

ITEM NO: 7(b)

Report To: CARBON REDUCTION PANEL

Date: 22 November 2012

Reporting Officer: Ian Saxon – Assistant Executive Director - Environmental Services

Subject: RELEASING THE POTENTIAL WITHIN WASTE SERVICES

Report Summary: This report sets out to update the panel as to the steps taken by the Waste Services team to improve the service and reduce the amount of carbon produced by the service.

Recommendations: That the comments and updates in the report are noted.

Links to Community Strategy: The reduction of carbon emissions and improved recycling contributes to a more sustainable environment and leads to a more attractive borough.

Policy Implications: No specific policy implications arise as a result of this report.

Financial Implications: It is in the Councils interest to maximise opportunities for recycling waste which will reduce the significant costs associated with sending waste to landfill.
(Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

Legal Implications: This report sets out how the Council is seeking to use the waste scheme to undertake its duty to reduce its carbon footprint.
(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

Risk Management: Failure to reach the material specific targets will lead to a financial penalty as set out in the PFI's contract.

Access to Information: Any background papers or further information can be obtained from the report author, Ian Saxon, Assistant Executive Director Environmental Services, who can be contacted on:



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report updates the Panel on the changes that have taken place within Waste Services and the impact this will have in the carbon usage and avoidance.
- 1.2 The report will show that a higher rate of recycling directly links to higher levels of carbon reduction.

2.0 RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

- 2.1 Recycling performance had started to plateau during recent months and as such changes to the service had to be made to improve the amount of waste we are diverting away from landfill.
- 2.2 The amount of carbon used in processing waste and sending it to landfill is significantly higher than other more environmentally friendly ways of processing waste collected.
- 2.3 To significantly increase our recycling rate, i.e. the amount of waste we divert away from landfill into recycling streams, we have re-launched the Waste Services system and provided the following improvements:
 - Weekly food/garden waste collections
 - Provided internal caddies to every domestic property in Tameside
 - Provided caddy liners to every domestic property in Tameside
 - Provided a 23 litre caddy to non-garden properties that did not previously have an outlet for their food waste.
 - We have added an additional 30,000 domestic properties to the existing collection regimes.
 - Adjusted the collection regimes so service users have one single day of collection each week making it a simpler service to use.
 - We have increased the frequency of collections of paper and cardboard presented in the blue bins has increased from a 4 weekly service to a 3 weekly service.
 - We have completely redesigned the collection rounds to provide efficiencies across the fleet and reduce travelling time.
 - We have negotiated new contracts with the operational teams to provide a 5 day a week service, replacing the 4 day a week service.
 - We have upgraded the back office systems to provide a single point of reference for both the call centre and Waste Services team providing better synthesis between the two business units.
 - We have supplied collection calendars to every domestic property across the Borough
 - We have supplied a booklet outlining the best use of the facilities and addressing some of the issues that are raised whilst using the facilities, such as when bins should be presented and what can and more importantly cannot go into the different bins.
 - With the same facilities we have increased the number of collections we undertake from 8 million to 12.1 million.
- 2.4 Any one of the above improvements to service would have an impact on the amount of waste we collect and then divert into either the landfill waste stream or the recycling stream.
- 2.5 By combining the above improvements into one large service change are looking to make large gains and take savings out of the current service we provide.

3.0 THE IMPACT OF THE CHANGES

- 3.1 It is still too early to fully understand the impact of the list of changes above, but the initial indications are that we are seeing an increase in the amount of food and garden waste we are collecting. The average weekly tonnage has increased by 52 tonnes per week.
- 3.2 The number of people using the food and garden waste collection scheme is increasing.
- 3.3 We are seeing an increase in the amount of paper and cardboard being collected following the improvement to service. The average weekly tonnage has increased by 20 tonnes per week.
- 3.4 The above waste arisings is not new waste; this is waste that was being disposed of in the black bins and has now been diverted away from landfill.
- 3.5 We have also designed in a significant reduction in other waste arisings such as District Assembly and Engineering waste, thus further reducing the total tonnage being sent to landfill.
- 3.6 We now have a waste collection system that will take us to the targeted 50% recycling rate and beyond in the coming years.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The amount of waste the Council is diverting from landfill is increasing; this means the carbon emission associated with this process are decreasing.
- 4.2 The amount of Carbon being saved through the efforts of the wider Environmental Services Team is increasing.
- 4.3 The proposed changes to Waste Services will release the full potential of the service allowing for increased collections of targeted material and a reduction of the unwanted residual domestic waste.