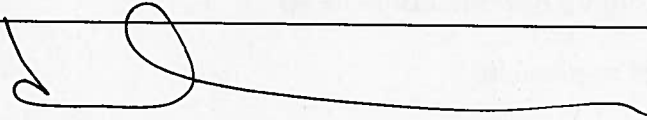


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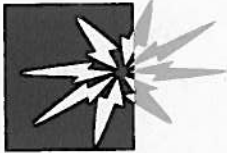
Report for:	Cabinet	Item Number:	
Title:	Cabinet response to Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel recommendations for the 'Waste and Recycling Services II: Further policy options to increase recycling'.		
Report Authorised by:	Lyn Garner		
Lead Officer:	Stephen McDonnell		
Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions: Non Key		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The second report of the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel on the waste and recycling service contained a number of recommendations in regards to how recycling rates could be further improved in Haringey, with particular reference to recycling from flats and the use of incentive and enforcement schemes as set out in Appendix 1. This report provides a proposed Cabinet response to the recommendations made by the Panel and received by Cabinet on 18th June.

2. Cabinet Member introduction

- 2.1 I welcome the recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel. Many of the recommendations are concerned with improving the services available to residents living on estates and blocks of flats and there are a number of initiatives planned to improve these waste collection services over the forthcoming year. We look forward to working with residents and ward councillors to help us meet our ambition of 40% recycling rate by 2015.
- 2.2 Following the roll-out of the changes to the waste collection service during 2012, recycling rates have risen from 26 to 32%. This figure however reflects only part



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of an enhanced recycling scheme year and not full borough coverage; we expect it to increase to around 35% for a full year across the whole borough.

3. Recommendations

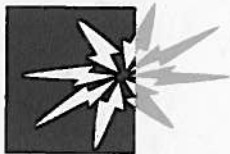
- 3.1 The Cabinet is asked to agree the response to the interim recommendations as set out in Appendix 2.

4. Alternative options considered

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. Background information

- 5.1 A number of the recommendations are linked to the introduction of a weekly food waste collection service to estates and blocks of flats, totalling approximately 25,000 households. The service has successfully applied to the DLCG Weekly Collection Support Scheme to obtain funding to introduce a weekly food waste collection service two years earlier than planned within the Veolia Waste Management Contract.
- 5.2 The service is currently in the process of developing a detailed communications plan as part of the project planning and this will provide details of the new weekly food waste collection service, but also provide an opportunity to revitalise the dry recycling collection services available to these households.
- 5.3 In addition, the overall 2013/14 Communications and Engagement Programme will include a range of activities to further increase the profile of the recycling service available to all residents in the borough.
- 5.4 The activities noted within the response to recommendations are key to helping us achieve the waste contract strategic targets of 40% recycling rate and a 40% reduction in carbon emissions by 2015. Achieving these targets will result in the council saving up to £1 million in avoided landfill disposal cost. In addition it is anticipated that this will save 12,000 tonnes CO2 equivalent.
- 5.5 Of the 11 recommendations, eight are agreed and two partially agreed. In responding to recommendation 3, the service is currently in the process of developing a detailed communications plan focusing on estates, RSL and private blocks of flats as part of the roll-out of the weekly food waste collection service. A range of communications material will be developed and this will provide an opportunity to revitalise the dry recycling collection service. Part of the engagement activity will include engaging with local residents groups and associations.



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In addition, the 2013/14 Communications and Engagement Programme includes a range of activities to increase the profile of the dry recycling service to all residents not just those residing on local estates.

As we are undertaking the above activities the service does not think that value would be added by engaging with the Waste Watch project at this stage. However, there is an estate greening programme run by Time Bank and Groundwork in the borough and we aim to engage with this programme to talk to residents who take part in greening and waste related activities.

6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

- 6.1 The majority of the interim recommendations can be implemented at no or minimal costs and thus can be actioned within existing resources.
- 6.2 However, where a recommendation has clear budgetary implications which would incur additional cost outside of the contractual budget envelope, for example recommendation four of the recommendations, then Cabinet would need to agree appropriate budgetary provision before the recommendation could be agreed and implemented.

