

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



5th March 2015

Waste Programme - Update

Joint report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and Terry Collins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with supporting information in advance of the update on the waste programme.

Background

- 2 The work programme for Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee includes monitoring the delivery of the Council's waste strategy, which meets the objective of Reducing Waste within the Altogether Greener section of the Council Plan for 2012 – 2016.
- 3 In June of 2013 a major milestone was reached within the Waste Programme with the introduction of new multi-million pound waste management arrangements for the transfer, haulage and disposal of residual waste collected from the kerbside and also the management and operation of the household waste recycling centres (HWRCs).
- 4 The introduction of the new arrangements has continued to generate improvements in the financial and environmental performance in the waste management service, and work continues to build on this success on an ongoing basis.
- 5 Current elements of the waste programme include a the introduction of a subscription for Garden Waste collection, which will be operational in March 2015, the introduction of a trial mobile recycling centre in Frosterley, the high profile "Bin it Right" campaign to reduce contamination in recycling bins, ongoing work with the University and residents groups in Durham City to improve the management of wastes from student properties in the city and a procurement process for recycling materials collected at the kerbside.
- 6 An update on the progress of the waste programme will be presented by Alan Patrickson, Head of Projects and Business Services for the information of the committee.

Recommendation

- 8 It is recommended that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the waste programme update.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The procurement of new waste contracts are expected to reduce ongoing waste disposal costs and insulate the Council from future exposure to escalating landfill tax payments.

Staffing - There will be some TUPE implications connected to the re-procurement of services but no Council staff will be affected.

The implementation of new collection arrangements will have implications for collection crews.

Risk – Procurement of services on the open market always present some level of risk. Risks are managed within the project office and reviewed by the Waste Board (of members and officers) on a monthly basis.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – There are no equality and diversity issues to be considered as part of this update. An equality and diversity assessment for the introduction of a twin bin scheme has been completed.

Accommodation – none

Crime and Disorder - none

Human Rights – none

Consultation – Surveys have been undertaken.

Procurement – The procurement processes are supported by the Corporate Procurement department supplemented by outside legal advice where appropriate.

Disability Issues – Addressed in the Equality and Diversity Assessment.

Legal Implications –. The Environment Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Council to arrange for the collection of household waste and waste from commercial premises when requested to do so.

Appendix 2 – Bin it Right Campaign



1. Recycling Services

The Bin it right Campaign is in support of our recycling Services:

- Alternate Weekly Collections (AWC) were introduced for rubbish and recycling across County Durham in 2012.
- Residents now have a recycling bin for tins, cans, cardboard, paper and plastic bottles, tubs and trays and a recycling box for glass bottles and jars.
- 2012/13 kerbside tonnage collected 46,713 tonnes
- Reuse, recycling and composting recycling rate for 2012/13 was 43.6% (2013/14 - 42.8%)

2. Contamination – What are we finding?

The main contaminants found in recycling bins, in the County Durham area:

- Pet waste
- Nappies and
- Food waste

Other common contaminants are:

Black Bags – items placed in black bags can't be recycled because the collection crews can't see what it is in the bag and it could contain contaminated recycling/waste.

Mixed plastics including polystyrene – markets for plastics other than bottles, pots, tubs and trays are limited.

Textiles – cannot be processed at the sorting plant and can damage the sorting equipment.

3. Why is it a problem?

It cost money!

Transporting, sorting and disposing of items that can't be recycled costs money. Contamination cost Durham County Council £100 per tonne.

It spoils clean recycling

When items that can't be recycled (e.g. food waste, pet waste or nappies) are put in a recycling bin, other materials such as newspapers and cardboard will become dirty or wet and then often can't be recycled.

It's bad for the Environment

Not recycling the right items in your bin and box wastes time and energy at the sorting facility, also transporting the items for disposal creates more CO² and other greenhouse gases.

4. The Bin it Right Campaign

The Bin It Right contamination campaign commenced in April 2014.

The campaign will include:

- Website, Facebook Page and Twitter Feeds.
- Posters and Leaflets in Community Locations
- Collection Vehicle Livery (Agripa Panel)
- Leaflet and articles in Durham County News
- Press Releases
- Door-knocking in Targeted Areas (6 Recycling Assistants)
- Roadshows and Community Events
- Bins Stickers
- Targeting Persistent Offenders (see next slide) and
- Presentations to Community Groups/ Schools

5. Process

Collection crews report a contaminated bin via the in-cab Bartec system and place a sticker on the bin detailing what contamination has been found. This information is automatically forwarded to the CRM, so customer services can relay information to residents on why their bin has been left.

Recycling Assistants door knocking and working with the crews to identify contaminated recycling bins and engage with residents.

Stickers followed up by letters in a three stage process.

Between 9th June -15th August, 2014 a total of 5,030 letters have been issued. From May – August, 23,973 door knocks have been conducted and over 7,742 people have been directly engaged on a face to face basis.

Results are seeing less rejected and downgraded material at the Material Recycling Facilities (MRF's).



WEEKLY % OF DOWNGRADES (LOADS)

