

**Subject: AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOROUGHS HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Report to: EMT 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
Environment Committee 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016

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**SUBJECT MATTER**

**This report seeks to inform members of the current arrangements for the collection, recycling and disposal of domestic solid waste within the Borough and requests the Committee endorse the research that is about to commence by the Norfolk Waste Partnership around reducing the future cost of waste in Norfolk.**

**1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

1.1 This report advises members of the current arrangements for the collection and disposal of domestic refuse in the Borough. It also informs member of the issues around recycling and the work the Borough is undertaking as part of the Norfolk Waste Partnership (NWP). The report does not address issues around trade waste collections which are private arrangements.

**2. DOMESTIC WASTE COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL**

2.1 The Borough Council is the Waste Collection Authority, Norfolk County Council is the Waste Disposal Authority. In common with all the Councils in Norfolk, the Borough utilises a fortnightly twin bin kerbside collection system with a black/grey bin for residual waste and a green bin for recyclables. Residents also have the option to join the garden waste collection service (brown bin) for a small fee.

2.2 About 7000 properties (mostly flatted areas) with large wheeled communal bins benefit from a weekly collection. A small number of properties within the urban area of Great Yarmouth where there are no facilities to accommodate wheeled bins continue to use the black bag system of collection.

2.3 The cost of the residual waste and recycling collection service is paid for via the Councils central budget as the Council cannot by law levy a charge on domestic waste collection with the exception of garden waste.

2.4 All the Borough's residual waste is transported to the waste transfer station at Caister where it is bulked up for onward transport to the designated final disposal point. Currently the waste is transported to the incineration facility at Great Blakenham in Suffolk. There is only an extremely small landfill capacity in Norfolk and none of the Boroughs waste is programmed to be disposed of in this way.

2.5 All the collected recyclables and garden waste materials are also taken to Caister where the material is bulked for onward transportation. The garden waste is taken to the Norse Environmental Waste Services (NEWS) composting facility at Marsham where it is turned into a soil improver and sold to a local farmer. The remaining recyclables are taken to the NEWS Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) at Costessey in Norwich for separation, bulking and onward sale to companies using it as a raw material.

2.6 The Council and some private operators (mostly supermarkets and charities) do operate a few recycling bring sites. Originally set up around glass banks, they have expanded to take all manner of other materials such as textiles, shoes, cans and paper for example. This is also supplemented by occasional one off projects, particularly around the collection of waste electrical equipment (WEE).

2.7 Tagged the 'Recycling Revolution' in the autumn of 2014, changes to waste collection across Norfolk and a multimillion pound investment by NEWS in their Costessey facility meant householders could place more in their recycling bin including glass and plastics. At this time, the Borough Council reinforced the ban on the placing of garden waste into the black residual bin in an effort to encourage the recycling of garden waste. These two actions have seen the Boroughs recycling rate climb from about 25% to over 32% (unverified for 2015/16). It is hoped this figure will continue to rise particularly with more people joining the garden waste collection service.

2.8 In order to help free up collection resources (and to help address rising costs), the Council commenced a project in 2015 looking at how and where residents present their bin. In general residents are being asked where it is possible and safe to do so to present their bins at the kerbside or in some cases at an identified collection point. Some residents continue to present at the boundary of their properties. This project is ongoing and is currently concentrating on the Caister area.

2.9 Appendix 1 to this report details the tonnages of residual waste, recyclables and garden waste collected.

2.10 Appendix 2 details the range of materials that householders can currently place in their recycling (green) bins.

### **3. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

3.1 Residual waste, garden waste and recyclables are all collected direct from householders properties on behalf of the Council by GYB Services our operational partner under a joint venture agreement expiring in 2023. The overall budgeted cost to the Council for this service in 2015/16 was £2,607,714 when combining the GYB Services costs, transport and disposal costs

3.2 However this figure is offset by a number of income streams

- a) The Council receives recycling credits from the County Council at the rate of £55.23 per tonne of recycling in 2015/16
- b) The Council receives income from the garden waste collection service for both supply of bin and annual subscription
- c) Income from bulky waste collection

3.3 In 15/16 income amounted to approximately £1,034,992 leaving the net cost of the household waste collection service to the Council to be £1,572,722

3.4 The Council is also in a joint venture with all the Norfolk districts and NEWS in respect of the processing and sale of recyclables and garden waste. This joint venture was formed on the basis that the Districts would share in any income generated by the sale of recyclable material to the processors, together with a share of the profits of the NEWS Company. Unfortunately due to a worldwide crash in the price of secondary materials (collected recyclables) this has yet to be realised.

3.5 Since the start of the year, the Council together with all its partners in the NWP and NEWS have been undertaking an intensive audit of the recycling material collected. This has arisen around concerns over the quality of the recycled material and the fact that some residents do place material in the recycling bins that cannot be recycled and should be in the black bin. This so called 'contamination' is extensive running at around 18% for the Council, for which a disposal charge is levied by NEWS. For the last year that charge to the Council is over £80,000 and can be avoided if residents take more care and consideration over the material they place in their recycling bins. The main contaminants are food waste, dirty nappies, textiles, hard plastics (such as washing up bowls, plastic toys) and waste electrical items. For some residents in some areas recycling is not seen as a priority and the Council's Environmental Rangers and Waste Communication Team continue to undertake targeted work with certain groups and areas.

