

Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee

24 July 2018

Report of the Executive Member for Environment

Improving the connection between the council and York's residents will be the key feature in the year ahead.

Waste and Recycling

There will be a report on waste later this year which will look at the charges for Bulky Waste Collections and how these can be reviewed in the light of information coming from the Community Recycling Fund. The report will also cover the issue of charges for rubble from households.

Time banding for commercial waste will be reviewed during the year ahead to avoid the issue of bags being out on street, particularly in the city centre for over 12 hours attracting 'night time economy' side waste which is left on top. Whilst, as with many things, this is easier in London it is something that working with the Retail Forum and BID needs to be fully examined. Also within the city centre the failing Solar Compactor bins are being replaced, and steps are being taken to deal with bins which are too small from a previous roll out of street furniture.

The council has a key role in taking the lead with low emission vehicles for work. I appreciate that the committee has done some work around fleet procurement. My own view is that the council should be working towards an all electric waste fleet, and similar vehicles. As technology develops, particularly around battery design the opportunities for vehicles which have more power demands (such as bin lorries) have increased. I will be working with officers on how this can be developed linking waste/recycling with air quality.

Also now that the Local Plan has been submitted I will be asking officers to develop a Waste Supplementary Planning Document so that developments have easily maintained waste facilities, and that these enable the proper containment of waste/recycling containers, and the appropriate presentation for efficient collections.

There is clearly increased public interest in the matter of plastics recycling and the range of different types that can be put into the box. I have pressed for this to be reviewed, with the further recent complications of the whole industry being impacted by the tightening of tolerances on contamination by the Chinese Government on all types of recycled material. At the same time there have been moves to eliminate single use plastics even the current Government has made some suggestions that it might consider action. Together with moves from supermarkets to reduce the plastic element of packaging there is uncertainty on what the plastic waste stream would be. As there will need to be considerable investment in facilities to respond to this it is important that this is factored into the future policies of the council. Therefore I will be working with officers to develop the business plans for this much sought after service.

Flood Defence

As we work through the 5 year plan with the Environment Agency I will be working with officers and as the City's Representative on the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to ensure that all the resources allocated to the city are fully utilised. There will continue to be quarterly updates to my Executive Member Decision Sessions which will include further work by the council to cover the issue of surface water drainage, which has become a key consideration with the impact of climate change on sudden downpours.

I will continue to work with organisations such as Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solution Programme (iCASP) which looks at spreading best practice on integrated Catchment Plans, natural flood management, and upstream steps which can be delivered to reduce flood risk downstream.

Air Quality

The consultation on the Clean Air Zone for the city will result in a significant amount of work on how this will be delivered and the necessary policies to implement this scheme which would be the first voluntary CAZ in England.

I will continue to support sustainable transport, and following on from the objectives built into the Castle Gateway and York Central developments there will be specific work on the implementation of projects which will improve accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians. I will be working with external organisations, such as the Cycle Pedestrian Forum to ensure

that these new schemes are a driver to improve the infrastructure around the rest of the city. Improvements to the roundabouts on the Ring Road need to improve opportunities for sustainable transport and I shall continue to work for these to be factored into the programme. This will be part of my role on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

I am grateful for the officers, councillors and residents who worked hard to increase awareness of Clean Air Day and I will be looking to develop the anti-idling message and how the new traffic light system can help to alleviate the pressure on some of the hotspots of poor air quality.

Clean Energy

The funding to enhance photo-voltaic schemes, and other newable power has already produced additional PVs on council properties, and working with the Green Economy Panel for Leeds City Region I will over the next year be working to produce a greater capacity within the city to become more self-reliant in energy terms.

One Planet York

There are 10 strands for the One Planet York initiative and therefore working with other departments, and external partners I will be working over the next year to develop these. It was important to see the Health and Wellbeing Board taking the lead with this year's annual One Planet York Conference.