

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES
CABINET MEMBER**

PLASTIC AND CARDBOARD RECYCLING SCHEME – PROGRESS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The object of this report is to provide an update of progress made in the operation of the 'burgundy bin' scheme for the kerbside recovery of plastic and cardboard.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are:
- The introduction of the burgundy bin scheme has been well received by residents of North Lincolnshire.
 - The material recovered through the scheme has improved overall recycling performance.
 - Contractual arrangements for the receipt and processing of collected cardboard and plastic need to be renewed.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The 'burgundy bin' scheme commenced on 5 September 2007. Currently 68000 households have access to the scheme.
- 2.2 A contract for the reception, transport and reprocessing of the collected materials was awarded to Community Waste Limited. The contract is due for renewal on 1 April 2009.
- 2.3 The recovered materials are hauled to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) where they are separated mechanically into different polymer types and a cardboard fraction. These are then taken for reprocessing in the UK. Rejected materials (8.2% of MRF inputs) are used as fuel to produce heat and power.
- 2.4 In the 42 weeks since the scheme commenced, a total of 2480 tonnes of mixed plastic and cardboard has been collected. The relative proportions of the two waste fractions are 27.5% and 72.5% respectively.

- 2.5 Performance of the scheme to date suggests that in a full year over 3000 tonnes of material will be recovered for recycling. In terms of the plastic this equates to over 12 kilograms/household/year, which makes the scheme amongst the most productive when compared with other similar recovery schemes.
- 2.6 The 1897 tonnes of plastic and cardboard recovered in the period 5 September 2007 to 31 March 2008 contributed significantly to the overall increase in recycling performance. In 2007/8 43.3% of all household waste was recycled/composted compared with a figure of 38.4% in the previous year.
- 2.7 The introduction of the burgundy bin scheme has also had a positive impact on the operation of the kerbside box recycling scheme, which recovered over 11% more material in 2007/8 than in 2006/7. Complaints made regarding the frequency of collection of residual waste have also significantly reduced.
- 2.8 Minor amendments have been made to the scheme since commencement. These include the option to have a larger (240 litre) capacity burgundy bin in exchange for a smaller residual (green) waste bin.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The scheme is operating successfully and is well received by local residents. Therefore no change is required.
- 3.2 Some residents remain confused about the different polymer types that the scheme will accept and wish it to be simplified.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 A simplification of the scheme could be achieved by restricting the materials collected to plastic bottles only as is the case in some other local authority areas or by agreeing to accept all polymer types irrespective of the shape of the packaging.
- 4.2 The current scheme is designed around the ability to collect only those polymer types (1,2 and 5) for which UK or EU reprocessing capacity exists. Other polymer types can be recycled but only in other more distant locations e.g. China.
- 4.3 Changes to the service specification in terms of the types of plastic (polymer) that can be collected may impact on the ability of current contractors and reprocessors to receive and treat the recovered material. This in turn may impact on the quality of the recycle produced and lead to an increase in the reject rate and/or restrict the availability of end use markets.

4.4 On balance it is recommended that no change is made to the existing scheme but that further consideration is given to potential changes that may be made during the forthcoming contract retendering process.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 There are no resource implications associated with this report on the basis of the existing scheme is to be retained for the remainder of this municipal year.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

6.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 A recent series of resident focus groups held to capture information relevant to the formulation of a Municipal Waste Management Strategy has confirmed the high level of expressed satisfaction with the burgundy bin and other kerbside recycling schemes.

7.2 The current inability of some residents to participate in the burgundy bin scheme by virtue of their geographical location e.g. the Crosby area of Scunthorpe, has been highlighted during the focus groups and in correspondence received.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 The apparent success of the burgundy bin scheme is acknowledged and local residents applauded for their support for it.

8.2 Options for extending the scope of the scheme to receive all polymer types are explored during the forthcoming procurement exercise.

8.3 Further consultation with those residents in 'hard to reach' areas is undertaken to determine a practical solution for plastics and other materials recycling.

SERVICE DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Cottage Beck Road
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1TS
Author: Kevin Booth
Date: 13 June 2008

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report
WRAP - UK Plastic Bottle Recycling Survey 2005.