## **4. NORFOLK WASTE PARTNERSHIP**

4.1 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 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 is looking amongst other issues at the fundamental 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.

4.2 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 Committee.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report is for information and requesting the Council endorses research being carried out but carries no financial request. However it is recognised that this area of the Council's services carries with it significant financial implications for the overall budget.

## **6. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The financial risk to the Council of failing to receive income derived as part of the joint ventures (either company profit share or income share on materials sold) together with any reduction in the rate of payment of recycling credits can have significant consequences for the Councils budget. This risk is noted within the Corporate Risk Register.

## 7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The committee is asked to note the information contained in this report and to endorse the research of the Norfolk Waste Partnership.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- a) The Government's Waste Data Flow statistical database
- b) The Joint Venture contract document with NEWS around the operation of the Costessey Material's Recycling Facility.

Area for consideration	Comment
Monitoring Officer Consultation:	No
Section 151 Officer Consultation:	No
Existing Council Policies:	No
Financial Implications:	No
Legal Implications (including human rights):	No
Risk Implications:	No
Equality Issues/EQIA assessment:	No
Crime & Disorder:	No
Every Child Matters:	No

## Appendix 1

### Tonnages of Recyclable Materials and Garden Waste

	KERBSIDE RECYCLING					GARDEN WASTE				
	11-Dec	Dec-13	13/14	14/15	15/16	11-Dec	Dec-13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Apr	469.2	551.46	585.42	578.52	757.62	107.06	87.56	101.5	182.6	230.08
May	458.85	595.1	576.54	589.96	691.98	126.96	157.8	153.34	210.96	276.54
June	507.43	530.36	520.58	531.12	694.82	94.56	158.56	166.6	218.4	319.92
July	463.48	560.6	575.28	575.92	751.4	97.74	170.14	176.44	220.16	291.74
Aug	518.13	581.26	556.84	548.72	677.72	124.64	159.8	133.36	192.68	252.34
Sept	471.22	531.22	544.08	583.26	793.34	144.92	125.98	123.76	250.22	332.3
Oct	462.66	603.96	589.28	749.94	731.42	101.02	116.88	150.28	232	271.12
Nov	514.45	594.64	542.28	669.26	685.7	80.04	99.28	111.44	153.22	211.94
Dec	461.15	533.84	542.72	702.08	748	35.22	28.42	43.4	79.54	97
Jan	569.2	656.08	658.52	842.04	849	37.1	33.6	53.28	57.6	80.3
Feb	464.44	502.6	527.96	646.76	685.9	28.32	40.24	57.32	70.16	92
Mar	516.51	529.26	542.34	718.54	752.02	75.68	54.28	138.46	154.96	158.38
<b>TOTAL</b>										
<b>TONNES</b>	5904	6770	6762	7736	8066.9	1053	1233	1409	2022	2455.28

### Residual Waste Tonnages

Year	Household Residual Tonnage
<b>12/13</b>	24,393.18
<b>13/14</b>	24,833.82
<b>14/15</b>	25,406.35
<b>15/16</b>	18,809.82*

\*Total to third quarter only. Expected total for 15/16 to be around 24,000 tonnes.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Target Materials for Household Waste Recycling**

1. Newspapers, magazines, office paper, white and coloured, other papers including clean paper bags, Greetings cards, envelopes, including window type, telephone directories, Yellow Pages and similar directories, wrapping papers, junk mail.
2. Cardboard, grey and coloured card, card based egg boxes, domestic cardboard tubes, food packaging card, composite card and plastic window food packaging. Cardboard and fibre packing and carrier trays
3. Steel and aluminium domestic and commercial food and drinks cans, pet food cans and trays
4. Aerosols including personal and beauty products, domestic insecticides, cleaning products.
5. Food and drink bottles, personal care products, household cleaning products, cooking and food oil bottles, trigger spray bottles, pump spray bottles, roller ball bottles
6. Plastic rigid containers including food pots, tubs and trays
7. Waxed composite food, beverage and similar containers, including fabric conditioner
8. Food grade aluminium foils
9. Glass food and beverage containers

### **Materials that Cannot be Recycled Through the Domestic Waste Stream**

1. Food contact papers (such as fish and chip paper)
2. Paint and metal paint tins
3. Domestic and commercial motor oil, antifreeze bottles, brake and clutch fluid.
4. Toys, video tapes, CD's DVD's, plastic paint pots, polystyrene cups and polystyrene packaging materials, bubble wrap, corrugated plastic sheet, washing up bowls cutlery and drainer trays (hard plastics).
5. Aluminium composite foil laminate pouches including cat and dog food
6. Window glass, Pyrex containers, drinking glass
7. Food
8. Disposable nappies
9. Textiles
10. Small electrical items
11. Plastic bags