

## **RECYCLING INITIATIVES – FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report provides Members with information about the current recycling scheme and gives details on addressing the common public complaints received on the kerbside scheme that were outlined to this Committee previously.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Council currently operates a kerbside recycling scheme for approximately 5,700 households within the District. This comprises an alternating fortnightly collection of residual waste (grey bin) and organic waste (green bin), in addition to a weekly collection of dry recyclables (blue box).
- 2.2 The Council also has 58 bring bank sites located around the District that receive various materials including glass, paper, cans and textiles. The recycling credits received for these materials are included in the table in section 3.3 of this report, in addition to the associated costs.
- 2.3 The Council's Government Standard for the percentage of household waste recycled is 10% by 2003/04 and 18% by 2005/06. In 2000/01 Rochford's recycling rate was 5.4% and in 2001/02 it rose to 8.1% (following the expansion of the kerbside scheme in September 2001).
- 2.4 Following a report to this Committee on 18 July 2002 giving an update on the kerbside recycling scheme, Members requested that a further report be brought to this Committee, giving details of financial rewards that the Council receives in relation to its recycling schemes. (Minute 350/02 – Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 18 July 2002).

### **3 RECYCLING CREDITS**

- 3.1 The Council receives recycling credit payments from Essex County Council for all materials that are recycled, either via the kerbside scheme or from the bring bank sites.
- 3.2 The current rates of the recycling credits are £30.54 per ton for all dry recyclables and £7.90 per ton for Green Waste. For the year 2001/02

the recycling credits were £27.52 per ton for dry recyclables and £9.90 per ton for green waste.

- 3.3 The following table provides a breakdown of the recycling credits received from Essex County Council since April 2000 and also the net income once any costs related to the Bring Bank sites have been taken into account.

QUARTERS	2000 / 2001 £		2001 / 2002 £		2002 / 2003 £	
	Dry	Green	Dry	Green	Dry	Green
April – June	7,843	944	11,886	971	17,133	2,510
July – Sept.	8,272	910	11,625	676	18,000 Estimate	2,400 Estimate
Oct. – Dec.	8,866	477	15,159	2,535	19,300 Estimate	2,100 Estimate
Jan. – March	9,543	251	16,301	1,907	20,500 Estimate	1,450 Estimate
<b>YEAR TOTAL</b>	<b>34,524</b>	<b>2,582</b>	<b>54,971</b>	<b>6,089</b>	<b>74,933 Estimate</b>	<b>8,460 Estimate</b>
<b>DRY &amp; GREEN TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>37,106</b>		<b>61,060</b>		<b>Estimate 83,393</b>	
<b>BRING BANK COSTS</b>	<b>-18,035</b>		<b>-17,292</b>		<b>Estimate -16,300</b>	
<b>NET BRING BANK INCOME</b>	<b>10,527</b>		<b>19,217</b>		<b>Estimate 20,700</b>	
<b>KERBSIDE INCOME</b>	<b>8,544</b>		<b>24,551</b>		<b>Estimate 46,393</b>	

- 3.4 The net bring bank income and kerbside income are a breakdown of the total dry and green income, after deducting the bring bank costs.
- 3.5 From the above table it can be seen that there was a significant increase in the recycling credits received from October 2001, following the expansion of the kerbside scheme in the previous month.
- 3.6 The cost to the Council for the collection of the kerbside recycling scheme is £108,184 (approximately 5,700 households). This is the direct cost from Serviceteam and does not include recycling staff

salaries, other costs and related overheads. Members have previously been advised that the kerbside recycling scheme could be expanded to 15,000 within the existing staff structure. Looking at these direct costs and the net bring bank and kerbside income, the current total scheme is costing around £41,000 per year.

- 3.7 As a result of these recycling schemes, there has been a significant increase in the Council's recycling rate as detailed in section 2.3 of this report. As last year's expansion of the kerbside scheme commenced half way through the year, it is expected that even without any further initiatives or expansion, this year's recycling rate will again increase, due to the participation of those extra 4,200 households for a whole year. The estimate for this year's recycling rate is between 9.5% and 10.5%.
- 3.8 In addition to the financial information, the implementation of the various recycling schemes has meant that a considerable amount of waste has been diverted from going to landfill sites. The following table details the amounts of the various different materials that have not been disposed of at landfill sites.

