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| <b>NAME OF COMMITTEE</b> | <b>Community Services Committee</b>   |
| <b>DATE</b>              | <b>20 January 2015</b>  |
| <b>REPORT TITLE</b>      | <b>Recycling &amp; Waste Services Update</b>  |
| <b>Joint Report of</b>   | <b>Group Manager, Commercial Services and<br/>Waste Development &amp; Contracts Manager</b> |
| <b>WARDS AFFECTED</b>    | <b>All</b>  |

**Summary of report:**

This report is intended to update the Committee on the recycling and waste services with particular regard to:

- Current local performance
- Recent changes in legislation
- Education and marketing programme
- Devon wide waste strategy
- Future service development and delivery opportunities

**Financial implications:**

There are no financial implications at this time.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that:

1. the Committee agrees the continuation of the waste working group as a formal body until, at the earliest, the commencement of the new service arrangements in 2017; and,
2. the progress in the service area as a whole is noted.

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 This report is brought to the Committee to update Members on various recycling and waste service elements. It brings together information on local performance and regional work along with recent legislative changes which have impacted upon service.
- 1.2 It is timely given the timeframe required for the new service specification in 2017 and allows for the Council to ensure that continuity of Member involvement is maintained in this key service area.
- 1.3 All of the areas covered within the body of the report have been reported to the waste task and finish group.

## **2. CURRENT SERVICE PERFORMANCE & RECENT SERVICE CHANGES**

- 2.1 Recycling figures recently released by DEFRA show that recycling rates appears to be flat lining nationally with a rate of 44.2% in 2013 compared with 44.1% in 2012. The top performing authority nationally was South Oxfordshire with a rate of 65.71%, whilst West Devon's recycling rate of 57.9% made West Devon top in Devon and 11<sup>th</sup> of the 229 collection authorities in England.
- 2.2 The amount of residual household waste collected per household in 2013-14 showed West Devon to be top in Devon and 5<sup>th</sup> of the 229 collection authorities in England. This is an extremely important statistic as it relates to the amount of waste which householders throw away and highlights the benefits of some of the educational work which is being done locally in this area.
- 2.3 Further details of the national statistics are attached at Appendix 1 (to follow).

### **Legislative changes - composting**

- 2.4 It is due to become national policy that only compost which reaches a certain standard, the Quality Protocol, can be classified as recycling. These legislative changes are being applied nationally and will affect all Councils. These changes have been captured in our risk register since they were made known
- 2.5 To meet this standard locally, card will have to be removed from West Devon's garden waste collections to still qualify as recycled material and attract recycling credits. As highlighted on the corporate risk register, this has implications in terms of budget pressure of around £36,000 and could reduce West Devon's recycling rate by up to 2%. There is currently no change in this position and the benefit will be that the product still qualifies as recycling.
- 2.6 As the Waste Disposal Authority, Devon County Council has directed West Devon's leaves into the County contract resulting in a loss of annual income of around £18,000 from 1 April 2015. However, this waste is due to be re-classified by the Environment Agency shortly which would see it become recoverable rather than recyclable material which would result in the same loss of income. Reclassification, once introduced will also affect West Devon's recycling rate by about 5% as detailed on the corporate risk register. The Council have lobbied strongly against this change and were part of a national trail of sparse rural Council's who had their leaf material tested for contaminants.

### **Legislative changes - TEEP**

- 2.7 The revised Waste Framework Directive requires that by 2015, every waste collection authority must have in place separate collections for waste paper, metal, plastic and glass when they are necessary to 'facilitate or improve recovery' and are technically, environmentally, economically practicable (TEEP). The aim is to increase the quality and quantity of recycled material by reducing contamination. The Council is currently reviewing all waste collections to ensure compliance with the regulations. It is likely that services in West Devon will be compliant and a report will be brought back to the next meeting of this Committee.
- 2.8 It is important that the future work of the task and finish group pays particular regard to legislative changes in planning the service from 2017. Due to the complexity of the service area and the time needed for procurement and design this work will need to commence during 2015.

