

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	2nd April 2014
Subject:	Waste & Recycling Project Plan		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Environment		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Waste & Recycling Operational Project Plan		

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the work that is being undertaken to review the waste & recycling services.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The contents of this report be noted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 As a Council we have set ourselves an ambitious target of recycling 50% of all household waste we collect by 2020. This is the highest target set by any District Council within the County and is made particularly difficult given the nature of our City.
- 3.2 The Waste and Recycling Task & Finish Group recently produced its final report where it reviewed the current arrangements in place. In considering the contents of this report the newly formed Environmental Services Team felt it was necessary to actively consider the short and medium term options that would promote recycling and reduce residual waste against the backdrop of alternative longer term options which could include, for example, a shift to a co-mingled recycling collection.
- 3.3 These options have recently been formalised into an internal operational Waste & Recycling Project Plan that will provide a focus for the Environmental Services Team throughout the next 18 months. Elements of the plan are included in Appendix 1 for information.

3.4 Officers have already experienced a number of successes as a result of the projects, and these include –

- **Matson Flats Recycling Project** – In response to low recycling rates within the Matson area and the poor condition of bin storage areas due to excess waste being generated, Council Officers along with Gloucester City Homes and AMEY colleagues introduced a communal recycling scheme for individual blocks. The scheme coincided with residents being visited and educated around recycling and an incentive to recycle was provided with a chance for a household who recycled the most to win £50 worth of shopping vouchers. The results have been really positive with recycling rates increased, bin storage areas much tidier and less missed collections due to a reduction in contamination of recycling receptacles. Based on this success officers are now looking at rolling out similar schemes across other targeted estates in the City.
- **Promotion of Compostable Food Waste Bags** – Officers are currently in the middle of a project to investigate whether allowing the use of compostable food caddy liners will have a positive impact on our food waste recycling figures. The results of this study will help us in re-launching the food waste recycling scheme. Early indications are that in those wards where compostable bags were trialled (Hucclecote & Tuffley) recycling quantities have increased. Further weighing of food recycling in these wards will take place over the next few weeks to look at what the impact is. In addition twenty communal food waste bins have been added across various sites in the city, and educational material has been delivered to all of the residents.
- **Bespoke Communal Recycling Arrangements** – Following repeat complaints of bins on street at Oxford Street which were unsightly and attracting other rubbish and waste items it was identified that one of the causes was a particular block of flats. Officers visited the property to assess the situation and identified that waste arrangements were not suitable to encourage residents to recycle their waste and introduced a communal system for residents to use with clearly marked receptacles with significant capacity. Furthermore due to the location, arrangements were made with AMEY that they would go on to a communal car park to collect the receptacles so as to avoid them having to be left on Oxford Street. This is already having a positive impact on the quantity of waste being recycled but also has improved the quality of the streetscene. In Russell Street communal recycling has been introduced at number 1 and number 20. Number 20 houses thirty student flats and recycling is working very well now. In Park Road extensive work has been carried out educating students on recycling, in order to reduce the vast amount of rubbish they were creating, work is ongoing on other properties in Park Road. Discussions are taking place currently with Two Rivers HA about an incentive scheme for residents to improve recycling. Some of the Two Rivers properties have the worst record for rubbish accumulations and lack of recycling in the city.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

4.1 At present we are continuing to develop our waste and recycling service around our current collection arrangements. However in order to meet such an ambitious

recycling target, a range of alternative options should be considered. The Waste and Recycling Task & Finish Group have requested that the option of a co-mingled recycling collection service be considered to coincide with our fleet review when our waste & recycling vehicles will be changed.

- 4.2 Preliminary discussions with AMEY are ongoing regarding the co-mingled option and the Cabinet Member for Environment along with members of the Waste & Recycling Task & Finish Group have been invited to view a facility that processes co-mingled waste in the West Midlands area during early April.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 With a need to improve recycling rates and reduce the amount of residual waste being sent to landfill it is clear that officers need to implement a series of projects over the next 2-3 years that promotes re-use and recycling through education, simplification and incentivisation.

6.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 6.1 As outlined in Section 4, longer term a fundamental review of collection/recycling arrangements is planned to coincide with the renewal of our fleet of vehicles. With these considerations ongoing and any such change a number of years away it is important that we do not stand still and look to implement a series of well thought out measures in the interim period that have the potential to impact positively on our recycling and residual waste targets.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 At this stage there are no financial implications associated with the review process.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications.

(Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 9.1 The following risk and opportunities have been identified:

Risks	Opportunities
Not meeting our waste & recycling targets can impact on credits/income received and reputation	To engage with our communities in an ABCD approach to understand what we could support that already exists and that could enhance the services we offer i.e. Matson Cardboard Recycling Scheme
The potential for inefficient use of resources if we do not continually review	To be innovative in how we approach waste & recycling

the impact of services we offer	
	To continue to develop strong working relationships with AMEY and improve the services we offer

10.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

10.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

11.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

11.1 Waste & Recycling and Community Safety is intrinsically linked as studies have shown that areas that have good environmental quality levels and are free from issues such as waste on streets are less likely to suffer with anti-social behaviour.

Sustainability

11.2 It is important that the projects we are considering for development have an element of sustainability built into them as we cannot afford for recycling rates to peak and trough if we are to meet our 50% target.

Staffing & Trade Union

11.3 N/A

Background Documents:

None

Appendix 1

Project Title	Brief Summary & Objective
Flats Recycling Project	In partnership with AMEY, Registered Social Providers and residents we aim to increase the level of recycling from flats by providing clearly labelled and easy to use communal receptacles, introducing cardboard collection and incentivising residents to get involved through a voucher scheme.
Recycling of On Street Litter Bin Waste	To investigate the potential for recycling materials that end up in the City's litter bins and that then ends up in landfill
Cardboard Recycling Project	To assist the Matson Community Recycling Project in consolidating their service and for us to be able to use that service for cardboard recycling waste
Food Waste Recycling Project	Prior to re-launching the food waste recycling scheme to implement a pilot project that advertises the acceptance of compostable bags in food waste caddies and to provide free sample bags with follow up weighing to try and gauge the likely level of increase
Review of Bring Back Sites	To review the location, design and use of our bring sites with a view to maximising their use
Education	To work with the County Council waste team and utilise their services to deliver waste & recycling sessions in our poorly performing areas. In addition to develop our own education programme through working with County in order to deliver these sessions throughout the City
Garden Waste Scheme	To identify options to increase residents uptake rate and to re-introduce voucher incentive scheme for those who pay by direct debit
Review of Purple Bag Scheme	To undertake a cost benefit analysis of whether it is viable to roll the purple bag scheme out across other areas in the City or whether it is necessary to introduce alternative arrangements to bring areas into line with the standard waste & recycling service
Development of Policy relating to collections	To produce a series of policies ranging from collections to bins on streets that set out a clear message to residents and businesses on what is expected of them in respect of waste & recycling
Development of Planning	To produce a planning guidance note and s.106 guidance note so

Policy

that developers are clear on what is expected of them in respect of provision and contributions towards waste & recycling arrangements