

SUBJECT:	<i>Update on recycling performance and recycling quality</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Cllr Mike Smith</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To provide Services Overview Committee with an update on the latest recycling performance and planned activities to increase the recycling rate and to improve the quality of material collected.

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information.

2. Executive Summary

A report was taken to Services Overview Committee in October 2016, which provided an overview of the recycling performance of the Joint Waste Contract, within the context of recycling targets, national recycling trends, light weighting of packaging materials and the quality of the material collected. Committee asked to be provided with an update on the recycling performance going forward, which is the purpose of this report.

As reported in October, the annual recycling rate for 2015/16 was 52.56%.

For 2016/17, validated figures are so far available for the period between April and November and during this period, the recycling rate is 53.57%.

A variety of communication activities are planned to increase recycling rates and to improve the quality of material collected. This will include a county wide campaign, funded by DCLG, to increase participation in food recycling and the recycling service, in addition to on-going planned waste communications.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

This report is for information, no recommendation required.

4. Content of Report

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As reported in October, the annual recycling rate for 2015/16 was 52.56%.

For 2016/17, validated figures are so far available for the period between April and November. Figure 1 indicates the monthly recycling rate during this period but the cumulative recycling rate at November was 53.57%.

Figure 1

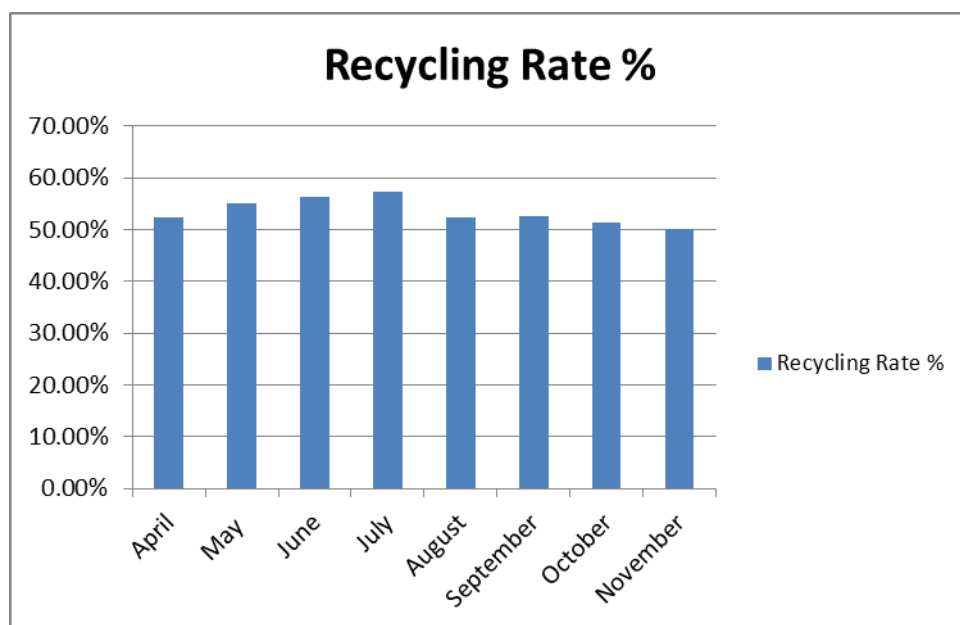


Figure 1 clearly illustrates the seasonal impact on the recycling rate; garden waste arisings will impact on the overall recycling rate and if a season is dry or wet, this will affect the weight of garden waste collected. Table 1, below, provides information on the tonnages of specific waste streams and illustrates the higher tonnages of garden waste collected during May, June and July. From August onwards, garden waste tonnages were reduced which impacted on the overall recycling rate.

		April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Tonnes	Residual Waste	3936.944	3916.116	4234.372	3772.146	3833.487	4227.2	3844.821	3972.515
	Compostable	2107.266	2947.478	3546.84	2973.17	2344.54	2472.89	2202.22	2156.28
	Recycling	2226.028	1857.15	1893.371	2095.255	1871.481	2172.188	1855.58	1805.466
	Reuse	0.2765	12.0325	10.465	10.465	5.043	19.7435	15.889	10.768
	Divert from LF/EfW	4333.571	4816.661	5450.676	5078.89	4221.064	4664.822	4073.689	3972.514
	Total	8270.515	8732.776	9685.048	8851.036	8054.551	8892.021	7918.51	7945.029

