

**WASTE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY PANEL  
27TH JULY 2022**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Ward)  
Councillors Boldrin, Forrest, Howe and Needham

J. Ardley (Loughborough University)  
Councillor Harper-Davies (Lead Member for  
Community Support)

Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces  
Democratic Services Officer (SW)  
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Parton

The Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. She also advised that, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

1. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

2. DECLARATIONS - THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations were made.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS UNDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROCEDURE 11.16

No questions had been submitted.

5. IDENTIFY BARRIERS AND LOOK AT WAYS TO OVERCOME THEM

In accordance with the scrutiny scope document (key tasks), considered and discussed, identify barriers and look at ways to overcome them (recycling).

Consideration of this key task had been commenced at Panel meeting on 11th May 2022 (see Waste Management Scrutiny Panel Minute 27 – 11th May 2022). To be completed at this meeting via input from J. Ardley (Community Warden, Loughborough University), input from Council tenants (agenda pages 7-8) and

presentation of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces setting out Collection Round data.

Key points of discussion:

- (i) Input from J. Ardley – University focus was education of students re: waste management/recycling, worked very closely with N. Gibson (Charnwood Borough Council) in that respect, ongoing and repeated process as students changed. Students from all over country/world, those living off campus needed to be aware of particular requirements in Charnwood. Report expected by end August 2022 on end of year clear out outcomes, happy for Panel to be sent copy once available, Panel would welcome this. Reference to similar initiative March 2022, more than £2k raised via that, also received impact assessments from charities involved. Had tried to increase reuse and recycling, reduce waste to landfill, would continue to do so. Statutory authority was Borough Council, but University worked to support via education/dealing with any problems. Sustainability increasingly on agenda.
- (ii) Question, what had 2022 end of year clear out event comprised, how differed from previous years? In response, N. Gibson/S. Ritchie (Borough Council) could best outline. Lots of publicity/education. Lessons learnt from event in March 2022, had been quite challenging as items collected for several different charities, detailed. Simpler approach for 2022 end of year, arranged with landlords for them to receive Air Ambulance (AA) charity collection bags for use by students who moved out early, then a main collection event 27/28 June where week before AA delivered bags to every student property for donations, work also undertaken to encourage participation, outlined. Landlords had assisted, particular landlord had put boxes outside each of his properties with list of what could be donated, then taken to food banks or passed to University for AA.
- (iii) Discussion re: problem with end of year clear out in 2022, not occurred previous years, possibly in part due to longer period of time between most students leaving and then additional waste collection by Council on 4 July? Many bags ripped open, witnessed or evidenced in some cases that street homeless were checking through (asked where witnessed if those persons needed help) resulted in large amounts of rubbish in streets, mixing of items previously correctly sorted and bagged. Some members of Panel already aware of these events having spoken with residents/had seen. Difficult to see, made it appear that many students had not acted correctly, but vast majority had. Suggestions welcomed as to how could be prevented. Couple of cases where students had not dealt with end of year waste correctly, firm action taken by J. Ardley and how all students then remedied outlined.
- (iv) Discussion re: difficulty in choosing best date for additional waste collection by Council, did liaise on that for maximum benefit. Must be on weekend or Monday due to resources being committed on other days, resources only allowed it to be done once. Usually as soon as possible after end of term, aware that some did leave earlier. If too early, additional rubbish likely to be put out after/remain over summer. J. Ardley stated that how students used properties had changed since pandemic, may be more effective for Council to do additional waste collection a little earlier in 2023, see if improved matters? Reference to consultation with landlords, aware when most students leaving. Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces happy to discuss. Reference to rejected suggestion that one tip permit

