

<b>Subject:</b>	Policy Committee Update
<b>Reason for briefing note:</b>	To provide an update re key Policy Committee items that have progressed to Cabinet.
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<b>Senior leader sponsor:</b>	NA
<b>Date:</b>	5 April 2016

## SUMMARY

This briefing note seeks to update the Policy Committee on key reports that have since progressed to Cabinet for approval, namely: Dynamic Purchasing System and Textile Recycling. Both policies were approved, in principle, in March 2016 Cabinet: with a dynamic purchasing system pilot set to launch by June and a soft market testing exercise currently underway to determine the textile recycling markets' appetite for providing kerbside collection services.

## 1 DYNAMIC PURCHASING

- 1.1 The dynamic purchasing of residential and nursing care packages was discussed by the Committee in September 2015. Dynamic purchasing involves the use of an electronic system to commission services on a case-by-case basis. This method of procurement is being used elsewhere and is delivering both improvements in service quality and reductions in Council expenditure.
- 1.2 The task and finish group presented its outcomes report in December 2015. The report concluded that there was sufficient evidence to suggest the concept of a Royal Borough DPS was viable. It recommended that an outline business case be developed and appended to a future options report for Cabinet.
- 1.3 In March, Cabinet approved the pilot of the Bravo Solutions Dynamic Purchasing System at a development cost of £4,000 and requested that an update report on the findings of the pilot to October 2016 Cabinet.
- 1.4 The pilot will launch by June 2016 and will last for four months. It will focus on the procurement of home-to-school transport services; an area where the Council is currently spending approximately £2.5m per annum.
- 1.5 Significant savings are not expected to be generated during the proposed pilot, but there is a long-term aspiration to improve outcomes and achieve better value for money via the system.
- 1.6 Officers are also exploring the suitability of a dynamic purchasing system for use within the Borough's residential care market. Current spend in this area is around £9.3m per annum and is forecast to increase in coming years.
- 1.7 Officers will report back to Cabinet on the findings of the pilot and appropriate next steps in October 2016.

## **2 TEXTILE RECYCLING**

- 2.1 Possible ways to boost local recycling rates and reduce volumes of waste being sent to landfill sites were discussed by the Committee in October 2015. It was agreed that a task and finish group should be established to investigate the topic further and propose solutions.
- 2.2 A subsequent Cabinet report in March 2016 presented opportunities to improve the Council's textile recycling offer and Members approved the undertaking of a soft market testing exercise to determine the textile recycling markets' appetite for providing: improved textile collection bank services; kerbside collection services; and school services, including a textile recycling education programme. There is a delegation to implement an enhanced textile recycling service in the Borough should the market testing prove positive.
- 2.3 The report also explored the opportunity to generate income from the sale of textiles to the recycling and reuse markets. Such textiles, if recycled, could generate an income of £200 per tonne, with a maximum income of £680,000 per annum. Realistically, officers believe that the council could generate amounts in the region of £50,000 - £323,000 per annum.

## **3. OTHER POLICY AREAS**

- 3.1 The Policy Committee has also previously explored the concept of extending access to Council services to 24/7 coverage. The output of this debate has been fed into the Delivering Services Differently in Operations and Customers Services agenda and continues to be an ambition of the Council moving forward.