

RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21ST SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS & DELIVERY)

A.1 WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICE

(Report prepared by Jonathan Hamlet)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide the Committee with an update on the Waste and Recycling service.

INVITEES

Councillor Michael Talbot Portfolio Holder for Environment and Public Space, who will be in attendance to answer questions.

BACKGROUND

Following a previous Committee meeting held on the 17th February 2020, the Chairman of the Committee requested an update on the future ambitions of the service to further improve the recycling rates along with the intended site visits to Veolia recycling and processing plants in Essex.

DETAILED INFORMATION

Intended site visits to Veolia recycling and processing plants in Essex:

Prior to the COVID pandemic, invitations for a select number of Councillors were about to be made by the Portfolio holder for site visits to the Veolia plastic sorting and processing plants based in both Rainham and Degenham Essex, along with a site visit to the ECC transfer site located on the A120 at Ardleigh. With COVID restrictions remaining in place Veolia are currently not offering site visits to any of their sites, policies are under constant review in line with government guidance and once the authority and Veolia are in a position to offer site visits suitable arrangements will be put in place to resurrect the intended site visits.

Photography and video recording is prohibited at their sites and due to this, live streaming or educational video is not an option.

Future ambitions of the service to further improve the recycling rates:

The last of the main delivery of approximately 58,000 wheeled bins was completed by the end of August 2019 and as such the wheeled bin service has been in operation for just over a year now. As set out in the report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment placed before Cabinet on the 16th February 2018 it was anticipated that the fortnightly collection of residual waste from a wheeled bin will reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill by an estimated

16% (4,500 tonnes) whilst increasing recycling by an estimated 3,100 tonnes and increasing the recycling rate by an estimated 8%.

The latest audited data supplied by ECC for the period of April 2019 to March 2020 has reported a reduction of waste sent to landfill by 7363 tonnes, increasing recycling by 2899 tonnes and increasing the recycling rate from the 2018/19 figure of 27.4% to 2019/20 figure of 36.6%; an increase of 9.2%.

These figures not only meet or exceed the predicted ambitions of the new service but with the new waste service not becoming fully operational until the last week in August 2019 indicate that with the first 5 months data based either fully or partially on the old weekly collection service that the future performance of the fortnightly collection service will continue to overachieve the initial targets set for the service.

With the introduction of wheeled bins clearly promoting waste minimisation and increasing participation in recycling, that since the roll out of the 58,000 wheeled bins the authority and Veolia have continued to work towards increasing the wheeled bin participation of households within the District. The initial audit of the properties in the district indicated approximately 11,000 properties which should remain on a weekly bag collection service, TDC Officers continue to reassess and where practicable possible introduce wheeled bins to these 11,000 properties, with numerous blocks of flats and properties in rural locations being transferred over to a fortnightly wheeled bin service. Additional to these properties, as all new build developments become occupied the residents are automatically provided with not just a wheeled bin but also a full set of recycling boxes to promote and assist in the kerbside collection.

The recycling Officer has recently overseen the installation of a new bring site, located at ASDA in Clacton resulting in the installation of 6 additional glass banks, which helps support and increase the network of bring sites across the district. Additionally the community bring site in Brightlingsea has seen a larger capacity tetrapak bank installed to help meet demand.

The Street Scene team have recently taken on a new technical administrator; the purpose of this position will be to provide additional administrative support to the team, which when combined with the increased use by residents and customers of the authorities on line My Tending portal reporting tool will further improve our responses to enquiries and complaints and critically freeing up the Recycling Officer to prioritise their workload in promoting and enhancing recycling within Tending.

As highlighted above the team continue to work and build upon the foundations of the new waste service, continuing to deliver wheeled bins, installing and providing additional bring sites and ensuring all new build properties are provided with a full waste and recycling container set in a timely manner; these efforts can be reflected in the recycling data for September 2019 upto and including the end of April 2020; for this 8 month period which solely reflects the fortnightly collection service has recorded a recycling rate of 39.80%; an increase of 12.4% compared to 2018/19, the below table summarises the changes during the transition to the new waste service, with the 8 month data extrapolated out to a 12 month period for comparative ease.

Year	Residual waste/tonnes	Recycled, reused/composted tonnes	Recycling rate %
2018/19	35,427	13521	27.40
2019/20	28,197	16421	36.60

Sept 2019-April 2020	17,445 (26,168 for 12 month equivalent)	11980 (17,970 for 12 month equivalent)	39.80
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RECOMMENDATION
<p>That the Committee determines whether it has any comments or recommendations it wishes to put forward to the Environment & Public Space Portfolio Holder or Cabinet.</p>