

## Lead Officer Report

Environment Committee 17 June 2008 - Item no.4

Committee: Environment

Agenda Item

Date: 17 June 2008

**4**

Title: Lead Officer's Report.

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Item for noting

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### Summary

1. This report updates Members on matters that are not on this Agenda.

### Recommendations

2. That the report is noted.

### Background Papers

### Impact

Communication/Consultation	Information item only
Community Safety	Information item only
Equalities	Information item only
Finance	Information item only
Human Rights	Information item only
Legal implications	Information item only
Ward-specific impacts	Information item only
Workforce/Workplace	Information item only

### Situation

- 1 There are no updates on matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not on this agenda. There are two information items on Waste issues.

### Domestic Waste & Recycling 2007/08

	2007/08	2006/07	% Difference
Recycling and composting rate	54.6%	42.6%	+27.8%
	(15,658 tonnes)	(12,255 tonnes)	

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Recycling rate – material collected from the green bin and bring sites (glass, textiles, paper, cans)	34.7% (9,951 tonnes)	29.9% (8,595 tonnes)	+15.8%
Composting rate – material collected from the brown bin and garden waste from the weekend bring sites	19.9% (5,707 tonnes)	12.7% (3,660 tonnes)	+55.9%
Waste to landfill – material collected from the black bin, street sweepings and the weekend skip service	43.6% (12,998 tonnes)	57.4% (16,499 tonnes)	-21.2%
Total waste arising – the total amount of material collected as described above	100% (28,646 tonnes)	100% (28,754 tonnes)	-0.4%

3. The figures above are currently awaiting audit approval from Essex County Council. When they are verified, Uttlesford will be one of the top performing Local Authorities in the Country.
4. In 2006/07 Uttlesford were positioned at 34 out of 273 collection authorities on the recycling league table. North Kesteven had the highest recycling / composting rate of 55.5%, with South Shropshire coming second with 53.4%.
5. In the event that recycling / composting rates remain static, potentially Uttlesford will have the second highest recycling / composting rate behind North Kesteven.

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## The Consultation on the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Essex

- In February 2008, the Essex Waste Partnership (this comprises of the County Council and the twelve District and Borough councils of Essex) undertook a three-month consultation programme on the draft Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Essex.
- The aims of this consultation were to raise awareness about the draft waste strategy and to provide an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to give feedback on the draft waste strategy, as well as to inform them of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and similarly gather comments.
- The central objective in creating this consultation exercise was to communicate the principles of the draft waste strategy clearly and understandably to Essex residents and stakeholders, including 'hard to reach' groups.
- The main body of the consultation took the form of a questionnaire on the draft waste strategy and SEA document, which was distributed to residents and stakeholders. This was available to all stakeholders through the County Council's Essex Works magazine, at road shows around the County, online and at libraries and Council buildings. All residents and stakeholders therefore had the opportunity to view and comment on the consultation.
- Responses
  - 4,479 questionnaires were returned
  - 16 stakeholders submitted comments
- Provisional Results
  - A substantial majority of those who returned a questionnaire (83%) state that they recycle as much as possible, a significant increase on the previous survey in 2005<sup>1</sup>.
  - A large majority of respondents (80%) say that it is 'very easy' or 'fairly easy' to help the Essex waste Partnership achieve levels of 60% recycling by using current kerbside collection and Recycling Centres for Household Waste to recycle their waste, with only 18% saying that it is 'very difficult' or 'fairly difficult'.
  - Overall, 84% of Essex residents state that they either 'strongly agree' or 'tend to agree' with the proposal that "After all practical recycling and composting has taken place... Essex councils should treat 'black bag' waste by using MBT processes rather than sending the waste directly to landfill."
  - A further 88% would "prefer it if part of the material from the MBT process was used to produce fuel for energy rather than being sent to a landfill site."

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<sup>1</sup> Essex Waste Strategy Consultation (MORI research) 2005

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- In addition, environmental benefits, economic savings and enhanced recovery of recyclable materials are all popular aspects of the MBT process.

#### **Next Steps**

- 9<sup>th</sup> June – deadline for Districts and Boroughs to submit their comments as part of the consultation.
- 17<sup>th</sup> June details to ECC's cabinet for information only
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June Waste Management Advisory Board
- 15<sup>th</sup> July Final version of the strategy to go to ECC's full Council for adoption
- August – early autumn to go to district and boroughs for adoption.