### **3. EDUCATION & MARKETING/PROMOTION PROGRAMME**

- 3.1 During the year to date we have been working on the following educational and promotional initiatives:

- the Fresher for longer campaign which advises the community about packaging and new types of packaging that preserve food for longer to encourage less waste
- a quiz with prizes where answers to questions related to the educational theme linked to 'Love Food Hate Waste'. Promotional giveaways revolved around education and food storage/preservation
- road shows were held from January 2014, the Council also attended summer fairs and markets. We have hosted Refurnish and Proper Job at summer shows, as a partnership to promote their waste reduction activities in our area, as well as our own food campaigns. So far this year we have seen almost 1000 householders.
- as normal the programme partnered with the Connect service to access some of our more remote communities.
- we held the Love Food Hate Waste cascade training to train members of the community to pass on useful tips. Two training days saw over 20 people trained to advise.
- new truck liveries have been launched this year, also advertising hoardings, supermarkets and bus shelter advertising sites (Jan15) have hosted the clean recycling messages. Funding direct from partners has funded most of this work.

#### **Future programme**

- 3.2 The future programme looks to foster links with the SW partnership to gain up to 25 days of education (per year) at the energy from waste education facility in Plymouth. This is additional to the Resource Futures schools education work within schools.

3.3 New service information is being produced, working on new themes and looking to target materials and approaches highlighted in the barrier to recycling review (Waste Resources Action Programme 2014). This information will be provided as part of the council tax pack.

3.4 We are currently awaiting more information regarding funding for a waste analysis. This has been costed for us by Resource Futures and will be vitally important to inform the future waste review.

#### **4. DEVON WIDE WASTE STRATEGY**

4.1 The work undertaken by the Devon wide executive waste board during 2013 to the present time has given our shared authorities a sound basis of the opportunities which might be gained from working in cluster areas, joint procurements and sharing knowledge for generic educational campaigns and schemes. We are also able to benefit from the shared information gathering and service modelling work which has been produced. This work is continuing and should be fully utilised and supported to assist in preparing a sound service design for 2017.

#### **5. FUTURE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT & DELIVERY OPPORTUNITIES**

5.1 This report is key, as a first step, to ensuring that the Council best places itself in the future to explore all avenues to achieve best cost of service and best future advantage. This will be done through the task and finish group exploring the strategy and commissioning cycle as part of the new operating model with officers. Particular regard will be given to how improvements can be gained through:

- Procurement options – shared where appropriate
- Alternative service delivery options
- Income generation
- Harnessing new technology
- Joint working solutions

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no specific legal implications at this time. Changes to legislation noted in the body in the report have been responded to or are currently being worked through in the case of TEEP.

#### **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no direct financial implications to the recommendations of this report, however future action may result in the betterment of the overall budget position for this service area.

7.2 Where legislative changes have cost impacts upon the service outside of our influence the cost pressures have been identified in the budget process.

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

8.1 These are outlined in the risk template at the end of this report.

## 9 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

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| <b>Corporate priorities engaged:</b>                | Environment; Economy; Community                      |
| <b>Considerations of equality and human rights:</b> | None   |
| <b>Biodiversity considerations:</b>                 | None   |
| <b>Sustainability considerations:</b>               | None   |
| <b>Crime and disorder implications:</b>             | None   |
| <b>Background papers:</b>                           | Previous reports on this service, budget information |
| <b>Appendices</b>                                   | A – Recycling information – to follow                |

## STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

| No | Risk Title                          | Risk/Opportunity Description                     | Inherent risk status       |                            |                                    |   | Mitigating & Management actions  | Ownership                               |
|----|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
|    |                                     |  | Impact of negative outcome | Chance of negative outcome | Risk score and direction of travel |   |  |   |
| 1  | National legislative changes        | Risk of escalating costs outside of our control. | ↑                          | ↑                          | 4                                  | ↑ | Liaison with the disposal authority to improve recycling capture and keep costs contained.<br>Forward planning on services and keeping good contact with the Environment Agency to ensure the best case is made for the authority. | Waste Development and Contracts Manager |
| 2  | Forward planning for future service | New service agreement not in place for 2017.     | ↑                          | ↓                          | 1                                  | ↔ | By having the Member group in place and already working on the next service design there is sufficient time allowed to achieve the required outcomes.  | Group Manager Commercial Services       |

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