

APPENDIX C

**WASTE AND RECYCLING STRATEGY WORKSHOP: TECHNICAL NOTE
NUMBER 1**

Title	Report Summary of Waste and Recycling Strategy Meeting
Date	10.10.11
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Content

Report Summary of Members Workshop 10th October 2011

Background

Harborough District Council is currently in the process of compiling a Waste and Recycling Strategy for the District. HDC's main function in this area is as the body responsible for collecting household waste. How and what the Council collects from households is fundamental to how much waste the district sends to landfill and how much material is reused or recycled.

The overall purpose of the workshop was;

- to facilitate views and opinions on different methods and frequencies of collection.
- to gauge views on how our current collection arrangements compare with the 3 bin collection system.

Process

Members were asked to attend a workshop on 10th October 2011 in order to facilitate discussion and gather views on our current and possible future service delivery options. Twenty four councillors attended as listed below:

Councillor	Councillor
Ackerley	Hall
Bannister	Hallam
Beaty	Dr Hill
Beesley-Reynolds	Holyoak
Mrs Burrell	King
Charlish	Knowles
Dann	Liquorish
Dewes	Mrs Robinson
Evans	Rook
Everett	Smith
Galton	Spendlove-Mason
Golding	Tomlin

The workshop was Chaired by the Interim Chief Executive Officer (ICEO), and facilitated by the Interim Chief Executive, Head of Environment and Leisure Services, Head of Corporate & Development Services, Head of Health and Enforcement Services and the Business Planning and Transformation Officer. The Head of Environmental Services from Rugby Borough Council was also in attendance.

Introduction

The Interim Chief Executive gave an introduction which covered the following points:

- The Strategy was part of the Council's long term vision to maintain and improve performance.
- Waste is a resource that has a financial value.
- The Council should be minimising any negative impact on the environment.
- Waste is a big budget area and should be looked at for efficiencies alongside the future options work around staffing and property.

Knowing your Community

The Business Planning and Transformation Officer gave a presentation which highlighted the propensity of our residents to "buy into" environmental issues using Experian's Greenaware indicator. The presentation highlighted the number of residents that are easily encouraged to recycle and those who are more opposed to recycling schemes.

What do we know already?

What could we do?

The Head of Environment and Leisure Services gave a presentation which gave details of our current waste arrangements, performance, strengths and challenges. It was suggested that the Council could consider a three bin system (incorporating co-mingled recycling) currently being widely adopted across many local authorities.

Local Case Study

The Head of Environmental Services from Rugby Borough Council gave a presentation of a case study of RBC's experience in changing to a 3 bins system. Members were invited to ask questions from the meeting

Workshop

Members were split into 4 groups and asked to consider the strengths, challenges and opportunities of three collection systems. The options presented were:

1. The current arrangements.

Container	Frequency	Material
Green Bin	Fortnightly	Garden waste and cardboard
Black Bin	Fortnightly	Non recyclable waste
Green Box	Weekly	Glass bottles/Jars Cans/Tins/Aerosols
Blue Box	Weekly	Paper/Newspapers and Magazines
Brown Caddy	Weekly	Food Waste

2. Option 2 – 3 Bin

Container	Frequency	Material
Bin 1	Weekly	Garden and food waste
Bin 2	Fortnightly	Non recyclable waste
Bin 3	Fortnightly	All current recyclates plus new materials such as plastics and cardboard.

3. Option 3 – 3 Bin with weekly residual

Container	Frequency	Material
Bin 1	Weekly	Garden and food waste
Bin 2	Weekly	Non recyclable waste

Bin 3	Fortnightly	All current recyclates plus new materials such as plastics and cardboard.
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Outcomes

The table below gives a consolidated view of the feedback from the 4 workshop tables:

	Option 1 – Current arrangements	Option 2 – 3 Bin system	Option 3 – 3 Bin system with weekly residual.
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedded system with the residents • We know the costs • We know the risks • No capital expenditure required • Contractor operating well • Boxes easier to keep (smaller houses) • Boxes easier for the elderly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier system for residents • Residual bin would never be full • Could be cheaper • Smelly waste goes weekly • Greenest solution • Reduced residual bin size • Future proof • Mix all recyclates in one bin. • Costs per household saving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some people might like it • High public perception
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No kerbside collection of plastics or tetrapak • Cardboard is composted (wasted resource) • Doesn't save money • Does collect plastics • Food waste collections are unpopular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs unknown at present • Changes to the contract required • Need to develop the Business Case • Capital expenditure required • The change programme. Education/ Transition/ Mobilisation • Issue for high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too expensive • High carbon impact • Not collecting any volume • Landfill might increase • Need to reduce bins sizes (public perception) • Issue for high density housing areas • Public perception. Why are we

