

Questions for County Council Meeting 22nd November 2018

Questions to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment from Cllr Darren Hayday:

Q1 Where exactly does our plastic waste go and is any of it disposed of in the environment abroad?

I would appraise a detailed breakdown from kerbside pickup to end location of the chain.

The County Council does not collect plastics for recycling from residents as it is the District Councils responsibility to organise waste collections. If waste or recycling is sent to other organisations, it is the Districts duty to ensure those facilities are fit and proper and the waste is treated correctly.

This response has been collated from information known and is still awaiting information from Chiltern & Wycombe District Councils.

All four districts in Buckinghamshire collect plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays. Most UK councils send collected recycling to UK reprocessors who sort it and send it on to be recycled. BCC has requested information on the material end destinations from all four districts and so far received information from AVDC & SBDC, which is given below.

South Bucks

Co-mingled recycling is sorted at Biffa's MRF in Edmonton, London. Once the materials are sorted and separated they are sent on for recycling.

- Plastic bottles make up 80% of the plastic collected and their end market is either Wilton International, Redcar or Hemswell, Lincolnshire.
- The remaining 20% is sent to Viridor facility in Rochester, Kent.

Aylesbury Vale

Co-mingled recycling is sent to Casepak, Leicester, for sorting. Casepak split the plastics into three streams and they have several outlets

- PET plastic (e.g. coke, shampoo bottles) get sent to a UK facility, and also a facility in France & one in Turkey.
- Mixed plastics go to facilities in one Selby UK, France, Netherlands and Taiwan
- HDPE (e.g. milk bottles) go to either Veolia's facility in Dagenham or a facility in Taiwan (represent 0.55% of a month co-mingled collection goes to Taiwan)

We are still waiting on information from Chiltern & Wycombe. Once this information is received, Cllr Hayday will receive an updated version of the above.

The information shows the vast majority of plastics are recycled in the UK with small amounts going to facilities outside the UK. The exact percentages sent to each facility can vary, and the information above is a snapshot provided by the District Councils.