

POLICY REVIEW & DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Type of Report: Review	Portfolio(s): Environment
Will be subject to a future Cabinet Report: Will be need to be recommended to Council:	YES/NO YES/NO
Author Name: Barry Brandford	Consultations: Chris Bamfield Nathan Johnson
Tel: 01553 782074	
Email: Barry.Brandford@west-norfolk.gov.uk	
OPEN / EXEMPT (delete as appropriate)	

Environment and Community Panel

Date: 8 February 2016

Subject: Norfolk Waste Partnership Work Streams

Summary

This report provides an update on waste related issues and provides a particular focus on the current work of the Norfolk Waste Partnership, Waste and Recycling Behaviour Change Programme and waste related updates.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report and make comments.

1. Norfolk Waste Partnership

The Council together with all the Norfolk districts and the County Council form the Norfolk Waste Partnership. The NWP was formed to help tackle and reduce the amount of household waste produced in the County. It has standardised the approach to waste across the County and via its officer groups is looking at continuing improvements to the County's waste issues to help reduce the costs of dealing with waste across Norfolk as a whole. A number of research projects are about to start looking at options covering:

- Communications and behavioural change where Officers are looking at the recycling messages Councils are giving out and exploring ways to persuade residents to manage their waste in a more sustainable manner.
- Sharing facilities and assets. This links into the work being undertaken as part of the Norfolk One Public Estate programme where Councils could perhaps share facilities such as depots rather than operate them side by side as in some instances.
- Reviewing materials that could be added to the list of recyclables. This is constantly under review and is dependent on the collection method, the ability of the MRF to be able to separate waste streams and the presence of a market willing to buy the secondary material. This is influenced by global trading conditions.
- Reviewing waste infrastructure and collection regimes. This project will examine collection methods and possible improvements to the current twin bin arrangements together with potential savings that could be made around a review of the collection regimes currently in place.

It is proposed to provide updated reports on the project work as it progresses through

this year. Although part of the research streams, the Council is not committed to the adoption of any of the outcomes of the research. Any proposals will be brought back to the Council.

2. Work Stream Details Update

Communications and Behavioural Change

The work on behavioural change was commenced by this authority and following a successful bid to DCLG and the award of £ ¼ million a scheme has been implemented by Local Green Points (LGP) on behalf of the council. This work has been extended by agreement to additionally provide a smaller scale project in each collection authorities in year 2.

This has been undertaken to embed the learning from the project across Norfolk.

The outcomes for the first year of the project show that all of the measures which LGP said would be delivered have been achieved including the number of households signed up for the scheme and the delivery of activities and learning modules.

However, the evidence of the schemes ability to generate additional tonnages of recycling and food waste collected has as yet to be substantiated. Therefore some changes are being planned for the second year of the scheme. Some of these reflect comments from members. The scheme will deliver the following in year two:

- Community Rewards of £6,000
- Food waste reduction and recycling module
- Support for recycling contamination reduction

The Community Rewards scheme will enable Parish Councils or in the case of the Unparished areas of King's Lynn (KLACC) to nominate schemes for funding. If the Parish is in one of the areas with greatest performance those registered users of the West Norfolk Green Points scheme in that area will be able to vote for one of the schemes suggested.

Three schemes will receive funding:

1 st Place	£3,000
2 nd Place	£2,000
3 rd Place	£1,000

The intention is to encourage greater levels of participation through making the benefits of winning more tangible to local communities and through this process enlisting Parish Councils and Borough Councillors to be advocates for the West Norfolk Green Points scheme in their area.

Information will be sent to Parish Councils explaining the potential for a project in their area to be nominated and supported by West Norfolk Green Points and through this method gain more members to the scheme through local recruitment.

To make sure that the outcomes are measured not just on the number of members in each area the success of each area is based upon the following:

- Relative improvement in the weight of recycling put in the green bin
- Relative improvement in the weight of food waste collected in the area
- Relative reduction in the weight of collected black bin waste.

The potential greatest impact that a householder can have on a project being funded in their area is to sign up for West Norfolk Green Points and then participate in the scheme and use their food waste caddy, as well as recycling well using the green bin.

A similar scheme is being offered to the City, Borough and District councils in Norfolk but based on a much smaller scale.

Additionally the authorities are combining some resources, within existing budgets, and have appointed an experienced manager to help deliver both a communications strategy and specific schemes across Norfolk. Additionally officers from across Norfolk have worked together to upgrade and relaunch the Recycle for Norfolk website (www.recyclefornorfolk.com). The appearance and functionality of the website is significantly improved and additional features are being added.

