

UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S RECYCLING SERVICE / PERFORMANCE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress of the Council's recycling schemes, including specific figures on the recycling performance.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Over the last few years the Council has implemented significant expansion to its recycling service, and in particular, the kerbside scheme that is now in operation. While the Council is not yet a high performing authority in relation to recycling, this expansion has resulted in a steady increase in the recycling rate.
- 2.2 The current recycling contracts – both the kerbside scheme and buy-into green waste scheme – are due to expire on 31 March 2008, and as Members will be aware, the procurement process for the new contracts is in progress, in not only these areas, but also street cleansing and ground maintenance. The competitive dialogue process being utilised for this procurement is assisting the Council in reviewing the nature of its waste management service, in order to significantly increase its level of recycling performance. A concurrent exempt report on this agenda deals with the next stage of the procurement process.

3 RECYCLING SCHEMES

- 3.1 Attached as Appendix (A) and (B) to this report are the summary sheets for 2006/07 and 2007/08 that give a detailed breakdown of the recycling tonnages collected by material, and in addition to the landfill waste, provides a month by month recycling rate.
- 3.2 As Members will already be aware, the performance through 2006/07 showed significant improvement, particularly from around September onwards. The overall recycling rate for 2005/06 was 14.5% but from September 2006 onwards the monthly recycling rate did not go below 17%. On a number of these months the figure rose to over 18% and reached a "high" in February 2007 of 19.09%. The overall figure for 2006/07 (albeit subject to final confirmation in conjunction with Essex County Council) was 17.23% against our target of 19.3%.
- 3.3 The summary sheet for 2007/08 (Appendix B) has completed data for April 2007, during which time the recycling rate was 18.02%. At the time of writing this report, the figures for May 2007 are not yet available but any updated figures for this month will be brought to the meeting of the Sub-Committee.

- 3.4 The kerbside scheme continues to be expanded to further households across the District, accompanied by additional promotional and awareness initiatives, in order to maximise participation rates and capture rates of the appropriate material. The percentage of the District's households that currently receive a kerbside recycling collection now stands at 98%.
- 3.5 The roll-out of the scheme to flatted accommodation was completed in February 2007, and as mentioned at previous meetings, expansion to caravan parks was to be the next phase of the roll-out. This has now been implemented, with four out of the seven District's caravan parks participating in the scheme, with collections having started in March 2007. Further discussions are continuing with the three remaining sites, with collections to start as soon as practicably possible. These collections are being carried out on a similar basis to the flats, in that communal recycling bins are located on the parks for each of the three materials that are collected on the rest of the kerbside scheme, ie, paper, glass and cans.
- 3.6 The recycling team have been continuing their work with the District's schools in trying to include them on the recycling scheme. 30 schools were approached and provided with packages describing the nature of the recycling service available, if they wished to participate. Responses have been received from 17 of these schools, providing details on which materials they would be interested in collecting. Most of these responses have been for paper collections only, although a few schools have specified an interest in can recycling.
- 3.7 Individual meetings are now being arranged and taking place with these schools, to ascertain how and where collections can be made, how many receptacles they require, to carry out health and safety assessment and give out posters / stickers, etc, publicising the scheme.
- 3.8 The opportunity is also being taken at this time to provide the schools with the household recycling survey questionnaires for each pupil, in order to gain valuable information on participation around the District in both the kerbside and bring bank services. Once these surveys are returned (by an agreed date), then it is the intention to commence collections at that particular school. At present only one school is actually receiving collections – Ashingdon Primary School - although it is expected that a number of the other schools will come on board over the next few weeks.
- 3.9 As previously mentioned, much greater emphasis is now being placed on implementing communication and public awareness initiatives, with regard to the current recycling service. The Council has been successful in obtaining external grant funding from WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) as part of their Behavioural Change Local Fund Intensive Support Package. This fund was aimed at low performing authorities and is aimed specifically at assisting with communications and awareness work. As part of this funding, the recycling team has a communications co-ordinator (allocated via a

consultancy who will be based with the team until April next year and will co-ordinate and implement a range of road shows, awareness campaigns, leaflet drops, door knocking, participation surveys, etc. The approximate value of this funding support is estimated at £117,000. The communications co-ordinator will also lead on the awareness raising of the new waste and recycling contract, particularly around any new methods of collection or additional materials to be recycled.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The expansion to the recycling schemes detailed in this report are being implemented within current approved budgets, in addition to the external grant funding that has been obtained.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RESOLVES**

That the content of this report in relation to the current level of recycling and the initiatives that are being progressed through the remainder of this year be noted.

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Background Papers:-

None

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If you would like this report in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.

