

SUBJECT:	Recycling Update
REPORT OF:	Portfolio Holder for Environment – Cllr Luisa Sullivan
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Head of Environment – Chris Marchant
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WARD/S AFFECTED	All

1. Purpose of Report

To update Members on a number of key aspects of the Waste and Recycling Collection Service and to secure commitment to trial improvements to the Bulky Waste Collection Service.

RECOMMENDATION

The PAG are asked to advise the Portfolio Holder to recommend that Cabinet agrees to support the trialling changes to Bulky Waste Collections.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

The trial will seek to increase the amount of bulky waste that is re-used or recycled and thus reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. The benefits are as follows;

- Contribute to increasing the Councils Recycling Rate.
- Increase the availability of affordable second hand furniture for residents.
- Reduced wear and tear on collection vehicles from reduced trips to the landfill site.
- Reduction in travel distance and times once Energy from Waste plant comes on line as all waste for disposal will need to go to a specified transfer station.
- Minimal impact on residents, there should be no changes to how residents book and pay for bulky waste collections.

3. Content of Report

Background

3.1 South Bucks District Council made significant changes to the household waste and recycling collection service in February 2014. This included the provision of containers for fortnightly collection of general household rubbish, a wider range of materials (including plastic pots, tubs and trays) collected for recycling, new weekly food waste collections and an optional chargeable garden waste collection service.

3.2 Prior to implementation of the new service, South Bucks' recycling rate had remained around the 33/34% mark for a number of years. Collection data from the first full year of the new collections now indicates a recycling rate of over 50%.

3.3 There are still areas of the waste and recycling collection service where collections can be improved and this report provides an update and future plans for three key areas, namely Flats, Bring Sites and Bulky Waste Collections.

3.4 More detailed background information on the Flats Service Review can be found in the following PAG Reports;

- Flats Service Review Report – 18th June 2014
- Flats Service Review Update – 9th September 2014
- Provision of Caddy Liners to Flats – 18th February 2015

Flats Update

3.5 Following the new service roll out, approximately 3000 properties across at least 200 sites remained on a weekly general rubbish collection due to being unsuitable for the standard food waste collection service. The aim of the Flats Service Review was to bring these sites in line with household collections as well as implement improved reporting procedures and communication with both residents and property managers.

3.6 Since June 2014 Officers have been assessing these sites for the most appropriate collection, storage and access arrangements. To date 1342 properties across 97 sites have had an improved recycling collection service introduced. The new reporting procedures have ensured any issues such as contamination or excess waste have been dealt with quickly and efficiently, and as a result instances of contamination and excess waste have significantly reduced.

3.7 Improved services aim to be rolled out to the majority of the remaining sites by the end of August 2015, however there are a number of particularly challenging sites requiring significant works by the property owner which will go beyond this time frame.

Bring Site Review

3.8 South Bucks District Council currently provides 15 local recycling bring sites in various convenient locations such as car parks, train stations etc.

3.9 Since introducing the improved household recycling collection service it is thought that there may be spare capacity at some sites. Officers are currently gathering data on the capacity and tonnage collected from these sites in order to quantify the capacity and use of each site.

3.10 Once the review of this data is complete Members will be presented with a proposal for the future of these sites. This may include the reduction in the number of containers, identification of additional items that could be potentially collected i.e. light bulbs or the closure of sites where it is not efficient or economical to keep them open. A report will be prepared on this matter in time for the next Environment PAG.

Bulky Collections Trial

3.11 South Bucks District Council currently provides a chargeable bulky waste collection service for residents. The current charge is £35.50 for up to five items, however residents on certain means-tested benefits are entitled to up to two free collections within any 12 month period. The income in 14/15 was £19,723 and the budget for

15/16 is £15,130. Biffa on behalf of the Council will continue to pick up bulky waste and there are no additional collection costs as part of this report.

3.12 Last financial year 114.56 tonnes of bulky waste was collected, 19.96 tonnes of this was electrical items which were separated for recycling. The remaining 94.6 tonnes went to Landfill regardless of whether the items were re-usable or recyclable.

3.13 South Bucks District Council plays an integral part in the BCC led Bulky Waste Project that ultimately seeks to increase the re-use and recycling of bulky waste and divert this waste stream from Landfill. To this end Officers would like to lead the way by trialling the following changes to the bulky waste collection service for 3-4 months;

- All bulky waste collected will be taken to Beaconsfield Household Waste and Recycling Centre where it will be separated for recycling.
- A third sector organisation is enabled to take re-usable items prior to the collection of bulky items by waste collection contractor Biffa.

3.14 The third sector party and specific details are yet to be determined however the service received by residents will not alter. At this stage Members are asked to support this trial as a successful outcome can help increase the Councils' recycling rate further and improve the welfare of local residents by increasing the availability of affordable second hand furniture.

4. Consultation

n/a

5. Options

5.1 Option 1: take part in the trial (preferred). Section 2 sets out the reasons for the recommendation

5.2 Option 2: Do nothing. The bulky waste collection service will continue as is and all non electrical bulky waste will be landfilled until such time as the Energy from Waste Plant comes on line.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Potential risks are as follows;

- The flats roll out could take longer than anticipated due to consultation processes property managers need to go through with residents. This will put pressure on officer time which should be allocated to other projects.
- An agreement cannot be reached about how to conduct the bulky waste trial, however Officers and Biffa will be integral to developing a workable model

7 Links to Council Policy Objectives

7.1 This matter is related to the following local and national policy objectives:

- South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan Key Theme - Sustainable Environment – protecting our heritage, protecting our future.
- Council priority to continue to improve the street scene and cleanliness of the district as a key public services coordinator

- The current Joint Waste Management Strategy for Bucks policies, including “securing a long-term strategy for the management of wastes for which the member authorities are collectively responsible”.
- The Council’s recycling/composting target of 60% by 2025 as part of the Joint Waste Management Strategy for Bucks. The national target of 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020. There are no longer District specific targets.

8. Next Step

8.1 With Members support, Officers will work with Bucks County Council and Biffa to appoint a suitable third sector party and to develop a suitable model for the diversion of re-usable bulky items.

8.2 The trial will run for three to four months and accurate data will be compiled to assess the success of the trial.

Background Papers:	None
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