

Committee: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item

Date: 26 September 2006

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Title: **RECYCLING IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**
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Item for decision

Summary

This report summarises the Recycling Project and updates members on its progress. It notes the work of the member/officer Waste Project Team.

Recommendations

1. That the progress report on the implementation of the three bin recycling scheme is noted.

Background Papers

The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report.

- 1 Uttlesford Waste Strategy.
- 2 Indecon Waste Consultants presentation to Members 21 July 2005
- 3 Report to Extraordinary Strategy Environment Committee – 28 November 2005
- 4 Report to Environment Committee – Contracting of Refuse and Recycling, 13 September 2005
- 5 Report to Environment Committee – Management restructure for the cleansing and waste services, 14 March 2006
- 6 Corporate Plan 2006
- 7 Environment and Cultural Services Service Plan 2006

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Every domestic property in the district has received a questionnaire allowing them to identify if they have a problem with the new scheme or if they may need an assisted collection. Those that return the questionnaire are contacted by the recycling officer who will work with the household to identify best
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	<p>solution.</p> <p>A programme of roadshows and presentations have been achieved.</p> <p>Newsletters and letters, features and advertisements as listed in the attached document.</p>
Community Safety	There are no specific community safety issues.
Equalities	<p>The scheme covers all the district but the majority of flats, due to the need for individual arrangements will be dealt with after phase 6.</p> <p>Our literature may be requested in alternative formats and languages. The bins are notched for identification by the visually impaired.</p>
Finance	Budget provision has been allocated for this scheme.
Human Rights	There are no human rights issues.
Legal implications	There are no legal issues.
Ward-specific impacts	All wards.
Workforce/Workplace	<p>The refuse contractor's employees were transferred to the Council on 1 April 2006.</p> <p>A restructuring of the waste recycling and related services was implemented on 1 April 2006. Harmonisation of teams and conditions of contractor's employees and in house operatives will take place later this year.</p>

Situation

- 1 The Waste Strategy was approved by Council on 13 December 2005. A key part of this strategy was to introduce a three bin recycling scheme to meet 4 aims; to improve recycling performance, to minimise waste sent to landfill, to minimise landfill penalties and maximise recycling credits.
- 2 The above approach will deliver best environmental and economic solution currently available.
- 3 The implementation is to be achieved in six phases, four of those are complete and phase 5 and 6 will be rolled out on target.
- 4 A recycling hot line has expanded to 6 dedicated staff.
- 5 Two teams of two recycling officers are working in the community to find best solution for households with problems.
- 6 The Waste Project Team advise, oversee and challenge the implementation of the Waste Strategy and its communications.

Targets

- 7 The 3 bin system will be completed by the end of October 2006, the timetable for rollout is on target.
- 8 The model that this scheme is based upon predicts a 48% recycling rate, the data tracking progress towards this aim is attached, these are provisional and unaudited so should only be regarded as an indication of performance. Firm annual figures are provided by the County Council in June each year.
- 9 A summary of facts and figures relating to the implementation follows this report.
- 10 Two areas of implementation will be held over until after the main rollout these are flats and village halls. This work will require individual solutions to be put in place to recognise the complexities of the sites and multiple users.

Options

Some additional arrangements have been put in place in response to customer input as follows:

- 11 A network of outlets for starch based, bio-degradable bags has been established in the district. A list of these outlets and other suppliers has been compiled. These are suited to the composting process and may be used for kitchen "wet waste" materials to keep bins clean. This has been developed as

an option for residents but if they wish to wrap their food waste both newspaper and cardboard are wholly acceptable as they assist the composting process.

- 12 The green waste bags are being withdrawn and replaced with starch based bags so that these too can be set out with the kitchen waste collection for bio digestion.
- 13 We have advised residents about how they can deal with their old dustbins, encouraging them to think about reuse before they dispose of them.
- 14 Dustbins can be given for recycling at metal recycling facilities (Thaxted Road Local Amenity Site, Stansted and Thaxted weekend skips). Plastic dustbins may also be dropped off at these facilities. The plastic will be collected by the wheeled bin suppliers and reprocessed into plastic products.
- 15 The green and black boxes are gifted to households and suggestions for use include using as a dry recyclables receptacle with the home before removal to the wheeled bin, using as a container for collecting glass ready for taking to the bottle bank. Households who do not wish to make use of them can drop them off at any of the sites taking plastic dustbins or at a minibank site where we will pick them up. Again the wheeled bin supplier will take these for reprocessing.
- 16 We have sourced a supplier of low cost kitchen waste bins for those that wish to purchase a small bin within their kitchen. Information about these and starch based sacks is provided within the introductory pack sent out with the wheeled bins.
- 17 The schedule was adjusted after the rollout of phase 2 to allow all collections to commence with non-recyclable materials.

Pay-Offs/Penalties

- 18 The new scheme has a revenue cost of £417,000 more than the old scheme. However, this diverts the council tax payer from incurring £3,500,000 of Landfill Allowance Tax penalties in the next five years.
- 19 The scheme is not only the best economic solution it is also the best environmental solution currently available. The diversion of bio-degradable waste from landfill will make a significant reduction in production of methane.
- 20 The new scheme will allow more households in the district to participate in recycling and allow a greater volume of our waste to be recycled. The diversion from landfill will extend the life of the landfill sites. It also fits with the National Audit Office/DEFRA report 24 July 2006.

Risk Analysis

19 Risks associated with this project have been identified in relevant previous reports.