

**NOTE OF A CALL-IN MEETING  
HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2017 AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON  
TO DISCUSS THE EXECUTIVE DECISION IN RESPECT OF  
THE REMOVAL OF RECYCLING POINTS**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors:**

M. Iqbal	Leader
D. Clegg	Executive Member for Environmental Services
J. Cooney	Caller-In
K. Turner	Scrutiny Management Team (Chairman)
W. Blackburn	Scrutiny Management Team (Group Spokesperson)
K. Hartley	Scrutiny Management Team (Group Spokesperson)

**In Attendance:**

D. Langton	Strategic Director
D. Walker	Environmental Services Manager
L. Rowland	Committee Administrator – Scrutiny Lead
J. Watson	Head of Democratic Services

**Chairman**

Councillor K. Turner	Chairman – Scrutiny Management Team
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**1. REMOVAL OF RECYCLING SITES**

**Decision Called In**

At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 the Executive took the decision shown in the minute below which resulted in a Call In Notice being submitted by Councillors J. Cooney, J. Purcell and P. White:

**“99. REMOVAL OF RECYCLING SITES**

The Environmental Services Manager submitted a report which sought approval for the removal of all public recycling sites from the Borough.

It was reported that with the introduction of Palm Recycling’s payment mechanism and based on the collected tonnages for April 2015 to April 2016 the Council had received £1,496.00 but had incurred costs of £6,000 resulting in a deficit of £4,504.00. It was noted that these costs would rise should any contaminants be found within the recycling banks.

ASDA and B&Q had requested that recycling containers be removed from their sites due to an increase in the level of misuse by commercial users.

It was also reported that over an eight week period from the end of July 2016 to mid-September 2016 Environmental Services had spent a total of almost 114 hours clearing up these sites.

**RESOLVED**

That the removal of all public bring-sites in the Borough be approved.

## **REASON**

- (1)     *The removal of the sites would reduce the level of fly tipping within prominent locations of the Borough and would assist Environmental Services in achieving the £25,580.00 saving agreed at the Executive meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016.***
- (2)     *The removal of the sites would also reduce the burden brought by the additional charge of £4,054.00 per annum being introduced by Palm Recycling.”***

## **REASONS FOR CALL IN**

Councillor Cooney explained that the reason for the Call In was that his group believed that the recycling points were well used and provided a valuable service. He referred to the possible increase in fly tipping across the Borough should these sites be removed. No analysis had been carried out to see how the removal of these sites would impact on fly tipping.

## **EXECUTIVE DECISION**

Councillor Clegg provided details of the costs incurred over the period July 2016 to mid-September 2016 to clear up the recycling sites and the number of hours this had taken (almost 114 hours). Commercial waste being deposited at these sites was a particular concern. ASDA had complained about the condition of their recycling site for some time and as a result had asked for their site to be cleared six days a week which obviously incurred additional costs.

Fly tipping was already a big problem in the Borough and officers felt that the removal of these sites would not add to the problem.

The Scrutiny Chairman and Group Spokespersons felt that the decision made by the Executive was the right one. An alternative saving option had not been identified either.

## **SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION**

Councillor Cooney felt that more targeted work to identify and prosecute the commercial users of the sites was needed. It was explained that this already happened. It was reported that there was evidence to suggest that some fly tipping was from commercial businesses but it didn't always identify which one.