

Update on New Collection Scheme for the Waste and Recycling Service

Cabinet Member Cllr Neal Davey
Responsible Officer Stuart Noyce, Waste & Transport Manager

Reason for Report: To receive an update on the roll out of phase 2 of the new recycling scheme and its performance during the first months of operation.

RECOMMENDATION(S): The PDG is asked to consider a 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 but a summary of spend against the project budget is shown in appendix A.

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 the 18th November 2014 and 9th 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. The Managing the Environment PDG received a report on this phase of the roll out in September 2015.
- 1.3 The second phase included the delivery of a 23 litre blue caddy to all households for the weekly collection of food waste, the introduction of fortnightly chargeable garden waste, and the change in rural areas to fortnightly residual waste collections from weekly.
- 1.4 All households now have the containers and scheme rolled out.
- 1.5 This report is an update on the performance of the new scheme during its first months of operation since the phased roll out to all households during 2015.
- 1.6 It also sets out the performance for the same months the previous year for comparison.

2.0 Delivery of Containers – Phase 2

- 2.1 Each household in the district was delivered one new blue 23 litre caddy over a ten week period (Oct – Dec 2015). The deliveries were completed mirroring existing waste rounds. All urban rounds were completed in the first six weeks and then the rural rounds over the last three weeks.
- 2.2 Each household received a leaflet regarding the new scheme two weeks before the blue caddy and calendar was delivered by an in-house team. Approximately 34,000 blue caddies were delivered in total.

3.0 Collection Rounds

- 3.1 To allow for the food waste to be collected on the recycling rounds, an extra collection crew was included in the budget and introduced in October.
- 3.2 The new scheme is based on food waste being collected by the recycling rounds one week and the garden waste rounds on the alternate week. This required the complete rescheduling of the recycling rounds. Prior to the change there was no link between the waste and recycling rounds weekly cycles. All households now have their residual waste collected on the same week as the box recycling. On the alternate week, garden waste is collected.
- 3.3 To change the cycle of collection many households had an additional collection during the roll out so they were not required to wait three weeks without a collection. No households were required to change the day of collection, with the exception of the tight access householders (290 properties) who do have a slightly different collection pattern.
- 3.4 As is common with new schemes, the initial participation was very high and did result in some later 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. There was an increase in missed collections due to route knowledge especially in rural areas after the schemes introduction. These are expected to return to normal in quarter 4.

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 tonnages of materials gathered via household 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 recycling tonnages collected and a reduction in residual waste.

Table 1 – Dry Recycling Tonnages 2015 (Shows tonnage sold rather than collected in that month)

Month	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Q2 Total	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3 Total
Card		52.3	49.5	101.2	203.0	92.8	90.3	118.4	301.5
Plastic	14.35	14.2	57.8	30.8	102.8	45.7	48.7	32.1	126.5
Tins/ Foil	22.22	35.9	19.5	10.6	66.0	20.1	34.1	9.4	63.6
Glass	159.1	180.0	153.0	156.3	489.3	153.9	158.7	91.3	403.9
Textiles	4.54	8.1	5.6	6.7	20.4	2.4	6.3	5.8	14.6
Paper	147.9	149.2	114.0	178.9	422.1	119.5	168.6	169.0	457.1
Total	348.1	439.7	399.4	484.5	1323.6	434.5	506.7	426.1	1367.3

Table 2 – Dry Recycling Tonnages 2014 (Shows tonnage sold rather than collected in that month)

Month	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Q2 Total	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3 Total
Card									
Plastic		10.9		13.8	24.7	13.3		13.7	27.0
Tins/ Foil	40.2	22.4		24.0	46.4	37.5	1.6	38.8	77.9
Glass	160.4	126.8	135.5	186.7	449.0	131.7	170.8	93.8	396.3
Textiles	4.2	3.0	3.7	4.0	10.7	5.2	2.6	2.7	10.5
Paper	149.4	141.0	113.3	175.1	429.4	176.6	152.5	150.0	479.1
Total	354.2	304.0	252.5	403.8	960.3	364.3	327.5	298.9	990.7

