

Council	Agenda Item 106(a)
27 March 2014	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

IMPROVING THE REFUSE AND RECYCLING SERVICE

Insert text into shown in bold italics and the deletion of the text as struck through.

This Council ***acknowledges the regular meetings held daily by senior officers and monthly by lead councillors with officers to oversee the refuse and recycling changes underway, including the extensive introduction of communal recycling. Whilst there have been challenges and regrettable disruptions, for which we apologise, this Council knows the result will be an efficient and effective service. We thank residents for their understanding through this difficult time. This Council also notes the forthcoming briefings on the service to which all councillors have been invited.***

This Council thanks its officers for working to deal with the unresolved matters left by previous administrations of equal pay and allowances as well as the need for a new programme of vehicle investment and renewal. This Council thanks the entire CityClean workforce for their hard work in dealing with these significant and challenging changes, the biggest the service has ever faced. ~~resolves to request the Leader of the Council to immediately set up a Command Group to address as a matter of urgency the ongoing problems with the City Clean refuse and recycling service.~~

Supporting information:

Refuse collection and recycling services in the city are in disarray and have never fully recovered from the industrial action by CityClean staff last Summer. Vehicles are continually breaking down, the communal recycling service is experiencing huge teething problems, rubbish is strewn across the streets and in the areas without communal facilities, residents have little or no idea when, or indeed if, their refuse and recycling is going to be collected.

The Command Group should be Chaired by the Leader of the Council and include the Chief Executive, Head of City Clean, Head of Human Resources and the Lead Councillor for the Environment. It should be tasked with getting a grip on this most basic of Council services. The Group's terms of reference should include:

- Meeting every day until the rubbish collection system is clearly working efficiently – ie for as long as it takes.

- Going through every morning with the Head of CityClean each report of a missed collection – find out why it was missed and when the catch up is being done.
- Ordering an immediate investigation into the extraordinary number of breakdowns which are hampering the service.
- Communicating every day to residents, with a press release and update on the website detailing how many collections were missed.
- Phoning at least 10 residents each day who had a missed collection and listen to what has happened. Feedback their concerns directly to the Head of CityClean
- Holding a meeting each week for an hour at the depot with a front line crew to listen to their concerns and ideas for improving the service.

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Kitcat Seconded by: Cllr. West