

COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 2021

At 7.00 pm

in the

DESBOROUGH SUITE - TOWN HALL,

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
8.	<u>MEMBERS' QUESTIONS</u> Written responses	3 - 8

This page is intentionally left blank

a) Councillor Larcombe asked the following question of Councillor Hilton, Cabinet Member for Finance and Ascot:

The RBWM Corporate Plan refers to investing £10m on flood prevention within Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury, and Old Windsor wards. Please confirm that where drainage channels have been deliberately blocked, culverted without authorisation or access to land denied - any public money used to rectify these problems will be recovered from the riparian owners?

Written response: Ordinary Watercourses: Riparian owners have a duty to maintain watercourses for which they are responsible. Under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the Council has the powers to serve notice on riparian owners, for the removal of any blockage to an ordinary watercourse. Should the riparian owner fail to do so, the Council has powers to undertake the work themselves and recharge the costs to the riparian owner. The Council will try to resolve problems through discussion with the owners in the first instance and enforcement of legislation will only be used as the last resort.

Main River Watercourses: The overall responsibility for maintenance of Main Rivers lies with the riparian owner. The Environment Agency has permissive powers to carry out works of maintenance and improvement on Main Rivers where required. This can include any structure or appliance for controlling or regulating flow of water into or out of the channel.

If any joint scheme were to offer an element of funding to riparian owners that would be a matter for those funding the scheme

b) Councillor Larcombe asked the following question of Councillor Hilton, Cabinet Member for Finance and Ascot:

The RBWM Corporate Plan refers to investing £10m on flood prevention within Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury, and Old Windsor wards. Please confirm that for this project RBWM as lead local flood authority has requested the partnership funding contribution from the Environment Agency?

Written response: Members will be aware that earlier this year local stakeholders were invited to submit potential flood risk management schemes for consideration, as part of the partnership project with the Environment Agency. The project's initial task will be to assess the feasibility and economic benefit of these schemes. Business cases will then be developed and potential funding sources identified by the council and the Environment Agency on a scheme-by-scheme basis. This will include the council's £10m contribution, and grant funding from the Environment Agency.

The main source of Environment Agency money for flood schemes is Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Grant in Aid (GiA) provided by central government (through Defra). The allocation of this money is governed by the Government's Partnership Funding policy. The Partnership Funding policy was introduced in 2011. The main objectives are to enable schemes that could not be afforded from central government funding alone and ensure all schemes are assessed

on a common basis. The Environment Agency has initially put a bid for £550k FCRM Grant In Aid (GiA) funding for 2022/23 for this project. As and when the business cases for specific schemes have been completed, further bids will follow.

c) Councillor Davey asked the following question of Councillor Cannon, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Parking:

Can Cllr Cannon please explain clearly why there are discrepancies between Windsor & Maidenhead for the Christmas discounted parking offer?

Written response: *Windsor hosts a monthly retailer meeting at which Christmas parking is discussed. As part of these discussions, we consider footfall rates, which have been increasing steadily since September to a point where it is exceeding 2019 figures over the weekends. The retail group understands that the current financial climate is strained and as such that everyday free parking is not sustainable and so felt that the focus of any free parking offered should be on the days which see lower footfall rather than offer free parking at a time when the town is already busy. On that basis Tuesday and Thursdays were submitted along with the Christmas Light Switch on dates, to the Parking team for consideration. Clearly there needs to be a balance and fairness across the whole of the borough and moving forward would suggest that there is a more formal opportunity for businesses to contribute to the discussion on free parking for the council to consider in line with what Maidenhead has been put forward and offered.*

d) Councillor Davey asked the following question of Councillor Clark, Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity:

With regards to the small plots of land that are "adopted highways", can the lead member explain the liability responsibilities of the owner and RBWM?

Written response: *Where land is designated as adopted Highway, RBWM as Highway Authority will be responsible for the surface, it's maintenance and all other duties under the Highways Act 1980. The land beneath the surface is the responsibility of the owner in all other respects.*

Link to Highways Act 1980: [Highways Act 1980 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/section/1)

e) Councillor Price asked the following question of Councillor Coppinger, Cabinet Member for Planning, Environmental Services and Maidenhead:

Since the change to our waste collection, what are the weekly statistics in terms of numbers and response times for residents reporting missed bins, non-delivery of assisted collections and large/new bins?