2006/07	Date												APPENDIX A
Material	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Total Prediction
<i>Kerbside</i>													
Paper	188.84	189.14	203.20	172.54	189.82	207.78	228.55	224.38	186.56	215.38	207.72	222.42	2436.33
Glass	110.84	112.70	142.04	130.72	127.26	122.24	117.24	119.40	125.12	183.54	114.48	129.38	1534.96
Cans	21.76	21.1	23.38	18.46	19.32	18.34	21.94	21.64	21.20	25.52	32.16	24.10	268.923
Textiles - Shoe Friends										0.150	0.800	0.150	
<i>Bring Banks</i>													
Paper	17.180	32.681	23.685	22.472	21.579	35.013	25.811	41.853	20.006	29.328	30.841	44.270	344.72
Glass	30.408	15.120	23.091	15.516	23.178	31.490	12.617	16.574	9.825	28.346	24.682	14.577	245.42
Cans	0.632	0.000	0.837	1.283	0.000	0.856	1.052	0.700	0.500	0.840	0.840	0.820	8.36
Plastics	2.960	2.740	3.600	3.420	4.160	3.120	3.120	4.300	3.200	3.660	3.520	3.660	41.46
Textiles	8.284	9.191	7.015	7.879	8.831	8.008	7.119	9.115	5.258	9.255	8.521	9.863	98.34
<i>Other Recycling</i>													
Scrap	3.72	4.12	5.04	3.14	2.68	4.34	6.98	5.48	4.30	2.84	4.18	3.52	50.34
Fridges/Freezers	4.96	9.28	3.92	8.88	7.28	8.24	11.32	4.52	8.40	9.52	0.00	11.12	87.44
CRT					0.18	0.12	0.00				0.00		0.30
Yellow Pages							4.42						4.42
tyres										2.39	0.00		
Total Recycling Tonnage	389.58	396.07	435.81	384.31	404.29	439.55	440.17	447.97	384.37	510.77	427.74	463.88	5121.02
<i>Composting</i>													
Kerbside Collections	35.26	71.98	81.68	55.32	50.72	69.06	58.50	49.26	27.32	20.82	21.46	49.62	
Composting Tonnage	35.26	71.98	81.68	55.32	50.72	69.06	58.50	49.26	27.32	20.82	21.46	49.62	591.00
<i>Refuse Collections</i>													
Landfilled Waste	2,228.94	2,544.96	2,610.14	2,189.34	2,295.22	2,325.44	2,302.97	2,152.86	1,949.48	2,230.60	1,862.22	2,130.75	
Street Cleansing	69.76	34.08	60.24	58.28	63.14	59.08	41.64	35.64	44.68	37.52	42.18	67.80	
Landfill Disposal	2,298.70	2,579.04	2,670.38	2,247.62	2,358.36	2,384.52	2,344.61	2,188.50	1,994.16	2,268.12	1,904.40	2,198.55	27,436.96
Total Household Waste	2723.54	3047.09	3187.87	2687.25	2813.37	2893.13	2843.28	2685.73	2405.85	2799.71	2353.60	2712.05	33148.98
Recycling Percent	14.30	13.00	13.67	14.30	14.37	15.19	15.48	16.68	15.98	18.24	18.17	17.10	15.45
Composting Percent	1.29	2.36	2.56	2.06	1.80	2.39	2.06	1.83	1.14	0.74	0.91	1.83	1.78
Recycling Rate	15.60	15.36	16.23	16.36	16.17	17.58	17.54	18.51	17.11	18.99	19.09	18.93	17.23
Landfill Percent	84.40	84.64	83.77	83.64	83.83	82.42	82.46	81.49	82.89	81.01	80.91	81.07	82.77

2007/08	Date													APPENDIX B	
Material	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Total	Prediction	
<i>Kerbside</i>															
Paper	190.24	175.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	366.12		
Glass	134.01	114.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	248.37		
Cans	21.53	20.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.04		
Textiles - Shoe Friends	0.475	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
<i>Bring Banks</i>															
Paper	30.668	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	30.67		
Glass	29.907	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	29.91		
Cans	0.620	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.052	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.67		
Plastics	3.880	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.88		
Textiles	8.447	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	8.45		
<i>Other Recycling</i>															
Scrap	3.02	0.00	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!		
Fridges/Freezers														0.00	
CRT														0.00	
Yellow Pages														0.00	
tyres															
Total Recycling Tonnage	422.80	310.75	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!		
<i>Composting</i>															
Kerbside Collections	69.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Composting Tonnage	69.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.14		
<i>Refuse Collections</i>															
Landfilled Waste	2,209.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Street Cleansing	27.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Landfill Disposal	2,237.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,237.70		
Total Household Waste	2729.64	310.75	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!		
Recycling Percent	15.49	100.00	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!		
Composting Percent	2.53	0.00	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!		
Recycling Rate	18.02	100.00	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!		
Landfill Percent	81.98	0.00	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!		