

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

**(i) Details of decision**

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS: PETITION**

That the response attached at Appendix 1 be agreed.

**(ii) Reasons for decision**

To respond to the petition from Haslemere Town Council.

**(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report**

Councillor Melanie Odell, the Mayor of Haslemere, presented the petition, which contained 2622 signatures.

Councillor Odell expressed concern at the lack of consultation with the community regarding the closure of the waste facility. She stated that if the Town Council had been approached they would have been able to advise the County Council of the town's usage and strong feelings with regard to the amenity. She advised that Haslemere agreed to relinquish land used as a county civic amenity site at Sturt Road, Haslemere on the understanding that the current system of domestic waste disposal replaced it. To remove the service would therefore renege on an agreement that has lasted for 20 years. She was concerned that the loss of the dustcart facility would result in more illegal dumping of waste and an additional cost to the taxpayer in the collection of such waste. Councillor Odell reported that some recycling was conducted at the site, that there were recycling collection points some 50 yards away and that recycling was carried out when the waste was sorted despite crushing. The alternative site at Milford was not a green alternative due to its distance from Haslemere. Increased use of that site would also cause inconvenience to Milford residents. She contested that use of the current site by businesses was not a problem as commercial waste was usually easily recognisable and attendants at the site were able to advise such users of the nearest appropriate site for disposal. Finally, she noted that a small number of users of the site may not live in Surrey, Haslemere being a border town, and that it was not appropriate to deny them usage of the facility when they supported the town in general.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

**(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded)**

None

**Dispensation**

**(Any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee in respect of any declared conflict of interest to be noted)**

None

**Decision taken by:**

(i) **Name:** Lynne Hack

(ii) **Portfolio:** Environment

**Date of Decision:** 18 October 2010

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision:** 18 October 2010

**Date decision effective (i.e. 5 days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Environment and Economy Select Committee):** 26 October 2010

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT RESPONSE TO HASELMERE TOWN COUNCIL PETITION**

**The Petition**

'We the undersigned object strongly to the removal of the Saturday dust cart community waste facility for large items of household rubbish at the Fairground Car Park Haslemere. This service is currently run by Surrey County Council.'

**The Response**

I am very aware of the concerns of local residents regarding the withdrawal of the Saturday dustcart in Haslemere.

I would however re-iterate that the reason why the Public Value Review of the waste management service recommended withdrawal of the Haslemere dustcart was because the service, in its current form, does not meet the council's objective of maximising recycling.

Officers have visited the site on a number of occasions over the past few years and have observed potentially recyclable materials being placed in the dustcart as well as 'black bag' waste that is suitable for the kerbside waste collections.

This view has been supported by a recent analysis of the waste collected in the dustcart. This revealed that 33% of the load was material such as dry recyclable material, garden waste or food that was potentially recyclable in a kerbside collection scheme. A further 45% by weight of the contents was material that could have been recycled if taken to a community recycling centre. 19% by weight of material was suitable for disposal in a normal kerbside 'black bag' collection.

Only 3% by weight of the material comprised items that would have had to be disposed of in the residual waste bin at a community recycling centre.

Therefore overall, if we include food waste as being potentially recyclable, over 80% by weight of the contents of the dustcart could have been recycled.

Discussions are taking place between Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council with regard to the withdrawal of the service and the potential for enhancement of local recycling collection facilities to provide a local alternative for materials that would otherwise have to be taken to one of the community recycling centres.

**Lynne Hack  
Cabinet Member for Environment  
18 October 2010**