now approved, the trial in the drop in the Bulky Waste Charge will begin in April-2019 with the rate reduced from £25 for 3 items to £15 for 3 items to see what impact reducing the charge has on take up rates/fly-tipping statistics.

## **Parks and Open Spaces**

The new extension to the MUGA (Multi-use Games Area) in Ecton Brook has been completed. This allows the children to play football with goals at both ends, whereas the old MUGA only had one goal.

The leak at Abington Park Boating Lake has been repaired. The leak was causing soil to be washed down the embankment and into the water, which was beginning to silt up the bottom of the lake. The lake is used by model boating

New goal posts with a surrounding frame/mesh has been installed at Ryehill Open Space. This allows the children to play football without them having to go chasing after the football if they miss the goal mouth.

## **Park Management Committees**

Becket's masterplan consultation is nearing the end and the final report is due at the beginning of March.

Thornton Park – initial approaches made towards setting up Park Management Committee with a view to a Green Flag application at the end of the year (same time as Bradlaugh). Agreement reached for the spending of the Section 106 money following public consultation. Formal quotes have been obtained and hopefully all new equipment to be in place by May.

Working with all PMC's to do something during Love Parks week, which commences on 13 July 2018.

## **Environmental Health**

Following the Cabinet resolution to adopt the legal powers available to deal with abandoned shopping trolleys, works are progressing to ensure the effective implementation of the scheme on 1 May.

During the first year of the environmental enforcement contract a total of 7328 Fixed penalty notices have been issued the top 3 Wards based on tickets issued are Castle, Upton and St James. 65.4 % of all those issued with FPNs were males and 57.28% % between the ages of 20 and 39.

## **Air Quality**

The environmental protection team have been reviewing the Government's new Clean Air Strategy to understand its potential implications for Northampton. The strategy, whilst continuing to recognise the impact that transport and energy emissions have on air quality, places an increased focus on other sources of air pollution including domestic open fires and small scale sources of industrial pollution. More information on the strategy will be provided in a future report to Cabinet which will also provide details of the response to the consultation on the planned changes to our town centre air quality management areas.

Our raw Air Quality Management Data is now published on our website up to the end of 2018.

The Council is one of 17 local authorities that have received funding from Office of Low Emissions Vehicles for funding under the Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles Taxi Infrastructure scheme. Funding has been secured towards the installation of two rapid charging points in one of our surface car parks. The charging points will be dedicated for use by taxi and private hire vehicles and work to progress the installation will start in the next few weeks. Discussions are also ongoing to progress the installation of electric vehicle charging points that will be available for general use.

**Councillor Mike Hallam**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**