

South Lakeland District Council
Council
18 December 2018
Executive Report – Mid Year 2018/19

Portfolio: Environment Portfolio
Report from: Cllr Dyan Jones

Portfolio Responsibilities

To take the lead on Waste Management/ Recycling and relevant Council Plan measures under the environment objectives.

Providing and maintaining parks infrastructure.

To develop and implement a Playground Strategy.

Policies, Plans and Strategies

- Waste Management Strategy
- Air Quality Strategy and action plan
- Active Travel Strategy and action plan

Key Areas:

- Waste Management and Recycling
- Street scene
- Community micro energy schemes
- Carbon/ Greenhouse gas Reduction
- Green agenda – Low carbon reduction
- Public realm (Parks and open spaces, including cemeteries)

Waste Management and Street Scene

Recycling On the Go

The Council has undertaken a trial of 3 litter bins for the segregated collection of plastic and cans, alongside general litter bins at 2 locations in Kendal. Initial findings are that the bins were heavily contaminated and this prevented the plastic and cans being recycled.

Litter Bin Technology

The Council is currently trialling sensors in 104 litter bins that measure the fill level of the bin and collate usage data. This trial is on-going and has already resulted in a 75% reduction in the number of bin empties required on that round. The Street Cleansing Service is considering a wider review of the litter bin operation to determine the options available to improve service efficiency.

In-Cab Technology

The Waste Management Service is working on the procurement of in-cab technology for waste and recycling collection vehicles that will help deliver improvements to customer service and offer opportunities for service efficiencies. A Project Board and a Project Delivery Team have been created to progress this development in conjunction with the Customer Connect team.

Waste Collections Policy

A Waste and Recycling Collections Policy is being drafted for presentation to Cabinet in January. This will provide greater guidance and information for customers and staff to deliver a consistent service.

Royal British Legion Project

The Street Scene service was proud to work with the Royal British Legion to use SLDC vehicles to remember and thank the people who served their country and remember their sacrifices. The Council's social media feeds to further raise awareness of this project were viewed over 14,000 times; with further awareness as those posts were shared across other users and platforms.

Right 2 Work Contract

The Council has a bulky waste service for the collection of furniture and domestic appliances; which is provided under contract by Right 2 Work. The service was recently recognised by the Association for Public Service Excellence, who short-listed the service in the Innovation category of their annual service awards. The service has also been short-listed in the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards for Best Service Model. The awards ceremony for the LGC Awards are held in London in February.

Carbon/ Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Green Agenda

The Green Team has been reintroduced to provide leadership in reducing effects of climate change and implement the single use plastic goal. The green team is taking on the responsibility of informing, influencing and implementing actions to reduce the impacts of climate change and reduce carbon/ greenhouse gas reduction. Informative sessions were held across the summer with communities and an action plan has been introduced. The Council is continuing to investigate the opportunities to reduce single use plastics throughout

the authority, officers and member are working collaboratively to identify actions to take forward such as milk for meetings in the Town hall will now be in jugs and the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products, and order products (where possible).

The Air Quality Annual Status Report (reporting on progress in improving air quality in 2017) was sent to Defra in June. The report shows that levels of nitrogen dioxide monitored by the Environmental Protection Team continue to fall across the district, with only one site (Burgundy's on Lowther Street) still failing to meet the Government's annual mean objective. It also reports progress on actions in the Air Quality Action Plan.

In July the report received approval from Defra, who said the report was well written, concise and presented all the required information. They recommended that we further review our monitoring strategy, as many sites still in operation have very low nitrogen dioxide concentrations, and that we undertake continual reflection on the Air Quality Action Plan. This work is being undertaken.

A leadership event was held in October to progress the aims of the Cumbria and Lancashire Air Quality and Public Health report. This was well attended by Environmental and Public Health Officers, Members and Public Health Chiefs. A report from the day is being drawn up by Public Health colleagues to work out the next steps.

The Council has also begun supporting a free service through the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) to help vulnerable households across the district who are suffering financial hardship to support in saving energy, money and fuel poverty. Households who are eligible get a free home visit from LEAP to check they are on the cheapest energy tariff and receive energy saving tips.

Public Realm

The Council is continuing to work in partnership with Continental Landscapes Ltd throughout 2018/19 to deliver quality grounds maintenance and support to community groups.

The first phase of the enhancement project at Noble Rest Park has been completed. This phase saw the installation of new drainage and pathways following partnership working with the Friends of Nobles Rest, Kendal Town Council and Kendal Civic Society. A family friendly opening event was held in September to mark the success of phase 1 and officially opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria.

Officers are continuing to work on the Miller ground Enhancement Plan. The Group is continuing to raise funding for the playground.

Following a recent Cabinet decision it was agreed to transfer the management and ownership of Longland Park to Windermere Town Council. The Council will continue to assist with maintaining the park but the Town Council will investigate potential options to create a more valuable site for the community.