

**MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT  
8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016:**

**Update on New Collection Scheme for the Waste and Recycling Service**

**Cabinet Member** Cllr Karl Busch

**Responsible Officer** Stuart Noyce - Waste & Transport Manager

**Reason for Report:** To receive an update on performance of the new recycling scheme during the first year of operation.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**1) The PDG is asked to consider a report detailing the performance of the household recycling service following the changes in collection arrangements.**

**2) That the two motions submitted are considered and discussed.**

**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. The Council is committed to delivering a high quality waste service, at the lowest operational cost, whilst increasing overall recycling levels and reducing aggregate tonnages of waste going to landfill.

**Financial Implications:** None as this is an information report on performance.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and 9<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 received the containers and the scheme was fully rolled out by February 2016.
- 1.5. This report is an update on the performance of the new scheme during its first year of operation since the phased roll out to all households during 2015/16.

- 1.6. This report also sets out the performance for the same months the previous year for comparison.

## **2.0 Performance**

- 2.1 Some figures shown have yet to be verified by Devon County Council and Waste Data Flow.
- 2.2 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. The recycling material is weighed when it leaves the depot and therefore the material tonnage does not always reflect the month it was collected.
- 2.3 Tables 1 show the last two years of tonnage for each recycling material for comparison. As can be seen the new scheme shows increases in the recycling tonnages collected. 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.
- 2.4 Tables 2 do show an increase in recycling rate with Mid Devon achieving highest the increase in recycling performance in Devon for 2015/16 .Figures should be monitored over a longer period to give a true picture. However, the first year's tonnages show an increase in recycling and a reduction in residual waste both are a positive outcome.
- 2.5 The number of garden waste subscribers currently stands at 8,400 which is on target for Q2 in 16/17. This does not include customers who are using the sack scheme which has generated £11,500 in 2016/17 thus far. The original target to be achieved by the end of 16/17 is 10,000 customers which was based on the original £500,000 annual income target. The number of customers will continue to be monitored and reported.

## **3.0 Devon County Council**

- 3.1 Following long negotiations with the Disposal Authority (Devon County Council) which Mid Devon have led on the behalf of the collection authorities to develop a ten year Partnership Agreement which the cabinet agreed to enter into on the 29<sup>th</sup> September.
- 3.2 The Partnership Agreement (PA) has the potential to yield savings of circa £200k per annum and enable long term certainty for both Mid Devon and Devon County Council in both its waste collection and disposal operations. This PA which each Collection Authority will enter into individually will see both parties financially benefit from any changes to baseline service provision as at 2014/15 which delivers reductions in waste treatment and disposal.

- 3.3 The acquisition of our new Carlu Close depot has also given the Council the opportunity to consider additional shared working possibilities in the form of a transfer station with DCC for mutual benefit.
- 3.4 Having waste transfer facilities at Carlu Close, will ensure that the Council has greater control/flexibility with regard to waste direction/disposal points, which will enable officers to minimise potential financial exposure of onward disposal costs. These proposals are subject to planning permission being granted and a waste site licence being obtained from the Environment Agency.
- 3.5 The transfer station for residual waste will mean that before the Broadpath landfill site closes a new disposal route can be secured. The material bulked at Carlu Close will be transported daily to the Energy from Waste Plant in Exeter. This will push the residual waste up the waste hierarchy from disposal to recovery which benefits the environment.
- 3.6 The transfer station for food and garden waste will allow for the separate treatment of the two streams of material and reduce the cost of treatment. This again will be shared with MDDC through the PA.
- 3.7 Both facilities will assist in making collection rounds more efficient by having the disposal site for rounds at the same place as the vehicles are parked.

#### 4.0 **Motion 528 (Councillor P J Heal - 10 August 2016)**

- 4.1 The Council has before it a **MOTION** submitted for the first time.

That the council investigates the provision of an elasticated net system for use on recycling boxes to prevent light materials such as plastics and cardboard being blown out and causing litter.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 14.4, the Chairman of the Council has decided that this Motion (if moved and seconded) will be referred without discussion to the Managing the Environment Policy Development Group.

- 4.2 The cost of such nets are £0.95 plus delivery. There would also be a requirement to budget for replacement nets as they need replacing. The initial cost is estimated to be around £68,250 with ongoing budget requirement of £6,650 for replacements.
- 4.3 These nets are not considered necessary as the black boxes are already supplied with lids and the boxes are designed so they can be stacked. The use of the nets are likely to slow collection crews down and are known to also blow away after collection and therefore the replacement costs could be even higher than estimated.

#### 5.0 **Motion 529 (Councillor Mrs C A Collis - 17 August 2016)**

- 5.1 The Council has before it a **MOTION** submitted for the first time.

That the Council investigates joint working with other Councils to recycle soft plastics such as polythene and film and to avoid putting these non-degradable items into landfill. This will benefit the environment for future generations and expand on the recycling that Mid Devon is already doing so well.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 14.4, the Chairman of the Council has decided that this Motion (if moved and seconded) will be referred without discussion to the Managing the Environment Policy Development Group.

- 5.2 The Council already works with all Devon authorities for the joint selling of paper, glass and textiles. MDDC also works with Exeter City Council for the joint selling of cardboard and mixed plastic.
- 5.3 There are well established markets for the materials we currently recycle which ensures that a good income rate is secured and the moving of products is timely. The selling of polythene and film is often problematic and could reduce the value of the material we already collected when mixed in. The recycling market for this material will continue to be monitored and if economically prudent be bought back to the PDG to consider.
- 5.4 If all the materials which are currently collected for recycling and composting in the new scheme were placed in the correct container the Council would have a recycling rate of over 85%. It is perhaps more important that the Council concentrates on ensuring the existing materials are recycled rather than add on other materials which due to their low weight are unlikely to effect the recycling rate dramatically.

## **6.0 Conclusion**

- 6.1 Although this report shows only the first year 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.
- 6.2 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 continue to perform.

**Contact for more Information:** Stuart Noyce, Waste & Transport Manager (01884 244635 [snoyce@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:snoyce@middevon.gov.uk))

**Circulation of the Report:** Cllrs, Management Team