Table 2 below provides the same data as a percentage:

		April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Recycling Rate by Month	Residual Waste	47.60%	44.84%	43.72%	42.62%	47.59%	47.54%	48.55%	50.00%
	Compostable	25.48%	33.75%	36.62%	33.59%	29.11%	27.81%	27.81%	27.14%
	Recycling	26.92%	21.27%	19.55%	23.67%	23.24%	24.43%	23.43%	22.72%
	Reuse	0.00%	0.14%	0.11%	0.12%	0.06%	0.22%	0.20%	0.14%

TOTAL Recycling Rate (NI191)	52.40%	55.16%	56.28%	57.38%	52.41%	52.46%	51.45%	50.00%
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To recap, the cumulative recycling rate to November is 53.7%.

However, what is also interesting is that the overall kgs waste per household is generally reducing, which includes the total domestic waste collected by household. This is illustrated in Figure 2. While recycling rates have reduced over recent months, so has the overall level of waste produced by our residents. This relationship can be partly explained by the continued light weighting of packaging materials.

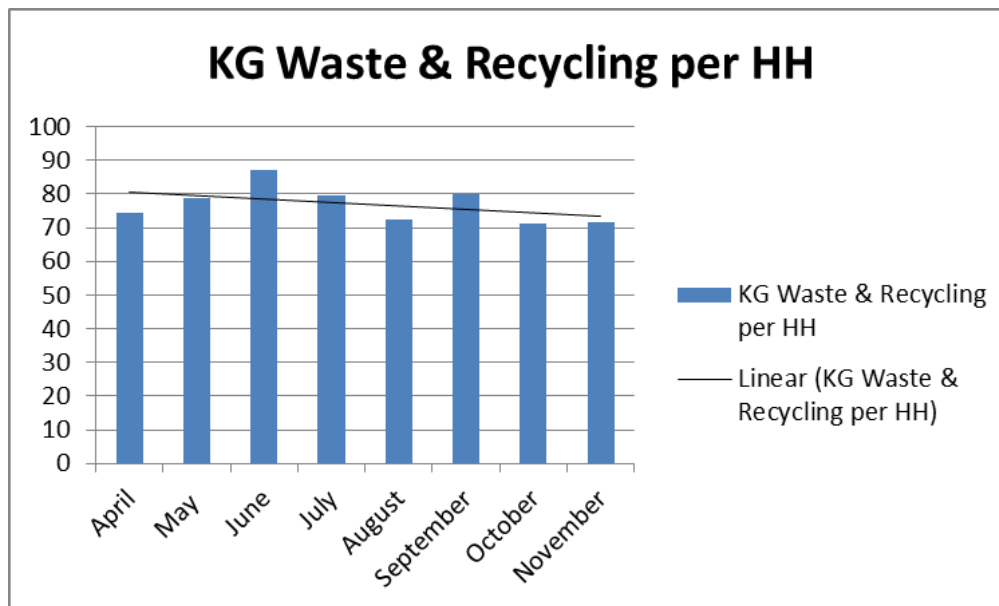


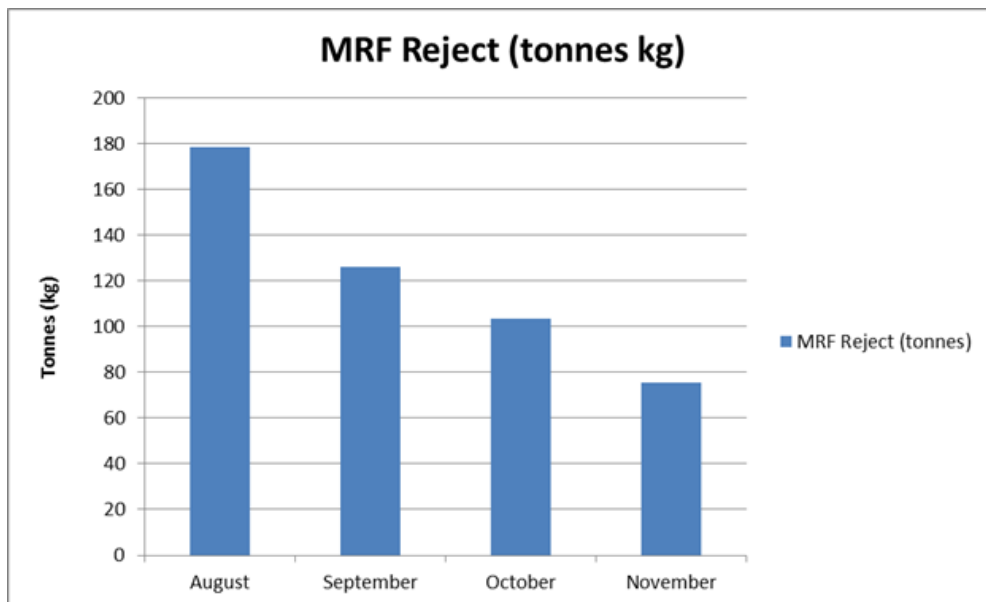
Figure 2

In terms of factors affecting recycling rates, as outlined in the October report, recycling rates are affected by a variety of factors, including:

- Seasonal impacts
- Light weighting of packaging
- Reduced paper consumption
- More rigorous controls on sorting facilities (MRFs) for measuring contamination rates

It is anticipated that due to the more rigorous MRF controls on measuring recycling rates, the 2016/17 reject rates applied to our recycling will increase as compared with 2015/16. However, Figure 3 illustrates that over recent months, the amount of recyclables rejected at the MRF have in fact reduced. The Waste Team will continue to monitor this.

Figure 3



National performance

The national recycling rate for 2015/16 has now been validated by DEFRA and has decreased from 44.8% in 2014 to 43.9%. This is the first time the national recycling rate has been lower than 44% since 2011 and a 4% fall in 'organic recycling' figures and a 1.1% decrease in recycling figures represent the reason for the reduced rate.

Activities

The October report outlined that actions would be undertaken to:

- Understand our waste streams
- Manage performance expectations
- Undertake further communication campaigns

As illustrated in this report, the Waste Team are examining recycling rates and seasonal performance and a more realistic recycling target has been set for 2017/18, of 53%.

Communication activities

Regarding communication campaigns, a county wide campaign to promote participation in the food recycling scheme and recycling service is due to commence in 2017. Work took place in February to monitor current participation levels in the weekly food recycling collections and mixed recycling scheme and this will be followed by a range of communication activities to promote these services. The communication strategy for this project is still being developed but, based on best practice elsewhere, it is anticipated that the activities undertaken will result in an increase of food waste collected, a reduction of food waste from residual waste collections and a potential increase in mixed recycling yields.