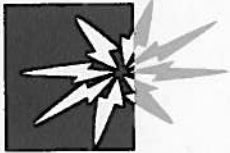
7. Head of Legal Services and legal implications

- 7.1 The Head of Legal Services notes the contents of the report and the response to the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel Report and advises that there are no specific legal issues.
- 7.2 The recommendations will need to be carried out pursuant to the Council's Waste Management Contract with Veolia.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

- 8.1 Comprehensive collection services for dry recyclables have now been rolled out across Haringey, with all residents having the opportunity to use wheeled bins, single-use sacks and communal banks. However only those living on street level properties receive a food waste collection service, creating an inequality of service for over 25,000 households.
- 8.2 The introduction of a food waste collection service on the borough's estates and blocks of flats will enable the council to deliver an equitable weekly recycling service to all our residents.

9. Head of Procurement Comments



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9.1 This report has no procurement implications.

10. Policy Implication

10.1 There are no specific policy implications linked to the recommendations noted within the scrutiny report.

11. Reasons for Decision

11.1 This report seeks approval of the responses to the recommendations set out in Appendix 2.

12. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1: The Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel's report- 'Waste and Recycling II: Further policy options to increase recycling'

Appendix 2: Response to Scrutiny recommendations

13. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A

Response to Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel recommendations for the Waste and Recycling Services II: Further policy options to increase recycling- June 2013

Recommendations	Service Response
<p>1) The panel recommended that the Council conduct an audit of flatted developments (Homes for Haringey, Registered Housing Providers and Private Developments) across the borough to develop an inventory of waste and recycling infrastructure (and to collate any existing problems with waste collection i.e. whether there are sufficient and appropriate bins and if side waste occurs). The subsequent database should be used to plan and support initiatives to improve waste management or increase recycling at flatted developments.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The service has been successful in obtaining funding to roll-out a weekly food waste collection service to the borough's estates and purpose built blocks of flats. We are currently in the planning phase and part of this work includes undertaking an audit to develop an inventory of the refuse and recycling provision at each site. This also includes assessing whether there are opportunities to rationalise containers.</p>
<p>2) Further to the audit detailed above, the panel recommended that flatted developments with twin chutes should on a trial basis be converted for dual use (for both waste and recycling). Evidence from this trial should determine further expansion of this scheme.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>There are no flatted developments with twin chutes. However, there are a limited number of sites which have two chutes, one at either end of the block. The council, in liaison with Homes for Haringey, will explore the viability of undertaking a trial at one of these sites. This would be based on the premise that the two chutes are available to all residents living in the block.</p>
<p>3) The panel recommended that further work should be undertaken to assess the viability of developing a pilot 'Our Common Place' approach (through Waste Watch) to increase recycling on local estates (flatted developments). This work should help to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost benefit analysis of this approach; ▪ Additional partners and funding sources; 	<p>Partially agreed.</p> <p>The service is currently in the process of developing a detailed communications plan focusing on estates, RSL and private blocks of flats as part of the roll-out of the weekly food waste collection service. A range of communications material will be developed and this will provide an opportunity to revitalise the dry recycling collection service. Part of the engagement activity</p>

Recommendations	Service Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possible pilot project sites. 	<p>will include engaging will local residents groups and associations.</p> <p>In addition, the 2013/14 Communications and Engagement Programme includes a range of activities to increase the profile of the dry recycling service to all residents not just those residing on local estates.</p> <p>As we are undertaking the above activities the service does not think that value would be added by engaging with the Waste Watch project at this stage. However, there is an estate greening programme run by Time Bank and Groundwork in the borough and we aim to engage with this programme to talk to residents who take part in greening and waste related activities.</p>
<p>4) The panel recommended the introduction of recycling bags within existing bring-bank schemes (at flatted developments) should be further investigated with careful consideration being given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The use of reusable bags; ▪ The policy of locking bins; ▪ Ongoing costs if non-reusable bags are used as an alternative; ▪ The use of transparent bags (to assist if dry recycling is contaminated). 	<p>Partially agreed.</p> <p>The service will develop a business case and indentify a pilot estates area in liaison with Homes for Haringey. This would include consideration of evidence from other boroughs.</p>
<p>5) The panel recommended that the Council ensure that there is adequate provision for waste management in planning guidance for flatted developments (both new and converted).</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>The 'Local Plan- Strategic Policies' planning document includes reference to waste management.</p>

