

**Committee:** Environment

**Date:** 18 November 2008

**Title:** Lead Officer's Report

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**Agenda Item**

**5**

Item for  
information

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## Summary

This report advises Members of the outturn data on recycling performance; how the Council will respond to the Government's consultation on Noise Action Plans; the timetable for considering the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Essex; and the latest position on the concessionary fares scheme core hours.

## Recommendations

None

## Background Papers

Defra 2007/08 Local Authority League table

## Situation

### 1 DEFRA Local Authority Recycling League Table

Uttlesford District Council has once again been highlighted for its achievements in the annual local authority recycling league table, compiled by the DEFRA. Out of 273 waste collection authorities the figures, based on domestic waste collected between April 2007 and March 2008, show Uttlesford as being:

Position	Category	Data
2nd	Dry recycling rate (paper, card, plastics, tin cans, glass and textiles)	34.70%
6th	Dry recycling and composting rate (as above including food and garden waste)	54.50%
8th	Lowest waste to landfill per household	422kg
10th	Most improved dry recycling and composting authority	42.8% to 54.5%

Lead officer's report

Environment Committee, Item 5

Table 1: UDC highlights from the 2007/08 DEFRA league table

The table below compares Uttlesford's figures over the previous three years, beginning 2005/06, and prior to the roll-out of the existing recycling scheme, which was implemented during 2006/07.

Year	Dry recycling & Composting Rate	Dry Recycling Rate
2005/2006	197th 25.2%	Data not available 22.2%
2006/2007	34th 42.8%	10th 30.1%
2007/2008	6th 54.5%	2nd 34.7%

Table 2: UDC three year comparison of recycling rates

To be nationally recognised as one of the top ten waste collection authorities, for dry recycling and composting (54.5%), is a great achievement. If it weren't for the other top authorities collecting kerbside garden waste, then Uttlesford would comfortably claim first place.

As the table below indicates, Uttlesford has achieved high levels of landfill diversion through a dedicated collection scheme, and true recycling, that does not rely on the huge tonnage return that garden waste permits.

Pos.	Authority	Dry recycling and composting	Dry recycling	Composting	Kerbside garden waste?	Kerbside food waste?
1	East Lindsey DC	58.4%	26.8%	31.7%	✓	X
2	South Hams DC	57.1%	30.0%	27.1%	✓	✓
3	North Kesteven DC	55.9%	29.1%	26.8%	✓	X
4	Teignbridge DC	55.6%	20.6%	35.0%	✓	✓
5	Huntingdonshire DC	55.1%	26.5%	28.6%	✓	✓
<b>6</b>	<b>Uttlesford DC</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>34.7%</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>✓</b>

Table 3: Top six dry recycling and composting authorities

Lead officer's report

Environment Committee, Item 5

2008/09 looks to be following a similar trend but with dry recycling and composting rates expected to increase, in Uttlesford, to 55% or 56%. The Street Services team will continue to manage the day to day running of the scheme, as well targeting poor performing areas to encourage those residents to manage their waste appropriately.

- 2 The Council will respond to the Government's consultation on Noise Action Plans by endorsing the feedback from the Local Government Association Strategic Aviation Interest Group.
- 3 A report on the Joint Municipal Waste Strategy will now be brought to the meeting of this committee on 20 January with a view to its recommendation being resolved at Full Council on 24 February 2009.
- 4 At the time of writing this report, agreement appears to have been reached between Essex local authorities on the concessionary fares scheme core hours. An update will be provided at the meeting.