On-going/planned communications

In terms of advising residents on which waste streams go into which bins, the annual collection calendar was provided to all residents in October which contained clear and visual information on this. This information is also provided on the website. In addition to this, we are producing new

bin stickers which have a strong visual focus, allowing anyone to clearly understand what can and what cannot go into each bin. The stickers have been designed so that they can be used on household bins and bulk bins at flats. The stickers were designed using customer feedback, and focus upon the common items which should be recycled as well as common items which cannot be recycled. Stickers will be issued across all new bulk bin stores, and will be issued upon request or where deemed necessary to householders. Please be aware that only the mixed recycling sticker has been signed off, and the colours are subject to change on the other two.



In addition to these activities, the Waste Team is also currently developing an A to Z of Waste and Recycling which will be published on the websites when completed. This will enable residents to establish whether their items should be reused, recycled, taken to the HRC or disposed of as general rubbish.

5. Consultation
Not Applicable

6. Options
Options for delivering the DCLG funded campaign will be shared with Cabinet Members in March 2017.

7. Corporate Implications

Reports must include specific comments addressing the following implications;

3.1 *Financial – District Councils receive recycling credits for materials that are collected for recycling, providing the material is not rejected due to low quality. Recycling credits are used to offset waste costs. Working to encourage higher levels of recycling of an appropriate quality will continue to underpin those costs. The CDC budget for recycling credits represents £424k.*

3.2 *Legal – The Environmental Protection Act, 1990, sets waste collection authorities (District Councils) a duty to collect waste. The Waste Framework for England & Wales has set national recycling targets of 50% by 2020.*

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

9. This work supports the corporate objective to 'strive to conserve the environment and promote sustainability', supporting 'Chiltern residents to reduce waste and increase recycling'.

Next Step

To carry out the activities described in this report.

Background Papers:	It is a legal requirement that we make available any background papers relied on to prepare the report and should be listed at the end of the report (copies of Part 1 background papers for executive decisions must be provided to Democratic Services)
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Background papers:

Report to Services Overview Committee: *Review of the recycling performance of the Joint Waste Service, 18th October 2016*