

# Gloucester City Council

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>23 March 2015</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Waste and Recycling Update</b>		
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>Head of Neighbourhood Services</b>		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Budget/Policy Framework:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Lloyd Griffiths, Head of Neighbourhood Services</b>		
	<b>Email: <a href="mailto:lloyd.griffiths@gloucester.gov.uk">lloyd.griffiths@gloucester.gov.uk</a></b>		
		<b>Tel: 39(6355)</b>	
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1) Waste &amp; Recycling Action Plan (March 2015)</b>		

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress that has been made in respect of recommendations set out within the Final Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Recycling Task and Finish Group published in October 2013.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

(1) The contents of the report and the positive proactive work that has been carried out in respect of waste & recycling by the Environmental Projects Team, be noted;

And

(2) To make any further recommendations to Cabinet that the Committee considers appropriate.

## 3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The agreed ambitions of the review into recycling, that was carried out in 2013 by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Recycling Task & Finish Group, were to increase recycling percentages and make recycling more accessible to the community. The anticipated outcome of the review was an improved service.
- 3.2 The Waste & Recycling Service since early 2014, has been overseen by the Environmental Projects Team. Their focus has become the delivery of proactive projects the aim of which has been to promote recycling and reduce the amount of residual waste being sent to landfill.

3.3 A Waste & Recycling Action Plan was developed by the team and is included at Appendix 1. Within the plan you will see details of the projects that have been delivered, are being developed or are currently being implemented. A number of key outcomes that have already been achieved are outlined below:-

- Volume of material recycled will have increased during 2014/2015 by approximately 2500 tonnes leading to an improved recycling rate of 39%;
- The range of materials that residents are now able to recycle through our services has increased to 8, due to our supermarket bring sites complimenting our domestic kerbside service and collecting cardboard, mixed plastics and textiles;
- From April 2015 the range of materials collected at the doorstep will be extended from 5 to 7, to include food & drink cartons and aerosols;
- Proactive project work is being targeted on identified low (recycling) participation areas to ensure we are making the best use of our resources,
- We have started to review effectiveness of our waste & recycling service in the medium to long term by commencing with an investigation into the viability of introducing a co-mingled recycling service

3.4 Several key projects have been delivered and illustrate the positive shift in focus of the team in line with the recommendations outlined in para 3.1 of this report. Although our numbers are moving in the right direction, this type of work does not always coincide with a marked upturn in recycling rates. This is particularly the case with Cities such as ours, for the following reasons –

- Transient Population
- High proportion of flatted properties
- Street / property design
- Cultural & Language Challenges
- Areas of deprivation

3.5 We are however forecast to achieve a recycling rate in 2014/2015 of 39% compared to that of 37% in 2013/2014. In real terms this will be somewhere in the region of 2500 tonnes of material that has been diverted from landfill and instead has been recycled by our residents through the recycling services we provide to them.

3.6 It should be noted however that this upward trend would be very difficult to maintain. Established research tells us that the type of service we provide (kerbside sort) will not yield high recycling participation rates due to the public perceiving the service to be time consuming and complicated. Members will be aware that on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015, Cabinet approved a recommendation to undertake a review into the merits of providing a 'co-mingled' recycling collection service. This type of collection has been shown to consistently achieve recycling rates in excess of 50% due to its perceived ease of use.

#### **4.0 Alternative Options Considered**

- 4.1 There is an option to simply act as 'The Waste Collection Authority' in the purest sense of the term. This option would see AMEY deliver the collection service on our behalf and our role would be simply that of contract monitoring.
- 4.2 As a Council however we have set ourselves an ambitious target of recycling 50% of all household waste we collect by 2020. We have forecasted housing growth of some 4,400 homes over the remaining term of the AMEY contract, and that will in turn mean some 4,400 extra waste & recycling collections. In addition we have a significant ongoing savings target in respect of the AMEY contract.
- 4.3 It is these 3 pressures, which can be grouped into performance, capacity and efficiency that require the service we deliver to be proactively monitored, reviewed and promoted to ensure it is functioning effectively, is fit for purpose and is being utilised.

#### **5.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Waste & Recycling Service offered by the Council has improved and evidence of this is included within the main body of this report

#### **6.0 Future Work and Conclusions**

- 6.1 As outlined in para 3.6, the focus of the next twelve months will be to deliver a review of how we collect waste and recycling, and to implement any subsequent service change that is identified and approved by Council as being cost effective, able to meet targets and able to meet future growth of the City.
- 6.2 Alongside this piece of work it is important that projects that are currently being delivered or are under development, are kept under review to ensure they meet the future direction and objectives of the service. It is important however that where opportunities present themselves in the interim period that they are explored with a view to implementing well thought out measures that have a real potential to impact positively on our progress in meeting recycling and residual waste targets.

#### **7.0 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 The Council receives income in respect of materials recycled in the form of commodity income, recycling credits and incentive payments. These monies contribute towards off-setting the Streetcare Contract Sum. It is important therefore that we continue to investigate cost effective avenues to increase recycling participation rates in order to maximise this income potential.

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

## **8.0 Legal Implications**

- 8.1 The United Kingdom Government have been set a household recycling target of 50% by 2020 and 70% by 2030 by way of the EU Waste Framework Directive. Responsibility for meeting this target rests very much with Local Government in their role as Waste Collection and Waste Disposal Authorities.

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

## **9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications**

- 9.1 As outlined in para 7.1 it is important to develop our waste & recycling service moving forward, in order to maximise our income opportunities from commodity sales and recycling credits and to meet our performance targets in respect of recycling and landfill diversion. This presents us with the opportunity to enhance our reputation and credentials as a Council.

## **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 are 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 Landfilling of waste is not a sustainable method of waste management and many sites are drawing to the end of their operational life. It is important therefore that work continues towards diverting waste away from landfill so that we are maximising the space that is available.

### Staffing & Trade Union

- 11.3 N/A

## **Background Documents:**

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – ‘Recycling Task & Finish Group’ Final Report and Recommendations – October 2013