

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel

Date 09 January 2014

Report of: Director of Street Scene

Subject: SIX MONTHLY REPORT ON RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the recycling facilities offered by the Council to residents of the Borough and the quantities collected.

RECOMMENDATION

That members note the contents of the report.

INTRODUCTION

1. Fareham Borough Council provides two main recycling services to residents; a kerbside collection of materials (in the blue top bins), and a network of bring bank sites for other materials (mainly glass and textiles).
2. For the last few years the Council has maintained a position whereby approximately 38% of the total domestic waste generated is sent for recycling. This is one of the highest rates in Hampshire.
3. The benefits of this achievement are twofold:
 - Environmental - the amount of waste sent to landfill is minimised, as all other residual (green top wheeled bin) waste is sent to an energy recovery facility (ERF) where it is burned to generate electricity.
 - Financial - the Council receives a significant level of income from the sale of materials sent for recycling.
4. The waste is disposed of or sorted for recycling at facilities managed through Project Integra (PI). This is a partnership of all the waste collection and disposal authorities in Hampshire, working together with Veolia Environmental Services.

KERBSIDE RECYCLING

5. All households in the Borough have access to a fortnightly collection for the following materials:
 - **Paper** - Newspapers, magazines, catalogues, yellow pages, office paper and envelopes. Shredded paper cannot be collected as it gets blown around in the sorting plant, and can also clog the machinery.
 - **Card** - Large boxes should be broken down. Soiled boxes such as pizza boxes should not be placed in the recycling bin.
 - **Food tins and drink cans** - should be washed if possible.
 - **Aerosols** - Cans such as deodorants, hair sprays, air fresheners and furniture polish can all be accepted for recycling. They should not be pierced or squashed, and plastic lids should be removed. Aerosols with orange hazard symbols are not suitable and should be placed in the household waste bin.
 - **Plastic bottles** - No other sort of plastic, such as yoghurt pots and convenience food trays are acceptable due to different types of plastic used which would require a level of segregation that is not economically viable in the UK at present.
6. Recyclables collected in the blue top bin are taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Portsmouth. They are sorted by a combination of automatic and manual processes. From the MRF, materials are sent for re-processing into new products.
7. Recycling must be placed loose in the bin, not in bags, as staff at the MRF are unable to see if there is potentially hazardous material in them. The only exception is clear plastic bags, because staff can see if they contain recyclable materials. Clear plastic bags are sent out on request to residents waiting for a recycling bin, or who occasionally have a large amount of recyclable material. Residents are permitted two recycling bins if required.

GARDEN WASTE

8. The Council also provides a fortnightly kerbside collection of garden waste from all households in the Borough. One reusable sack is emptied at no additional charge to the householder. Residents wishing to dispose of additional garden waste can purchase additional disposable bags at a cost of £21.50 for 25 bags, or £5.25 for 5 bags.
9. Garden waste is taken to the Veolia Environmental Services transfer station at Warren Farm, where it is bulked up and sent on to Little Bushy Warren, near Basingstoke, for processing. It is composted into a soil conditioner called Pro-Grow, which is made available for sale at household waste recycling centres throughout the county.
10. No income is received by the Council for the recycling of garden waste; however, the tonnage collected is included in the authority's published recycling figures. In the first six months of the current financial year (April-September 2013) a total of 2,396 tonnes of green waste was collected. This is lower than the 2,636 tonnes collected in the same period last year (April-September 2012). The summer of 2013 was hot and dry. In comparison, the summer of 2012 was warm and wet, so vegetation grew more quickly.

GLASS RECYCLING BANKS

11. There is a network of 44 glass bring bank sites across the Borough that collect approximately 2,000 tonnes (projected 2013-14 1,980 tonnes) of glass per annum. The glass is sent for recycling to Berrymans in Doncaster. Glass is the only material that can be repeatedly recycled into the same product.

CLOTHING AND TEXTILE RECYCLING BANKS

12. Since April 2013, clothing and textile recycling banks on public land in Fareham have been managed by the European Recycling Company (ERC), under a four year contract with the Council. An additional 16 banks have been installed around the Borough increasing the total number of textile recycling banks to 30. A list of all sites in the contract can be found at Appendix A.
13. All textiles, clothing, household linens, shoes and accessories can be reused or recycled. 80% of what is put in textile banks is re-worn. The ERC can recycle worn, old items, as long as they are clean. They can be used to make a wide variety of materials according to customers' requirements; for example car insulation or roofing felt. The sorting plant's technology can combine materials to meet customers' exact product needs, for example fibres only from wool, cotton or acrylic.
14. The ERC operate to a Zero Waste philosophy. Nothing goes to waste; buttons, zips, chains and rivets are removed from old clothing by state-of-the-art processing machines and sent for recycling. Even the dust generated in the processes is compressed into blocks and used again in the manufacture of paper.
15. The Council's Executive agreed on 15th April 2013 that 90% of the proceeds from clothing and textile recycling would go to charities that had banks on council land prior to the new arrangements, and the Council's Community Fund for the duration of the contract, to support local projects that benefit residents or the environment. The remaining 10% is used to support Council services and help keep Council Tax bills

down in the same way as the income derived from the sale of other recyclables does.

