

Minutes of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**  
held in The Annexe, Crosfield Hall, Broadwater Road, Romsey  
on Monday 26 July 2017 at 5.30 pm

Attendance:

<b>Councillor C Lynn</b> <b>(Chairman)</b>	(P)	<b>Councillor I Jeffrey</b> <b>(Vice Chairman)</b>	(P)
Councillor D Baverstock	(-)	Councillor P Hurst	(-)
Councillor P Boulton	(P)	Councillor J Lovell	(A)
Councillor J Cockaday	(P)	Councillor P Mutton	(P)
Councillor C Dowden	(P)	Councillor J Neal	(P)
Councillor B Few Brown	(-)	Councillor B Page	(P)
Councillor A Finlay	(A)	Councillor T Preston	(-)
Councillor K Hamilton	(A)	Councillor I Richards	(P)
Councillor I Hibberd	(P)	Councillor C Thom	(P)

Also in attendance:

Councillor S Hawke  
Councillor G Stallard

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**Minutes**

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

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**Garden Waste Collection Service**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Environmental Services which provided details of the Garden Waste Collection Service, the contribution that the collection of garden waste made to the overall recycling rate and assurance that the service was fit for purpose.

The Head of Environmental Services explained that the Garden Waste Collection Service began on 10 May 2004 and the service was designed around the collection of garden waste using reusable sacks that were returned to the resident following collection. At the same time a borough wide ban was introduced for garden waste in black household waste bins. Since its introduction the number of subscribers every year had remained fairly stable at approximately 10,800. During the last two years there has been an increase in demand with 12,300 properties currently subscribed to the scheme, the majority of which pay either online or by direct debit.

The growth in demand was starting to put significant pressure on the level of resources currently being deployed on the collection of garden waste. This increased mainly during the growing season or autumn leaf fall. Should there be a continued increase in demand alternative ways of collecting green waste would need to be considered.

Members questioned the Head of Environmental Services on using wheeled bins compared to the sacks. The Head of Environmental Services reported that wheeled bins were quicker, easier and safer to empty than the sacks and the subscription cost was the same even though wheeled bins had a higher capacity. It was possible that eventually wheeled bins would replace the sacks over time. However, it was noted that some residents do not have the space to store a further wheeled bin or access to the front of their property without going through the house.

The garden waste is directly delivered to a composting facility where this was used to create a rich soil improver called 'Pro-Grow'. This material contributes an average of 8.85% to the Council's overall recycling rate. The Head of Environmental Services would circulate further information on this to the Committee on 'Pro-Grow'. Some Members expressed an interest in visiting the composting facility and the Head of Environmental Services agreed to arrange a trip to the Chilbolton recycling centre.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Environmental Services for attending the meeting to explain the service and answer questions. The Chairman echoed the sentiments of members felt that this service had been a good success and congratulated the Head of Environmental Services on the work being carried out.

**Resolved:**

**That the contents of the report and the continued success of the Garden Waste Collection Service be endorsed.**

107      **Programme of Work for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

The Chairman reported that following the Away Day on Saturday 22 July, a list of topics has been drawn up and work was underway to look at how the topics could be dealt with. A final list will be brought to the Committee in September.

The Committee considered and updated the Work Programme as follows:

- Round table discussion review on Waste and Recycling in Test Valley to be a full report (to include an overview of the work relating to the Waste Strategy) be moved to November.
- CIL move to October/November
- Amend name of Councillor Cockaday's panel to Communications and Procurement Panel.

**Resolved:**

**That the future work programme, as amended, be approved.**

(Meeting terminated at 6:00 pm)