Written response: *All collection rounds have been completed on the scheduled collection day from day one of the new collection service, except for a small number of access issues, caused by parked cars and roadworks. Individual ward members*

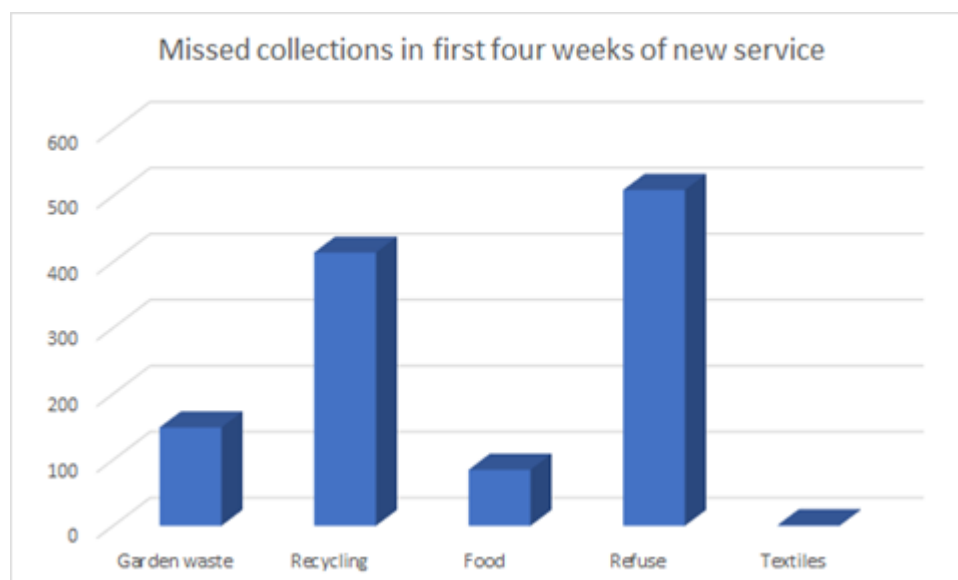
were made aware of these on the same day they happened, if it had an impact in their area. This is a really successful start to a new collection service.

Over the first four weeks of the new collection service, there have been 1158 missed collections, the aim is to return for all missed collections within two working days of the report being made; this has not been met in a small proportion of cases but missed bin crews have been out on Saturdays to clear any remaining missed collections each week. Although the number of missed collections has been higher than it was before the change, it still remains low in comparison to the total number of collections being completed, and some disruption was expected as both collection staff and residents get used to the new collection schedules and minor issues with the rounds are ironed out.

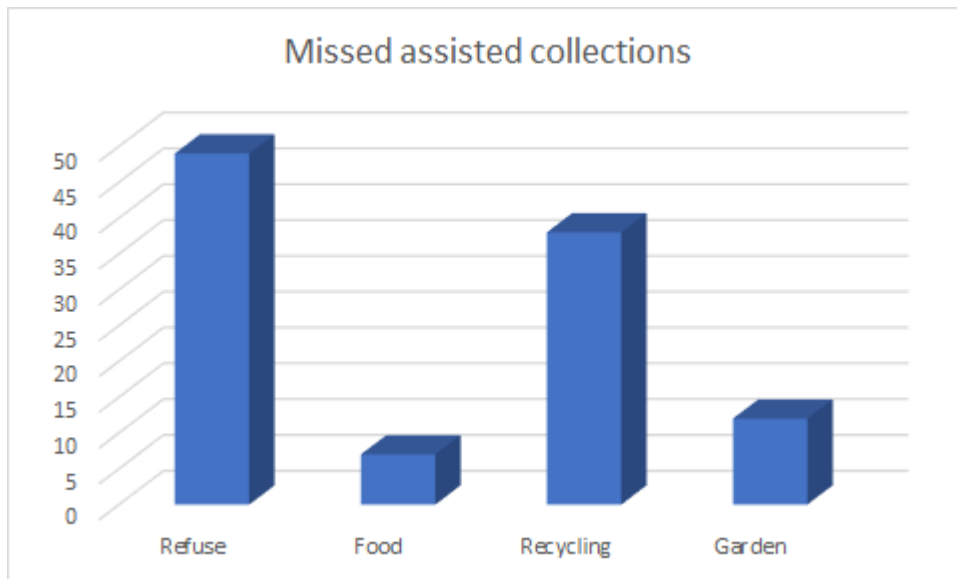
Missed collections in first four weeks.