16. The Executive also agreed that the charities who previously operated textile banks on Fareham Borough Council land would receive a guaranteed income equal to what they previously earned from these banks. The charities concerned are Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance Service, Salvation Army and TRAIID (Textile Recycling for Aid & International Development).

TEXTILE TONNAGES COLLECTED

17. At the start of the contract, it took a few weeks to install all the banks and establish the service. The table shows tonnages collected from all sites (including charity sites on private land) and the figures indicate an increase over time in the tonnages collected.

Month 2012	Textiles collected (tonnes)	Month 2013	Textiles collected (tonnes)
April 2012	24.00	April 2013	20.85
May 2012	22.91	May 2013	20.64
June 2012	25.73	June 2013	20.05
July 2012	22.24	July 2013	22.09
August 2012	22.07	August 2013	23.57
September 2012	25.08	September 2013	22.83

18. It is very difficult to compare specific sites. The 16 new sites in place will have taken materials which in previous years would have gone in a different bank. There is also no way of knowing how much material is taken by residents to charity shops, or left out for kerbside collectors.

PAPER RECYCLING BANKS

19. There are nine paper bank sites around the Borough, operated by Palm Recycling. There is no cost to the Council to operate them, and no income is received. Two banks were removed in June 2013, from Holly Hill car park and Palmerston Avenue car park, because they did not take enough to be viable.
20. The banks take paper and card, which can be recycled at home in the blue top bin. They also provide a disposal route for large cardboard, and they take shredded paper, which cannot go in the blue top bin. In the last year (2012-13), 75 tonnes of paper and card was taken for recycling.

RECYCLING BANKS FOR BOOKS, DVDS AND CDS

21. There are nine recycling banks across the Borough operated by charities to collect these materials for sale in the charity's shops. One bank, in Stubbington, was recently removed by the charity because it was no longer viable. Weights collected contribute to

the Recycling Rate.

22. In June 2013, the Council was required to remove the glass recycling banks from the Sainsbury's site at Broadcut. Sainsbury's has entered into a national partnership with a recycling company to manage all recycling facilities on their land. The glass, paper and textile recycling facilities remain, but the Council does not operate them and receives no income from them. There is also a bank provided for mixed plastics. Details of the tonnages collected are supplied for the Borough's Recycling Rate.

RECYCLING STATISTICS

23. The table below shows a comparison of figures from the first half of 2013-14 and 2012-13.

Statistic	Average for Apr-Aug 12/13	Average for Apr-Aug 13/14
Overall Recycling %	39.6%	37.9%
Recycling Rate without Garden Waste	29.4%	27.8%
Garden Waste tonnage	451	410
Residual (green top) tonnage	1639	1637
Recycling (blue top bin) tonnage gross	633	591
MRF Reject %	10.5%	12.6%
Recycling (blue top bin) tonnage net	566	517
Bring Bank Glass tonnage	172	171
Average Residual (green top) Waste Kgs / HH	34.2	34.0

24. The overall Recycling Rate has reduced by just over 1.5% compared to the previous year. The amount of refuse collected has remained static, while the amount of recyclables collected has reduced slightly. Tonnages of glass collected for recycling have remained the same.

25. In May 2012, the Environment Agency issued guidance to all Local Authorities stating that seasonal street leaf sweepings would no longer be acceptable for composting. The main reason is that contamination levels in the street leaf sweepings were too high to produce 'quality compost' marketed as non-waste, or compost that can be spread to agricultural land under waste controls. In previous years leaf fall collected from street sweeping contributed approximately 2% toward the overall Recycling Rate.

26. This reduction in the Recycling Rate is a trend seen across the Project Integra partnership, and nationally. The Recycling Rate in England has risen by only 0.2% and performance ranges from 67% recycling in Rochford District Council to 12% in Ashford Borough Council. This variation is an indication of the broad range of methods and materials that disposal authorities use.

27. A wet summer in 2012 meant more garden waste was collected than in 2013. For comparison, in August 2012, 475 tonnes of garden waste was collected; for August 2013 the figure was 363, a 23% reduction. The hot summer of 2013 followed a cold spring; March 2013 was recorded as the coldest in over 50 years. Therefore growth, and consequently garden waste, this year was considerably less than last year. This is

highlighted by figures for March where the tonnage of garden waste for March 2013 was 139, less than half the 296 tonnes collected in March 2012.

