

Report for: Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

Item number:

Title: Update on progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Waste and Recycling Parts I and II: New waste and recycling system and further policy options to increase recycling.

Report authorised by : Stephen McDonnell, Assistant Director Environmental Services & Community Safety

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Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 The second report of the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel on the waste and recycling service was received by Cabinet in June 2013. The report contained a number of recommendations in regards to how recycling rates could be further improved in Haringey to which Cabinet gave its response. An update was provided in February 2014 in regard to the recommendations that were agreed or partially agreed and this report provides a further update on the progress being made.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

2.1 The council has set challenging recycling targets aimed at reaching 40% recycling by 2016. To achieve this the council provides recycling services that enable all residents to recycle the majority of the waste they produce.

2.2 The key challenge continues to be to engage with and prompt behaviour change in residents who do not manage their waste responsibly, whether it be not making use of recycling services or flytipping waste.

2.3 More joined up working between engagement and enforcement is required to deliver change, part of which must involve raising the profile of the cost of waste to the taxpayer in the context of severely reduced budgets that are set to go down further.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the update on progress as shown in Appendix 1 is noted.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 Not applicable.

5. **Alternative options considered**

5.1 Not applicable.

6. **Background information**

6.1 In each of the years of the current contract we have successfully achieved the recycling target, with performance of 37.2% in 2014/15 from 26.3% in 2011/12.

6.2 In order to achieve the challenging recycling targets for Haringey, the council will need to continue working with Veolia to undertake a wide range of activities that are increasingly focussed on behaviour change in order to achieve greater participation in the services provided.

6.3 An action plan designed to increase recycling and achieve the recycling targets over the coming years has been devised and is being regularly monitored to oversee progress.

6.4 The key areas of the Action Plan relate to:

- Increasing the usage of the food waste service from kerbside (low level) properties;
- Driving up the use of services on estates, both dry recycling and food waste;
- Testing more innovative approaches to behaviour change to support the above, such as the application of behavioural insight theory;
- Monitoring and engaging with residents over the allocation of residual waste containers, to ensure properties have the appropriate ratio of residual:recycling capacity;
- Monitoring and engaging with residents in regard to the correct useage of containers to minimise contamination and maintain quality of recycling.

7. **Contribution to strategic outcomes**

7.1 Increasing the recycling rate will reduce disposal costs, reduce carbon impact, improve satisfaction and perception, and encourage greater civic responsibility.

7.2 In this way it contributes to Priority 3 of the Corporate Plan (improved environment and clean streets) and is consistent with the Plan's key themes, prioritising as it does value for money and working with our communities.

8. **Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

8.1 Finance: The actions taken in response to the recommendations outlined in this report have been met from existing approved budgets.

8.2 Legal: The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance notes the contents of the report and the update to the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny

Panel and advises that there are no specific legal issues for now. The waste management activities referred to in the report will need to be focused on meeting the recycling targets of Haringey Council.

- 8.3 Equalities: 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 or communal banks. The roll-out of food waste collection services to blocks of flats has delivered equality of service for residents living in c.25,000 properties in blocks of flats in Haringey.

9. Use of Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Response to Environment and Housing Scrutiny Panel recommendations for the Waste and Recycling Services II: Further policy options to increase recycling - June 2013 / February 2014 / October 2015

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985