

Reports for Local Councils' Liaison Committee, 18 November 2009

Waste from village halls

1. Cabinet at its meeting in April 2009 considered a report from the Environment Portfolio Holder on the arrangements for the collection of household waste from schools, religious establishments and charitable institutions. Although village halls were not expressly mentioned, they are caught up in the same collection regime. This matter was then discussed at the meeting of this Committee in July 2009.
2. As was discussed at that meeting, Cabinet accepted a range of recommendations which included the receipt of a further report in due course on the charging regime to be put into place for such collections. However, for reasons of the intense workload arising from the development and introduction of the revised waste service, this report has yet to be prepared and submitted. However, as the Council develops its budgetary framework for 2010/11 it is intended that a report be submitted as part of the normal fees and charges consideration and the views of this Committee that a charge for village halls would be inappropriate will be brought to the attention of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet Committee as part of their consideration of fees and charges for the 2010/11 financial year.
3. Whatever the final outcome on a charging regime, it is intended that a full service proposal should be in place for village halls to use, if they wish, from April 2010.

Food & garden wheeled bins

4. There have been some unfortunate delays in providing the new food & garden waste wheeled bins to some residents. Problems such as this are to some degree inevitable when endeavouring to arrange for the delivery of some 45,000 wheeled bins and kitchen caddies in a district as diverse as Epping Forest. However, it is fair to say that officers have been disappointed that in some cases these delays have been significant and there remain some residents who still do not have their correct container. The Council has made additional resources available with two crews from Sita being employed full time to deal with the backlog.
5. Notwithstanding the above, the new scheme is already demonstrating a high level of performance, with recycling levels exceeding 60% for the first 3 weeks of the scheme. This should, if this level of participation continues, hopefully result in the 2009/10 outturn being in the region of 50%.

Damage to highways through consented development

6. At the last meeting of this Committee in April, concerns were raised regarding the abilities of either this Council using its planning enforcement role or the County Council as Highway Authority, to deal with damage to highway surfaces from developers. Although not directly referenced in the minutes of the meeting, it was suggested through the discussion that the matter be referred to the new Local Highways Panel.
7. The next Panel meeting is scheduled for the 24th of this month and an item will be placed on the agenda.