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardboard is wasted • Does collect all recyclates • Wasting cardboard and plastics • Difficult system to understand. • Can't mix everything together • Difficult for staff collecting boxes (Manual Handling) • Confusion around plastics • People put things in the wrong bin • Is option 1 a real option? 	<p>density housing areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public perception. Why are we changing? • High performing LA's use this system • Is the market for recyclates strong enough? • Cost of MRF 	<p>changing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some weeks all 3 bins would need collecting • More journeys (carbon impact/congestion) • No real benefit • Does not encourage recycling. • No point
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance and participation might improve with increased education. • Market research will help us understand the issues • Better management of bring sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better performance • Could reduce bring sites • We need to understand why people are not recycling • Simplified scheme • Puts us in sync with other LA's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to understand

Assumptions:

Option 1

- 1) **The system is embedded and has been in operation for a considerable time.**
- 2) **The costs are well known but efficiencies will be hard to realise**
- 3) **The risks are well known**
- 4) **Boxes are easier to store in smaller houses and may be easier for the elderly (some elderly residents may prefer a wheeled bin rather than a box to carry) EIA**

needed

- 5) The system is wasteful as it prevents the recycling of plastics and cardboard**
- 6) The system is difficult to understand**
- 7) May cause manual handling/ health and safety problems**
- 8) More education and awareness raising might improve performance**

Option 2

- 1) Easier system for residents to understand.**
- 2) Would give efficiencies and reduce costs although capital expenditure would be required.**
- 3) Is the most environmentally friendly**
- 4) Would improve our dry recycling performance**
- 5) Would provide the opportunity to reduce/remove bring sites**
- 6) 3 bins might be difficult to accommodate in areas of high density housing**
- 7) The change programme would need to be properly resourced and well managed**

Option 3

- 1) Would be unaffordable**
- 2) Easy to understand and might be popular with some residents**
- 3) Is not environmentally friendly as it increases vehicle movements**
- 4) Higher likelihood of waste going to landfill**
- 5) No point or real benefits**
- 6) 3 bins might be difficult to accommodate in areas of high density housing**
- 7) Some weeks 3 bins would be collected**

Other information

Members Questions

Q. What is the meaning of the word “green”? (with reference to greenaware indicator)

A. The term “green” covers a whole range of behaviour including recycling, travel and energy consumption etc

Q. 51.7% of households, but what is the amount of waste linked to those households?

(with reference to the quick win households from greenaware indicator)

A. The 51.7% does not necessarily relate to 51.7% of the waste produced. The percentage is the number of households

Q. What effect does education in schools have on recycling in the medium to long-term?

A. Education in schools is proven to have a positive impact on recycling rates

Q. One of the top performing LA's costs for waste collection are £89 per household per year, ours is £45 per household

A. Indications are that a 3 bin system would be more efficient than our current system

Q. Are there any other options?

A Yes, but most LA's are transferring to the co-mingled method and the top 9 performing are using that system.

Q. 3 bin system relies upon the recyclate market being worth a lot of money?

A. Markets are becoming more stable and long-term agreements are available.

Q. Do we have a composition analysis?

A. Yes, this will form part of the appendices to the Waste and Recycling Strategy.

Q. Going on tonnages, and given the demographics of the District how much can we improve?

A. Similar LA's that are performing well are getting 30-40% dry recyclate.

Q. In relation to the Waste and Recycling service at Rugby Borough Council, Is the service contracted out?

A. No

Q. In relation to Rugby Borough Council, Is there an issue with high density housing?

A. In some areas the service needs to be tailored to meet the local need.

Q. What are the timescales?

A. Should a change occur, this would need to be address with a full implementation plan.

Q. Is the public going to be aware of what we are doing?

A. Yes, when the report goes public. A Communications Plan is being put together along with a press release.

Q. We need consultation with disabled groups?

A. If the system is changed a huge engagement project would need to take place

Q. We need to learn from the food waste roll out.

A. Yes, a robust communications plan will be required

Sources of Information	Outcome of member workshop 10.10.11
Consultees	All councillors