

## STATEMENT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY – 29 MARCH 2017

### Sam Crooks in support of the reference back

I am afraid that I am not able to attend tonight's meeting on account of a clash of dates with my Parish Council.

My concern with the proposal is based partly on (i) dubious – because over-optimistic - figures, (ii) acceptance of a reduction in recycling, and (iii) an inappropriate procedure in that this recommendation was not considered through a budget process, which sets a precedent.

However the main point I wish to address is operational. Two of the four Facebook groups in my ward have exchanged views on the proposal at some length providing an insight as to how residents are likely to react. Among the comments made are:

- When there was a last a charge it didn't matter. Cory's just went up and down the road and emptied every bin left out. The speed SERCO have to do things they won't have time to inspect every bin to see if it has a sticker
- I keep losing my bin - to neighbours I assume. Will the Council refund me or provide a new one at no charge if it's stolen.
- We'll just put everything in our black bags, they're not going to open them
- We'll carry it down to the (*Brooklands*) Meadows. Garden waste is organic – it'll decompose there
- Will I get a refund if my bins aren't collected one day
- I only put out my green bin once a fortnight during the summer. Why should I pay the same as someone who does every week.
- If they need the money there are plenty of other stupid things that they could cut.
- I thought the Council was broke – that's what they're always telling us anyway. Who's going to pay for all the administration of this scheme.

These are examples – my worry is that we are storing up a load of unnecessary trouble for an already overworked Environmental Help line.

I would strongly suggest that the proposal is withdrawn or at least left on the table to be considered as part of the next budgetary round.

Sam Crooks  
29 March 2017