Recycling Performance

The formation of a company controlled jointly by all of the District, Borough and City Councils in Norfolk along with Norfolk County Council and Norse Commercial Services to provide the recycling operations for the green bin collections allows flexibility in the provision of services. The Liaison Board, formed by Norse and the Councils can review the provision of additional materials which can be sustainably added to the range of materials already collected.

Market conditions are improving slightly with budgeted values being achieved for most materials leaving the Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF).

Material	Change in Value from low (per tonne)*
Aluminium	£250
Corrugated Cardboard	£35
Steel Cans	£55
Milk Bottles	£15
Mixed Paper	£80

* Prices used are from www.letsrecycle.com to protect the commercial position of the contract

The current exception is for one fraction of the glass collected. The changes made by the government in setting targets for the amount of glass to be recovered by the companies that use glass as packaging has meant that there is no commercial driver for the industry to pay an economic value for all of the available glass.

There are opportunities currently for members to visit the MRF and those expressing an interest should contact the Waste and Recycling Manager.

Review of infrastructure and collection regimes

This Council has the lowest collection costs of authorities in Norfolk and has benefitted from the changes introduced in 2013 in terms of cost and recycling rates. The potential to create further benefits from both the existing contract and any new arrangements must be kept under review to ensure the financial stability and sustainability of services. A successful funding bid to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) was submitted. Eunomia were appointed through a tender exercise to provide assistance in a review across Norfolk. The aim is to consider options in detail which would result in savings and consistency across Norfolk. The areas being examined include:

- Introducing separate food waste collections across Norfolk, as without other changes it is more expensive than schemes which only involve collecting black bin waste and recycling on alternate weeks
- Impact to the public purse if food waste is collected every week, recycling is collected fortnightly and black bin waste is collected every three weeks
- Option of providing services to support those elements of the community with additional needs. This includes a separate collection of nappies across Norfolk
- Examining whether providing free food caddy liners improve food waste collection tonnages.
- Communications and support is provided to those who may struggle to use the system at the time of roll out. This helps them to overcome the problem of struggling communities.
- Optimise collection regime for Flats and bagged areas.
- Increasing recycling rates to above 50%

The net cost of delivering a food waste collection service in this borough compared to a scheme without food waste is projected as £480,000 based on the bid costs of Kier at the time of the contract award and updated for contract inflation. The costs allocated within the budget for the service is £611,000.

The use of the food waste service has shown a decline over time and the cost of each tonne collected to the Council is £150 per tonne after recycling credits. The current level of use has reduced to approximately 3,100 tonnes per year.

Norfolk County Council is the major beneficiary of the current arrangements with a cost saving of £60 per tonne, derived from reduced waste disposal costs.

A significant driver in decisions on service provision currently is value for money with the cost and benefit derived being acceptable. If opportunities to remove cost from our system of waste collection cannot be found by councils together on a Norfolk wide approach to food waste collection the financial sustainability of the service will need to be considered.

To be able to ascertain how alternative models of collection could work in practice it is necessary to undertake trials. It is proposed that this Council should participate with our partners and consultants in trials of a revised scheme alongside other Norfolk councils.

Renewal of Waste Collection Contract

Any changes in service provision which are derived from the work being undertaken with the Norfolk Waste Partnership will form part of the process for planning for the delivery of waste collection after the completion of the current contract with Kier.

Service delivery models examined by the consultants undertaking the work for the Norfolk Waste Partnership indicate that savings may be achieved by operational changes on the existing service. The finding is consistent with work undertaken within the council. The commissioning of waste collections will be an extensive piece of work which will be undertaken to determine both the scope of the service and how it is most appropriately delivered.

Reject Materials in Green Bins

The previous update provided details of the performance of householders in the use of the dry recycling scheme. The level of contamination of the bins was discussed and explained along with the actions being undertaken to tackle the problem.

The scale of the problem has increased with 16% of material in the recycling bin being found to be wrong during audits undertaken in the last 3 months.

In responding to the issue it was found that in one community in King's Lynn 40% of the 500 bins examined contained the wrong materials and that additionally good recycling was put in to plastic sacks and carrier bags. Even good quality recyclable materials would not be separated if presented at the MRF in sacks or carrier bags.

The budget proposed for 2017/18 contains additional funds to tackle issues of poor practice at the level of the householder and a number of options for delivery of a project are being assessed. These include:

- Doorstep interviews and assistance delivered by a contractor in specific areas
- Increased sign up to West Norfolk Green Points through doorstep visits in specific areas
- Direct employment of 2 people by the council for a period of 4 months who can visit a greater number of people across the borough helping them to recycle better and with the ability to sign them up for West Norfolk Green Points

The final decision on how to deliver a project will be made nearer to the start of the financial year.

3. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4. Policy Implications

None

5. Statutory Implications

None

6. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

None

7. Personnel Implications

None

9. Background Paper

None