

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH****PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: SAYYED OSMAN****DATE: 11 OCTOBER 2013****PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE****Scrap metal licensing**

The new licensing regime under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 came into force on 1st October. Under the requirements operators of scrap metal yards and scrap metal collectors need to apply to be licensed by local authorities from December 2013.

As part of the application process a check will be made into the criminal record of the applicant. Local authorities will have the power to turn down unsuitable applications and to revoke licences where problems are caused including sanctions to close any unlicensed sites. The Police will be able to object to the issuing of licences. Sites and collectors will have to display signs to show they hold the relevant licence. A fee will be charged to cover the reasonable costs of dealing with the licensing regime. (Details at Executive Board in November).

Prior to the introduction of the licensing regime all scrap metal dealers had to be registered with the local authority. No fee was payable for this and there was little scope for enforcement. To assist the trade in transferring over to the licensing regime all current traders have been sent advice about the steps they need to take. Drop in sessions have taken place where help in completing the application was available.

Metal theft figures have seen a large increase in the last 10 years with the Home Office estimating there were up to 100,000 crimes in 2010/11. It's hoped that the new licensing regime will cut down on these figures, giving police and local authorities more powers to prosecute offenders.

To support the understanding of the Metal Act the Portfolio will be hosting a Member briefing session.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**Your Call**

The uptake in the last 2 months in the number of Your Call community clean-up activities and also the numbers attending has been high. Some 21 events have been organised by the community, with 418 volunteers attending the events.

Work is presently underway to contact last year's Winter Squad groups, to build on last year's success in preparation for the forthcoming winter months.

Waste and Recycling

The tonnage for August and September of this year for waste taken to landfill is 5,454 tonnes, which is some 287 tonnes less than the same period in 2012, when the tonnage was 5,741.

The kerbside recycling tonnage collected in the grey bins for August and September this year was 2,159, which is some 131 tonnes less than the same period in 2012, when the tonnage was 2,290.