



## **Responses to Scrutiny Review Recommendations**

### **Report to Overview Committee**

Title of the review: Household Refuse Recycling

Date review completed: 11 March 2019

Date Presented to Cabinet: 1 August 2019

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Barnes

Chair of the review group: Councillor Feeney

Officer supporting the review: Helen Lee

Response due to the Overview Committee (28 days):

#### **Guidance**

The final report and recommendations from the above review have been considered by Cabinet and a written response to the recommendations from the responsible Cabinet Member to the Overview Committee is required within twenty eight days of the date the review was presented to Cabinet.

If you need any further assistance in completing this response please contact the Officer that supported the review

#### **Recommendation 1**

**Funding should be made available to employ an officer to assist in increasing recycling rates. This role could include:**

- I. Travelling with crews to carry out a proactive role with residents when contaminated bins are located**
- II. Using available performance-data effectively to prioritise areas with low recycling or high contamination rates to provide targeted communications to residents.**
- III. Improving communication and education campaigns by making the additional costs associated with dealing with contaminated recycle waste more explicit . Publicise statistics relevant to Gedling regarding contamination rates and the effect this has on recycling targets.**

- IV. **Work with children and young people to introduce sessions in schools, youth clubs and other similar organisations to achieve a better understanding of their attitude to minimising waste, reuse and recycling, and to improve their engagement.**
- V. **Provide information on activities the Council is taking on wider policy issues such as waste reduction/single use plastic.**
- VI. **Review the Councils website so that it encourages residents to reduce waste, re use and recycle effectively including what can and cannot be recycled and importantly the implications of getting it wrong.**

To be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted  Partly accepted  Do not accept

The Council used to employ a Recycling Officer before the austerity measures and reductions in government funding were forced upon local authorities. The Cabinet agrees in principle that the employment of a Recycling Officer would be worthwhile and have benefit to addressing some of our contamination issues. However this needs to be assessed against a full review of the staffing of the Environmental Services team in the coming months.

**Recommendation 2**

**Officers look further into electronic surveillance systems on all new waste vehicles to enable the viewing and recording of waste being deposited into individual residents' bins.**

**Part 1** – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted  Partly Accepted  Do not accept

Waste vehicles already come equipped with cameras to aid manoeuvrability and record activity to defend against allegations of accidents or vehicle damage. This suggested approach would be too expensive to add to the existing vehicle fleet, but technology is developing all of the time and it would be no surprise if new vehicles were to be delivered with this technology included.

However the main issue with this approach is twofold. Firstly, once a bin is emptied into the back of the lorry then it is too late to reject the bin, and the loaders are not allowed to access the truck to retrieve contaminates for health and safety reasons. Secondly, bins are not readily identified and it is sometimes unclear as to which property it belongs to.

### Recommendation 3

**Issuing an updated recycling wheel to all residents.**

**Part 1** – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted  Partly Accepted  Do not accept

Recycling is dictated by the County Council contract with Veolia, and there is a Countywide contamination working group that reviews and agrees all advertising and messaging regarding contamination and recycling issues. An updated recycling wheel was considered by the working group a few months ago, but was rejected due to cost.

With this in mind, Gedling officers will consider the best approach to deliver further recycling advice for our residents.

### Recommendation 4

**Promote the recycling message on paper communications from the Council e.g. envelopes, inside the envelope with the Council tax bill.**

**Part 1** – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted  Partly Accepted  Do not accept

This is agreed in principle, and officers will review the options available for promoting the recycling message on paper communications. Some services, for example the printing and distribution of Council tax bills, are delivered externally and discussions will need to be held with the relevant supplier, particularly as a number of inserts are already included with the bill.

The Council does already advertise recycling via the Contacts magazine, the TV screens in council-owned buildings, and the website.

### Recommendation 5

**Ensure that waste and recycling are part of the landlord's registration scheme requirements and that landlords are required to display information on waste collection and recycling**

**Part 1** – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted  Partly Accepted  Do not accept

There is no requirement for private landlords to register their properties, hence the Council has recently introduced the Selective Licensing scheme in Netherfield as a pilot. Condition 15 of the selective licence states:

*“Dealing with Rubbish:*

*The licence holder shall at the beginning of a tenancy, provide written information to the occupiers of the property indicating:*

- *What day refuse collections take place*
- *What type of bins to use for household and recycling waste*
- *Details of the council’s bulky waste collection service*
- *The occupier’s responsibility to put bins out no earlier than 4pm on the day before collection and to return refuse containers within the boundary of the property by 8am the day after they are emptied*
- *That occupiers should make arrangements for any extra rubbish that cannot fit in the bins to be collected and/or disposed of as soon as is reasonably possible and ensure that such rubbish, where possible, is stored at the rear of and within the boundary of the property until collection/disposal*
- *The licence holder shall ensure so far as is reasonably possible, that the occupiers make arrangements for the collection of waste in accordance with these provisions and, when the property is unoccupied, adhere to these provisions him/herself.”*

This condition only applies to landlords who have received a selective licence from the Council, which is currently around 90 homes.

Officers are addressing the issues associated with bins on a case by case basis when administering the licence, and have been liaising with the Community Protection team and Locality Co-ordinator as any issues arise.

## **Recommendation 6**

**Use Council premises, such as leisure and community centres, to improve communication with residents and to provide information ensuring that they recycle correctly themselves to promote a good example.**

**Part 1** – to be completed after the report has been presented to Cabinet

(Please tick) Recommendation Accepted  Partly Accepted  Do not accept

All recycling operations and promotional material will be reviewed at council-owned premises. Veolia are currently working on a short video that we will be able to use on our internal TV screens in the Civic Centre and Leisure Centres.