

Meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee – 18th March 2013

Report of the Director of The Urban Environment

Trade Waste Recycling

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on proposals to increase trade waste recycling.

Background

2. Current collection services for trade waste are only for mixed waste that is delivered to the waste to energy plant at Lister road. This waste is incinerated to produce electricity which is transmitted into the local grid network. Trade waste is collected by a dedicated fleet of 4 vehicles fitted with container lifts. These vehicles also collect household waste from flats. It is very difficult to accurately determine performance on trade waste due to the mixed nature of the collections. Our trade waste service performs well and is competitive, with a focus on smaller businesses.
3. Trade Waste recycling is not a new issue. Some trade waste recycling services have been previously offered, mainly for glass cullet but take-up was poor. This lack of success can be attributed to lack of suitable infrastructure for collection and storage, and also because of a lack of promotion, and integration into the Council's mainstream collection services. It was also at a time when culturally trade waste recycling was not an accepted norm. The introduction of a national waste strategy, and the promotion of the waste hierarchy, i.e. more minimisation and recycling, less landfill and disposal, has led to changes in waste collection practices nationally.
4. Some recent review work has been undertaken to examine the scope for the expansion of recycling collections to trade premises. This is part of a wider improvement agenda for waste collection services. This will include a change to wheeled bins for residual household waste, and also the introduction of an enhanced recycling collection service following the recent award of £1.8 million from 2014 via the 'Pickles millions' bid for government weekly collection support funding.
5. As a precursor some initial work has been done to review the provision of trade waste collections, in light of these service developments. Under future plans trade waste will be collected separately by dedicated rounds, and household waste will also be separately collected. This will be integrated as far as possible into the new rounds for wheeled bins. All collection rounds, for all services, will be reviewed and optimised using software. Trade recycling will be integrated into the wider enhanced new recycling rounds. Some case study work has been done on other Council's that collect trade recycling, including Oxford, Canterbury, Cheltenham and Wealden. This experience will inform the process and provide a template for service change.

Materials collected include paper, card, plastic bottles, cans, glass containers and cardboard. These will all be included in the revised recycling collections.

6. It is worth pointing out that these proposals for improved recycling collections also include schools, and council premises. Part of the funding package awarded will facilitate routine, free collections from schools within the borough, and also from Council offices. The overall idea is to promote and stimulate recycling across all of the areas served by the current collection services. Part of the plan will also be to develop mechanisms to encourage the general public to greater participation in recycling, possibly through reward schemes.

Finance

7. This report is provided for information purposes only so there are no direct financial implications from this report. The costs for service development will be met from existing planned budgets, with additional support from the Weekly collection support funding grant.

Law

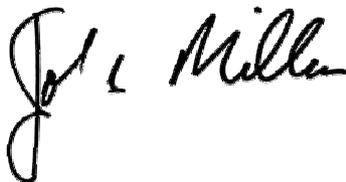
8. The Council's duties and powers regarding waste management, including recycling, and the collection and disposal of waste, are set out in Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended.
9. Pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council has the general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do.

Equality Impact

10. There are no equality issues arising from this report, which is provided purely for information purposes.

Recommendation

11. That the Committee notes the future service development proposals for trade waste collections and recycling.



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