

Update on New Collection Scheme for the Waste and Recycling Service

Cabinet Member Cllr Neal Davey
Responsible Officer Waste & Transport Manager

Reason for Report: To receive an update on the roll out of the new recycling scheme and its performance during the first two months of operation.

RECOMMENDATION(S): The PDG note the report detailing the performance of the household recycling service following the changes in collection arrangements.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: Maintaining front line services in the face of the ongoing funding cuts requires the redesign of services to enable them to continue to be affordable.

Financial Implications: None as this is an information report on performance and all costings have been presented in earlier reports.

Legal Implications: This report is for information only.

Risk Assessment: This report is for information only.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the Managing the Environment PDG meetings on 18 November 2014 and 9 June 2015, a list of recommendations were made to the Cabinet regarding the future waste collection scheme which were adopted.
- 1.2 The new scheme adopted included two phases to the roll out. The first phase included the delivery of a 55 litre green box to all households for the collection of mixed cardboard and cartons and the inclusion of mixed plastic (excluding film) from the existing black box.
- 1.3 All households now have the kerbside collection of these materials on a fortnightly basis.
- 1.4 This report is an update on the performance of the new box scheme during its first two months of operation since the phased roll out to all households during the months of June and July.
- 1.5 This report also sets out the performance for the same two months the previous year for comparison.

2.0 Delivery of Containers

- 2.1 Each household in the district was delivered one new green 55 litre box over a seven week period. The deliveries were completed mirroring existing recycling rounds. All urban rounds were completed in the first four weeks and then the rural rounds over the last three weeks.
- 2.2 Each household received a post card regarding the new scheme one week before the green box and a detailed leaflet were delivered by an in-house team. Approximately 34,000 green boxes were delivered in total.
- 2.3 The customer contact centre recorded less than 600 calls regarding the new scheme during the roll out. This hopefully shows, with the high participation in the scheme, that the literature was successful in communicating the scheme to residents.

3.0 Collection Rounds

- 3.1 To allow for the additional recycling materials to be collected on the box scheme (cardboard and mixed plastic) an extra box collection crew was included in the budget and introduced in June.
- 3.2 As is common with new schemes the initial participation was very high and did result in some latter finishes for crews but the routes and scheme have now bedded in and finish times are returning to normal. No routes were uncompleted during the roll out.

4.0 Performance

- 4.1 The figures shown have yet to be verified by Devon County Council and Waste Data Flow.
- 4.2 All figures contained within this report relate to the volume of materials gathered via kerbside recycling collections only. The figures gathered for the scheme have been compared to those gathered for corresponding months in the previous years.
- 4.3 As can be seen from the tables below the scheme has seen increases in the tonnage of all material collected since the introduction of the extra materials.

Table 1 - Cardboard and Mixed Plastic (shows tonnage sold rather than collected in that month)

Month	Cardboard	Mixed Plastic
June 2015	No tonnage	14.3
July 2015	61.2	14.1

- 4.3.1 The additional tonnage generates additional income from the sale of the mixed recyclate and increased payments from Devon County Council in the form of recycling credit payments.

Table 2 – Tonnage Figures 2014/15

Month	Total H/H Waste	Total H/H Waste Recycled	Dry Recycling	Total Dry Recycling Rate
June 2014	2,670	1,453	517	19.4%
July 2014	2,620	1,380	363	13.9%
Total	5,290	2,833	881	16.7%

Table 3 – Tonnage Figures 2015/16

Month	Total H/H Waste	Total H/H Waste Recycled	Dry Recycling	Total Dry Recycling Rate
June 2015	2,786	1,554	711	25.5%
July 2015	2,810	1,559	629	22.4%
Total	5,596	3,113	1,340	23.9%

4.3.3 The tables show a good increase in recycling. Figures should be monitored over a longer period to give a true picture. However initial tonnages show a increase in recycling.

4.4 Landfill

Table 4 – Landfill Tonnage

Month	2014/15	2015/16
June	1,183	1,151
July	1,214	1,154
Total	2,397	2,305

Note: the landfill tonnages shown above also include tonnages from trade waste, energy from waste and street sweepings.

4.4.1 The reductions in landfill in the first two months of nearly 4% were a positive outcome and was certainly impacted by the new schemes introduced.

5.0 Waste Project Group update

5.1 **Phase 2 Roll Out:** Planning is complete for the second roll out phase of weekly food waste collections and a chargeable garden waste scheme. This will be rolled out over a 10 week period from 5 October. All containers have been ordered.

5.2 **Depot Alterations:** The depot alterations to allow for the extra materials to be stored were complete for the start of the new scheme.

5.3 **Communication:** A communication plan was written which includes staff and member briefings, roadshows, parish talks, leaflets, primary school competition and press releases.

5.4 **IT System:** A system designed in-house to deal with the chargeable waste collection scheme which will be used by customer services is near completion. This will allow for payments and correspondence to customers.

5.5 **Mixed Plastics Separation:** Officers did look at the feasibility of changing the current bailing system at the depot to allow for the picking out of the higher values HDPE material from the mixed plastic and then selling it separately. This showed that such changes were not cost effective especially when the current depot is not seen as a long term home. Therefore plastics are being bailed and sold mixed as originally budgeted.

6.0 **Indications from Devon County Council**

6.1 It is estimated that the Disposal Authority (Devon County Council) could save over £300,000 per year. The Waste & Transport Manager has met with Devon County Council several times to discuss the scheme and estimated savings. The savings cannot be known before the scheme is introduced as it will be dependent on diversion rates which will be unknown. A proposed detailed savings sharing mechanism has been drafted but yet to be agreed. The mechanism will be used, if agreed, by all authorities in Devon who propose changes which could provide savings for the disposal authority as a result. As these figures have not currently been agreed these savings have not been added to the budget at this point.

7.0 **Conclusion**

7.1 Although this report shows only the first two months (not full months due to phased roll out) of the new scheme it shows a positive uptake in the recycling the new materials by households but also an increase in all dry recycling.

7.2 As one of the highest profile services to the public that the Council delivers we will provide further updates to the PDG in order to inform how these new changes are bedding in. Monitoring the performance of all collection schemes will continue and will be reported to ensure the schemes are continuing to perform as expected.

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