Garden waste	149
Recycling	414
Food	85
Refuse	509
Textiles	1
Total	1158

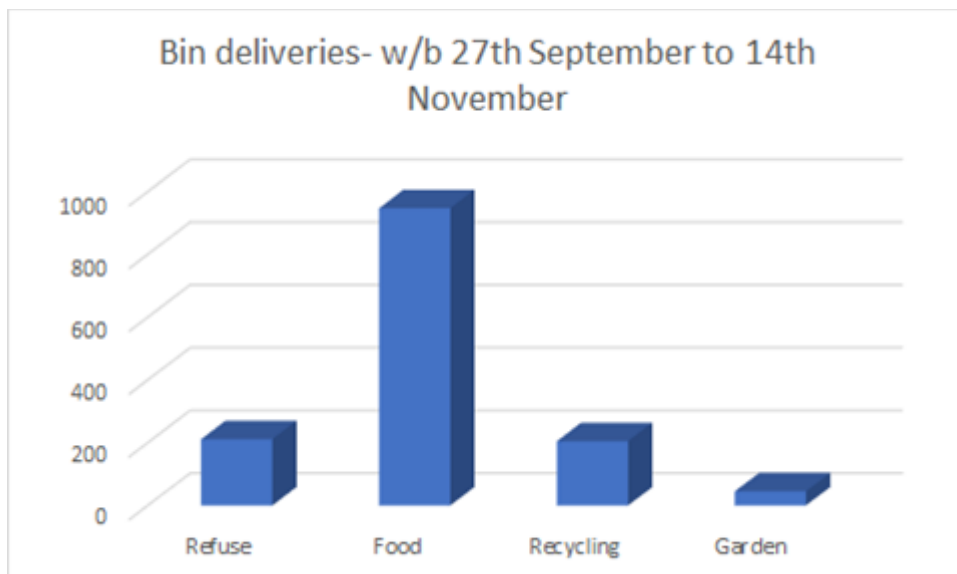
The split of missed collections is shown below:



In the first four weeks of the new collection service, there were 106 missed assisted collections, the split across collections is shown below:



Since the w/c the 27th September, which is when the information about the new collection services started to be received, there have been 1408 requests for new bins, with the largest number of requests being for food waste caddies. Most refuse bin requests have been for bins for those entitled to additional capacity as a result of the collection changes. The split of bins requested is shown below:



f) Councillor Tisi asked the following question of Councillor Coppinger, Cabinet Member for Planning, Environmental Services and Maidenhead:

Residents and members have been reporting an increase in overflowing public waste bins for months. Litter and dog waste bags are piling up in our streets. What steps has the lead member taken to resolve apparent issues with the contract and would providing more litter bins, for which members were asked to identify locations months ago, have improved the situation?

Written response: *Depending on the location of litter bins these are either emptied as part of the street cleansing service by Urbaser if they are on the highway network, or by Tivoli if they are litter bins in parks and open spaces or dog waste bins. Members were presented with information about performance on the Tivoli contract and work that is being undertaken to improve this as Communities overview and Scrutiny and this is ongoing.*

In terms of dog waste bins, dog ownership in the country has increased by 25% over the period of the pandemic and this is having an impact on usage in some locations, which is being looked at. In terms of litter bins on the public highways, they are being emptied to the regular schedules and additional collections are made where reports are received of them being full in between scheduled collections. In some cases this is due to misuse of litter bins by local businesses and where this is suspected to be the case we are working with District Enforcement to ensure that businesses understand and are complying with their duty of care to responsibly dispose of their waste.

The locations members have identified as possibly requiring more bins are being looked at for their suitability and whether there are options to move bins from locations where bins are not well used. We have also put in a capital bid for some additional litter bins.

This page is intentionally left blank