Recommendations	Service Response
<p>6) The panel recommended that there is a continuous supply of caddy bags for food waste as part of the roll-out of the planned food waste collection system for flatted developments.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Team provides feedback on all planning applications. This includes consideration of environmental issues including provision of waste management and cleansing arrangements of bins stores and communal areas.</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>All properties will receive an initial supply of compostable bags as part of the roll-out and bags will be available to residents free thereafter.</p>
<p>7) To improve communication between on site concierge and waste collection crews (e.g. for access issues), the panel recommended that the contact details of Concierge services (or Estate Managers) should be placed on Veolia Collection Round Sheets.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Homes for Haringey Estates Service Managers contact details have been provided to Veolia's management team.</p> <p>Furthermore, in the occurrence that Veolia are unable to make a scheduled collection updates are provided directly to Homes for Haringey.</p>
<p>8) The panel recommended that additional information is provided within waste and recycling communications with local residents in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Updates of what and where materials can be recycled locally; ▪ The cost of sending waste to landfill (landfill tax and gate tax) and relative cheaper cost of recycling; ▪ The main causes of recycling contamination (food waste and clothing materials) and the additional costs involved; ▪ The opportunity cost of sending waste to landfill (libraries, parks and other community facilities). 	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Communications material previously provided to residents included details of what material can be recycled and where. There is also extensive information available on the council's environment web pages.</p> <p>Also, as part of the planned Communications and Engagement Programme for this year all low-rise properties will receive a further information leaflet with a new 12 month collection calendar. This will provide details of what materials are accepted and where and also an opportunity to include key</p>

Recommendations	Service Response
	<p>messages i.e. information on contamination.</p> <p>Details in regards to cost differential of sending non-recyclable waste to landfill and recyclable waste was provided to all low-rise properties as part of the communications relating to the changes to the waste collection service. This is also referenced in the June-July 2013 edition of Haringey People.</p> <p>Furthermore, the service has developed specific literature to address the issue of contamination and we are currently in the process of engaging with households who are identified as contaminating their dry recycling wheeled bin.</p> <p>As part of the roll-out of the weekly food waste collection service to flatted properties the service will be developing a range of communication material and this will include reference to the points raised within the recommendation.</p>
<p>9) It is recommended that, further to the work already undertaken by Haringey Council and Veolia, the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel undertake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ additional work with local schools to identify what barriers exist to recycling; ▪ identify examples of best practice which can be shared locally; ▪ identify how schools can be incentivised to recycle more. 	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>10) That the good education work to promote recycling in schools that is already underway is more widely publicised, in particular among local Councillors and community groups.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>The service is currently reviewing the council's web pages to</p>

Recommendations	Service Response
<p>11) To further enable the speedy reporting of dumped rubbish, Veolia should consider the establishment of online reporting mechanisms, using social media such as Twitter.</p>	<p>include further details of the work of Veolia's Education Team.</p> <p>Following the scrutiny panel meeting, a detailed briefing was provided which outlined the team's activity to date. This is being uploaded onto the web-pages as part of this review and circulated to all councillors.</p>
<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Residents can already report fly-tips via the Council's 'Report a Problem' page and the service is currently in the process of undertaking trials of 'Our Haringey' app that can be used to report fly-tips and other public realm defects. The app will be launched in the summer.</p> <p>The service is also exploring the viability of using social media, such as Twitter, to report i.e. fly-tips.</p>	