- be provided to each landlord at end of year to allow left waste to be taken, this was County Council matter, limited influence, but could look at.
- (v) Stated, previous Panel discussion had suggested that University and Borough Council should work more closely together in respect of end of year clear out, above input suggested that that was happening. Councillors and residents had noticed better in 2022 than previous years and students had largely acted correctly, assisted by clear message from University that not doing so would not be tolerated.
  - (iv) Question, could there be a collection point for AA bags to prevent them needing to be left on street and then ripped open? In response, more collection banks installed this year (AA and British Heart Foundation). Always happy to consider further locations/accept assistance with securing. Ideal additional location would be car park, Storer Road. Reference to continuous collection of items on campus, charities would be invited to collect regularly once sorted. Permanent operation to assist regular donation of students' unwanted items was being worked towards, assistance from Students' Union. All help from councillors, community and partners to achieve welcomed. Noted, J. Ardley and team worked to personally collect items if needed, but J. Ardley role principally anti-social behaviour. Important to manage waste effectively and sustainably. Suggestion re: additional temporary collection boxes, each would need monitoring. Noted, timing of activities crucial to outcomes. Question, role of University's Sustainability Team? In response, J. Ardley meeting with, team mainly campus focused, hopefully would widen, although off campus lead on waste collection/prosecutions needed to be Borough Council as statutory authority.
  - (vi) Stated, previous input to Panel from Serco (Council's waste collection contractor) and submitted data suggested that contamination of recycling bins was greater in some areas, including those with large student populations. In response, J. Ardley aware of data, streets concerned, did visit properties to educate, ongoing process to do so, no single person in control of recycling bin in such households. Question, what did University do to inform students what was expected of them, particularly beginning of year? In response, social media publicity (J. Ardley could provide examples) and door knocking. Leaflets not considered useful, student properties received many and added to waste. Pictorial information stickers on bins might be helpful, particularly as English was not a first language for some students.
  - (vii) J. Ardley was thanked for assisting the Panel with its scrutiny and she left the meeting.
  - (viii) Reference to bulky waste items, usually landlord responsible for. Noticed considerable reduction in such items left out this year, noted that Borough Council officers had made landlords aware that such items wouldn't be collected as part of additional waste collection and that they needed to arrange for suitable disposal of/that enforcement action would be taken where necessary.
  - (ix) Considered, Council tenant input set out on agenda pages 7-8. Response 1 – many soft plastic items could now be included in green recycling bins, useful to go back to tenant and let them know that. Also, consider how that change could be publicised. Response 2 – Shepshed incinerator would be commercial operation, not known what waste would be taken there, Charnwood residual waste currently incinerated via County Council arrangements with facilities in Coventry and Stoke on Trent. Not known if County Council would use Shepshed

facility. Response 3 – laminated pictures on green bins of items that could be recycled, could be done, quite lengthy list, might mean images quite small. Reverse done previously, items not to put in green bins, key contaminants. “Yes please” items a more positive message.

- (x) Noted, collection round data presented 2 week sample, commencing 1st March 2022. Rounds attributed to vehicle, but may be covered by other vehicle to allow repair/servicing or to complete work, effect on data, but still useful indicator of top and bottom performing rounds, dry recycling compared to residual waste. Did not include garden waste, some areas had gardens some did not, would affect figures considerably. Top 5 (outlined) all recycled more than 40% of recycling/residual combined, bottom 5 where data complete (outlined) recycled between 10-20%. Initial campaign/education might target those areas, see if any improvement as a result. Stated, interesting to see areas where recycling not as high, some highlighted previously to Panel by Serco input, included high student population area. Importance of ongoing education, particularly in areas where residents changed more frequently.

## **AGREED**

1. The submitted information, discussion and suggestions made be noted.
2. The report on 2022 end of year clear out outcomes referenced in paragraph (i) above be sent to members of the Panel as soon as available, for their information.
3. Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces to discuss with J. Ardley issues relating to end of year clear out, including scheduling of the 2023 end of year additional waste collection by Council.
4. Examples of University social media publicity to students re: waste management be sent to members of the Panel, for their information.
5. Council tenant (response 1) be informed of the soft plastic items that can now be included in the green recycling bin and all Council tenants who responded be thanked for their input and made aware of the discussion at this meeting.
6. Collection Round data presented at meeting be sent to all members of the Panel following the meeting, for their consideration and to assist with deciding on any recommendations the Panel might wish to make.

## 6. COMPLETION OF SCRUTINY SCOPE DOCUMENT AND FINAL PANEL MEETING

The Panel confirmed that all tasks set out in the scrutiny scope document had now been completed, although a visit by members of the Panel to the Casepak Materials Recycling Facility had not yet been undertaken. That would be useful and the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces would continue to try to arrange, but was dependent on facility accommodating.

The Chair stated that a final meeting of the Panel would now need to be scheduled (to agree the Panel’s recommendations and report). This would be a physical meeting,

date/time and venue to be confirmed. Noted that prior to the meeting, the Democratic Services Officer (LS) would draft the Panel's report and then circulate to the members of the Panel for them to include suggested recommendations.

## **AGREED**

That the above position be noted and actioned.

## NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the next available Ordinary Council meeting unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of these minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Waste Management Scrutiny Panel.