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>2000/ 01 Tons</b>	<b>2001/02 Tons</b>	<b>2002/2003 Tons One Quarter Only</b>	<b>TOTAL Tons To Date</b>
Paper (Bank Sites)	621.74	684.22	144.60	<b>1450.56</b>
Glass (Bank Sites)	465.79	481.61	111.05	<b>1058.45</b>
Cans (Bank Sites)	9.38	9.66	2.15	<b>21.19</b>
Textiles (Bank Sites)	65.11	92.36	37.55	<b>195.02</b>
Scrap Metal	42.66	58.80	21.52	<b>122.98</b>
Dry Recyclables (Kerbside)	251.42	670.88	244.12	<b>1166.42</b>
Green Waste	249.64	614.96	317.68	<b>1182.28</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1705.74</b>	<b>2612.49</b>	<b>878.67</b>	<b>5196.90</b>

- 3.9 Assuming that around 3,500 tons of waste will be recycled this year, it would mean that the Council is now diverting from landfill twice as much waste as it was in 2000/01.
- 3.10 From information obtained from the Recycling Station at Rainham, where the kerbside dry recyclables are taken, it is clear that the

contamination levels within this District's collection are very low and therefore the vast majority of collected material does get recycled.

- 3.11 As some Members will have seen on the visit to the Rainham site, Cleanaway has invested a significant amount of capital into the facilities and the machinery and processes employed mean that sorting of the waste materials is extremely effective.

#### **4 KERBSIDE SCHEME – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- 4.1 At the meeting of this Committee on 18 July, the update report on the kerbside recycling scheme highlighted a few of the most common public comments / complaints. Members requested that methods of addressing these issues be brought back to a future meeting and are therefore detailed below.

##### **4.2 Fortnightly Collection**

The fortnightly collection of the grey bin is crucial to the scheme, as returning it to a weekly collection would incur the cost of another full collection round (approximately £90,000 – £100,000). It would also considerably reduce the volume of waste that was recycled via the green bin and blue box.

##### **Blue Box**

- 4.3 To replace the blue box with a larger receptacle would require significant extra capital expenditure, in addition to the fact that many people do find it an adequate size. Most of these comments are solved by reminding residents that extra bags of dry recyclables placed by the box will be collected.
- 4.4 We are still enquiring with recycling box suppliers for one that has a lid that does remain fixed but as yet have not located a suitable item.
- 4.5 In relation to the blue box being too heavy to carry, most of these cases occurred at the start of the expansion. Where residents are more elderly or disabled, they have been added to the assisted collection service.

##### **4.6 Green Bin**

If the green bins are not fully emptied due to being compacted then there is now a process in place, whereby the contractor will return to the property once the resident has tried to loosen the contents. If it still does not empty, the contractor will then exchange the bin.

**5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The recycling of household waste reduces the amount that is sent to landfill and therefore has a positive effect on the environmental standards existing within our District.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The operation of the kerbside recycling scheme costs the Council £108,184 per annum in direct cost for Serviceteam, less estimated income of around £46,000, making a net cost of around £62,200 (approximately 5,700 households). If the kerbside scheme were to be expanded it should be remembered that initially the income from any new scheme will take time to develop. In addition to the revenue cost there would be an additional capital cost of approximately £70,000 per 5000 properties for the supply of bins and boxes.
- 6.2 Members are reminded that any significant change to the budget should only take place within the budget process when Members consider competing priorities.

**7 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That Members note the content of this report and in particular the costs and income related to the various recycling schemes in place and also the amount of waste that is diverted away from landfill. (CD(F&ES))

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

---

**Background Papers:**

None

For further information please contact Jeremy Bourne on:-

Tel:- 01702 318163

E-Mail:- [jeremy.bourne@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:jeremy.bourne@rochford.gov.uk).