28. The MRF Reject Rate has also increased. This is the amount of non-recyclable material rejected at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). This change in the Reject Rate has been identified and addressed through a project with the Council's recycling collection crews, funded through the Project Integra Recycle for Hampshire campaign. Each crew received an extra training session, and an extra loader was deployed for one day for each area, to cover the whole of the Borough.
29. This meant the regular crew were able to identify more contamination in bins, and leave hangers to remind residents. It is difficult to assess the results of this work on specific tonnages, however, by leaving hangers where a bin was contaminated, it is possible to target the message to the specific household attempting to recycle correctly.

INCOME

30. The income derived from the sale of materials collected from blue top recycling bins is allocated back to each authority according to the tonnages collected, and the market price of each material that pertains at the time. These arrangements are managed on behalf of all PI authorities by Hampshire County Council and Veolia Environmental Services.
31. In the financial year 2012-13, Fareham Borough Council received approximately £300,000 from the sale of recycled materials sent to the MRF, based on a net total of 6,696 tonnes of material recycled. The income received each year has fluctuated due to the varying price for each type of material. Full details of all income received from recycling activities for the last three financial years can be found at Appendix B.
32. Income from the sale of glass varies according to market conditions. Currently, clear glass achieves £48.50 per tonne, and mixed (coloured) glass £44.50 per tonne (Sept 2013 figure). It remains cost-effective to collect glass in two streams, clear and mixed coloured glass. Details of the income received from glass recycling can be found at Appendix B.
33. Recycling credits are an incentive for waste collection authorities (WCA) received from their waste disposal authority (WDA) for initiatives in recycling. The WCA receives recycling credit in direct proportion of the saving made from the cost of disposal or collection as a result of separation of waste for recycling. The Council receives recycling credits from Hampshire County Council for glass collected from bring bank sites. Details of the recycling credits received for the last three financial years can be found at Appendix B.
34. From 2013-14 a significant income will be generated from the sale of textiles collected from blue banks across the Borough.

RISK ASSESSMENT

35. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

36. The Council currently provides a variety of recycling services that have environmental benefits through a reduction in the amount of household waste and the re-use and recycling of a number of materials in manufacturing processes.
37. There is also a financial benefit to council tax payers, as the income received from the sale of recycled material is used to reduce the net cost of providing waste and recycling collection services to residents. It is worth noting, however, that market prices achieved from these sales do vary and, as a result, the levels of income are not guaranteed.
38. Through the introduction of the Textile Recycling Contract, residents now have more opportunities available to them across the Borough to recycle their textiles and by doing this are also helping local community groups and charities with funding through the Community Fund.
39. Through Project Integra, the Council regularly reviews the type of recycling services it can provide, giving due consideration to issues of sustainability and affordability.

Appendix A - All sites in the textile recycling contract

Appendix B - Summary of income and credits received for recycling for the last three financial years

Background Papers:

None

Reference Papers:

None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Sue Hand. (Ext 4554)

Appendix A

All Sites in the Textile Recycling Contract

Barrys Meadow car park, Titchfield
Bath Lane car park, Fareham
Bishopsfield Road Car Park, Fareham
Burrige Sports & Social Club, Botley Road, Burrige
Civic Way Car park, Fareham
Community Centre car park, Mill Street, Titchfield
Fareham Park Community Centre car park, Henry Cort Drive, Fareham
Fareham Youth Centre, Osborn Road, Fareham
Ferneham Hall car park, Fareham
Harper Way, Fareham – alongside Taxi Rank
Highlands Road, Fareham – car park in front of shops
Holly Hill car park, Sarisbury Green
Leisure Centre car park, Fareham
Lysses car park lower, Fareham
Lysses car park upper, Fareham
Malthouse Lane car park, Fareham
Market car park, Portchester
Market Quay car park, Fareham
Middle Road car park, Park Gate
Monks Hill car park, Hill Head
Osborn Road multi storey car park, Fareham – pedestrian entrance
Passage Lane car park, Warsash
Priory Park Community Centre car park
Salterns Road car park, Hill Head
Stubbington Community Centre car park
Wallington Community Centre car park
Warsash Road car park, Warsash
Western Road, Fareham – car park behind Holy Trinity Church
Western Road, Fareham – opposite Duke of Connaughts Club
Wicor Recreation Ground car park, Portchester

Appendix B

Summary of Income and Credits Received for Recycling for the Last Three Financial Years

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Sale of material from the MRF	£213,539	£376,372	£300,300
Sale of glass	£34,370	£20,095	£26,369
Glass recycling credits	£79,021	£66,143	£76,286
Total	£326,930	£462,610	£402,955