

From: Commissioners <Commissioners@rotherham.gov.uk>

Sent: 18 July 2017 09:37

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FAO [REDACTED] - Waste Management Decision Making Powers

Dear [REDACTED],

I am writing to you in response to your correspondence of 5th July 2017 in relation to the waste management decision-making powers for Rotherham Council. I have enquired into the points you have raised and I will respond to each of these points in turn:

- First you are concerned that I have written to the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities stating that waste management decision-making powers should be returned to the Council.

Commissioners have four key criteria which are considered to inform our recommendations in relation to individual services. In summary these are a) that services are functioning at a good enough level, b) there is good enough officer leadership and plans for improvement, c) there has been some external review activity and d) Councillors are in a position to exercise authority. Commissioners consider that waste management meets these criteria. This does not mean that further work is not required to continue to improve the service. However, Commissioners are satisfied that the member and officer leadership have the skills and are committed to that ongoing improvement. This is supported by the significant improvement in management and delivery over the last 12 months, the ability to deliver a service that is more fit for purpose and the work towards further medium term initiatives which will again enhance current performance.

- You are concerned that bins in Maltby on occasions during the last year have not been collected on collection day without notice and these have been collected on the next day.

It is very regrettable that on occasions, the service has been delayed over the last 12 months and I do apologise for that. I understand that this was predominantly in 2016 with improvement occurring during the end of last year and this year. Issues can arise for a number unforeseeable reasons such as vehicle breakdowns which are managed on a daily basis and problems are rectified the next day. The overall levels of missed bins have reduced by 31% over the last year and are showing a further 26% reduction in the first quarter of this year and are now below the national average. I think this serves to show that the service recognises that the previous performance was not acceptable and has been focused on improving.

- You feel the recycling service has declined this year as "textiles" are no longer collected.

The service to collect textiles at kerbside is available, although due to changes in the recycling fleet, collection may not occur when other materials are collected. Crews are instructed to contact their supervisor who will arrange for an alternative vehicle to make collection of the textiles when they are presented at the kerbside.

The Councils kerbside service currently recycles 44.90% of all waste which has steadily increased by 12% in the last two years.

- You are concerned that the green bin service is not undertaken between November to March so garden waste during the remaining period is disposed of in the black bin.

The decision to suspend household garden waste collections in Rotherham over the winter period has been in place since 2014/15 and was agreed by Rotherham Council Cabinet Members as part of the budget setting process at that time. The Council has had to make some difficult decisions to ensure it has a sustainable budget position. As the kerbside collected garden waste service is seasonal, it was identified that a winter suspension of this service would have a lesser impact on householders when the demand for the service falls in the winter months.

When the service ran for 12 months per year, around 18,700 tonnes of green waste was collected each year. Of this, only 2,700 (14.5%) tonnes was collected over the 5 month period (November – March). This service reduction allows the Council to still collect around 85.5% of the previously collected garden waste. Facilities are available at the Councils Household Recycling Centres for disposal of garden waste during the winter period.

· You are concerned that the recycling materials disposal contract has been retendered without complying with the European wide legislation and that kerbside recycling collection of plastic was not mentioned in correspondence to the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities.

Local Authorities have a legal requirement to rigorously assess their waste collection and disposal services and apply the Necessity and Practicability tests to determine compliance under the new legislation. (TEEP) i.e. is a change to your collection service to comply with legislation Technically, Economically, Ecologically Practicable). This assessment will determine whether changes to collection and disposal services are required.

Rotherham Council has completed this assessment and considers that it has demonstrated that it is currently compliant with the requirements of The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended). However, the Waste Management Service is reviewing the feasibility of increasing or changing the types of recyclable materials collected kerbside. All aspects are currently being investigated (cost, recycling rates, logistics etc) and it is envisaged that further consideration on the future direction of the Council's recycling service will be undertaken during 2017.

I hope this addresses your concerns.

Yours sincerely

Lead Commissioner Mary Ney

Commissioners' Office
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
4th Floor, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE
www.rotherham.gov.uk/commissioners<<http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/commissioners>>

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 05 July 2017 19:37

To: Commissioners

Subject: For attention of: Commissioner Ney

Dear Commissioner Ney,

I am appalled that you have written to the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities stating that Waste Management decision making powers should be returned to the Council. This service is in a terrible state and has declined significantly in the last year.

In the last year alone there have been occasions in Maltby when black bins were not emptied on the correct day and were emptied the following day without prior notice, on more than one occasion there was a similar situation with green bins. The so called recycling collections were also missed recently and caused the waste the blow around. All these relate to large areas of Maltby and not isolated houses.

The recycling service has declined this year as "textiles" are no longer collected.

The green bin is not emptied for half the year so most autumn leaves and spring prunings go in the black bin.

To top all this off, Commissioner Myers granted for the so called recycling service to be retendered without complying with the Europeanwide legislation on what must be collected separately. Rotherham is only one of three authorities in mainland Great Britain not to collect plastic for recycling separate from residual waste (the other two have plans in place).

Not to mention the lack of a kerbside recycling collection of plastic in your letter to the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities is very dishonest, as is failing to mention that the Council is still breaking the law on this matter and has been doing for the last two and half years.

It is so disheartening seeing that other authorities are managing their waste so much better than Rotherham.

Please could you reconsider this matter?

Yours sincerely,

██████████