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

Table 3 – Tonnage Figures 2015

Month	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Q2 Total	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3 Total
Organic Waste	1006.2	963.2	706.0	1319.4	2988.6	728.48	524.0	671.5	1924.0
HH Waste Recycled	1561.0	1439.0	1137.6	1855.8	4432.4	1195.3	1054.3	1125.9	3375.5
Residual HH Waste	1237.1	1296.1	1151.1	1299.9	3747.1	1309.2	1197.6	1089.3	3596.1
					Ave Rate for Q2 %				Ave Rate for Q3 %
Dry Recycling Rate %	19.7	17.4	18.8	16.5	17.6	18.6	23.5	20.5	20.9
Recycling Rate %	55.8	52.6	49.47	58.8	54.2	47.7	46.8	50.8	48.4

Table 4 – Tonnage Figures 2014

Month	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Q2 Total	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3 Total
Organic Waste	1042.8	1016.9	822.46	1150.9	2990.3	735.5	665.5	824.7	2225.7
HH Waste Recycled	1453.1	1380.7	1116.8	1663.4	4160.9	1188.8	1033.1	1244.9	3466.8
Residual HH Waste	1217.5	1239.3	1259.8	1238.2	3737.3	1559.4	1339.3	1434.5	4333.2
					Ave Rate for Q2 %				Ave Rate for Q3 %
Dry Recycling Rate %	15.4	13.9	12.4	17.6	14.6	16.5	15.5	15.7	15.9
Recycling Rate %	54.4	52.7	47.7	57.3	52.6	43.3	43.5	46.5	44.4

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

The reduction in landfill in the first months of nearly 17% are a positive outcome and was certainly impacted by the introduction of the new scheme.

- 4.4 The number of garden waste subscribers currently stands at 6,300 which is above the target for 2015/16. The original target to be achieved by the end of 2016/17 is £10,000. It is anticipated that many residents are waiting for the Spring to start their subscription to the scheme. The number of customers will continue to be monitored and reported.

5.0 Budget and Expenditure

- 5.1 Appendix A shows the spend against budget for the new scheme. The overall budget shows an underspend due to the above budgeted income. Both tonnages and subscribers are currently above target.
- 5.2 The capital spend is currently underspent as the new garden and food waste vehicles have not been purchased. A decision was made to delay the purchase until the new scheme had been bedded in and trial vehicles could operate with the new scheme in place. Tonnages can also be known to ensure the correct sized vehicles are purchased which will then be operated for seven years. They will be required by April 2017 at the latest.
- 5.3 There is an overspend on food waste haulage as initial discussions led to a belief that DCC would haul the food waste collected on the recycling rounds from the depot to the treatment plant. This will now start in line with new treatment contracts from April 2017. MDDC have therefore been burden with the cost of hauling the food waste in the interim period.

6.0 Communication

- 6.1 A communication plan was written which included staff and member briefings, roadshows, parish talks, leaflets, primary school competition and press releases. This was delivered to plan and initial high participation indicates this was successful.
- 6.2 An IT system, designed in-house to deal with the chargeable garden waste collection scheme was developed and used by customer services during the roll out. This will be developed further in the next few months to provide an auto renewal service.

7.0 Devon County Council

- 7.1 It is estimated that the Disposal Authority (Devon County Council) could save over £300,000 per year due to the changes made. The Waste & Transport Manager has met with Devon County Council several times to discuss the scheme and estimated savings. A proposed detailed savings sharing mechanism and legal agreement is being drafted. 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. MDDC is one of the authorities leading on this agreements development.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 Although this report shows only the first few months of the new scheme it shows a positive uptake in the recycling of the new materials by households but also an increase in all dry recycling. It also shows a corresponding reduction in residual waste.
- 8.2 As one of the highest profile services to the public that the Council delivers we will provide further six monthly 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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