

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 7th November 2022

Wards: All

Subject: Community waste collections response

Lead officer: Adrian Ash, Interim Executive Director, Environment, Civic Pride & Climate

Lead member: Cllr Natasha Irons, Cabinet Lead for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate

Contact officer: John Bosley, Assistant Director of Public Space

Recommendations:

A. That Cabinet note the response to the recommendation made by the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel (the *Panel*)

B. That Cabinet support the recommendation made by the *Panel*

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel (the *Panel*) received a presentation by the Waste Services team on the progress being made to combat fly-tipping across the borough during the meeting on the 29th June 2022

1.2. As part of the Fly-tipping Action Plan, officers have been developing a range of interventions to improve the awareness of fly-tipping and the importance of responsible waste recycling and disposal. The *Panel* made the following recommendation to Cabinet, noting the lack of access to disposal facilities may contribute to localised fly-tipping, - "*This panel requests Cabinet consider ways of bringing the collection of waste closer to the community i.e., community skips*"

2 DETAILS

2.1. The recommendation made by the *Panel* compliments the existing work being undertaken by the Waste Services team to reduce the impact of illegal fly tipping in the borough. Officers have been working on options on how further access to facilities and services can be improved, including the use of third-party services like the free TRAIID service to provide a range of options for residents to better enable the correct disposal of recyclables and waste.

2.2. Currently, the service is undertaking engagement events and a consultation with residents to garner their ideas on how best help them manage their waste responsibly and where our services can improve. This conversation is important so we can understand how best deliver improvements in the areas that matter most.

2.3. The recommendation made by the *Panel* is welcomed and contributes to the existing developments being made to the service. Officers will continue to develop how this can be implemented, considering the results of the current community consultation and engagement being undertaken.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. The alternative would be to not to support the recommendation of the *Panel*. This has not been considered as the service has been developing aligned improvements supported by the Fly-Tipping Action Plan.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. Currently, the service is undertaking community roadshows and a consultation to hear from residents on what they think about our current services – see [Future waste collection and street cleaning services - Merton Council](#).

4.2. The feedback of this process will aid the service in designing and delivering improvements to the services offered to our residents.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None for the purposes of this report.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The existence of waste collection services offered by the council allows residents to dispose of regular waste items generated through the day-to-day activities, but there are limitations to the size and weight of items collected through the standard waste service.

7.2. Residents do have access to the council provided facility at Garth Road to dispose of larger and bulkier items without charge, but it should be noted that access to this facility can be practically limited for residents:-

A) who do not have transport available to them

B) those with a disability which makes it hard for them to take their waste to the recycling centre

C) residents who do not have the time to access the recycling centre during current day-time opening hours.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 APPENDICES –

10.1. The attached appendix outlines the range of materials to be accommodated at the pilot service as well as those that cannot be accepted.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1. None for the purposes of this report.