

# Warwickshire Waste Partnership

15<sup>th</sup> March 2017

## Waste Partners Report

### Recommendations

- (1) The Waste Partnership is asked to acknowledge the work being undertaken in each partner authority.

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the various waste initiatives taking place in each authority area.
- 1.2 Authorities work together on communications initiatives where there is an associated benefit.

### 2.0 North Warwickshire Borough Council

- 2.1 The Council undertook a trial suspension of green waste over one month (two collections) over the Christmas and New Year period. A full assessment of the trial is underway, but initial indications are that the suspension delivered savings and residual waste fell over the same period compared to the previous year. Consultation with Town & Parish Councils highlighted no local objection to the suspension and very few complaints were received from the public.
- 2.2 A charge has been introduced for replacement bins with repairs offered free of charge (where possible) and no charge for inserts – this move has so far reduced the demand (and cost) for new bins significantly.
- 2.3 A Task & Finish Group has been established to look at all areas of the Refuse & Recycling service including Partnership working, Green Waste Collections and Materials Recycling with an emphasis on increasing efficiency and reducing cost where practicable.
- 2.4 APSE network finalist in two categories: Refuse Collection – Most Improved Performer and Transport – Best Performer.
- 2.5 Tenders are out for Fuel and imminent for Tyres and demonstrations of potential in-cab solutions are being held in advance of finalising a specification ready for tender.

- 2.6 Working closely with the Planning Department to ensure that all new developments are “waste friendly”, that developers are supplying bins at new properties, that s.106 monies are bid for where appropriate and so that the service can prepare for the high levels of Housing growth over the coming years.

### **3.0 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council**

#### **3.1 Recycling**

- Introduced manual contamination process on a trial basis from Nov 16 to Jan 17 with mixed result. Now waiting on IT to automate this process using the Council’s CRM system (this is due to officer time taken when completing manually, and to give contractors time to carry out training with crews to ensure correct addresses are given on contamination logs, as this was a barrier faced during the trial). IT have estimated automated process will be up and running by April.
- Awaiting contract renewal 2018
- Flats recycling trial to be carried out before contract renewal
- Bring bank sites assessment complete; officers compiling options reports for bring bank management.

#### **3.1 Waste Promotions/Communications**

- Communications on 2016/17 yearly plan completed, evaluation summary to be carried out. 2017/18 communications currently being planned, documents to be shared on completion.

### **4.0 Rugby Borough Council**

- 4.1 A working party has considered ways to reduce costs for our waste services. Following this a report has been prepared for Council on 7th February [https://www.rugby.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/1954/download\\_the\\_report\\_to\\_follow](https://www.rugby.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/1954/download_the_report_to_follow) which recommends the introduction of a £40 charge for a garden waste service with effect from 3rd April 2017.
- 4.2 Part of the decision around charging for the garden waste collection service will be to promote home composting and “Love Food Hate Waste” as these intend to reduce the production of municipal waste, which is further up the waste hierarchy and is also a key objective of the WWP waste strategy.
- 4.3 A planned winter suspension of the green bin service was reintroduced earlier than scheduled at the end of January following a partnership grant from WCC.

- 4.4 A route optimisation software system is being implemented and we anticipate being able to deliver service efficiencies and delay the need to introduce new rounds as the borough's households continues to grow.
- 4.5 Recruitment is underway for a Waste and Fleet Manager to lead the service. This role will work closely with colleagues in NBBC and NWBC. Each Council will have almost identical job role, which contain explicit expectations for working together and sharing expertise, so it is hoped that the 3 councils will increasingly be able to strengthen our partnership.
- 4.6 A kerbside collection of textiles and WEEE will be introduced in the spring. Householders will be able to place carrier bags of textiles or small items of WEEE next to their recycling bin, which will be collected in cages/pods on the vehicles.

## **5.0 Warwick District Council**

- 5.1 An 8 month review of the waste container charging policy has been carried out. The number of container requests has reduced by approximately 50% and £43k has been brought in to contribute to the provision of containers. However, there has been a slight drop in recycling collected at the kerb side - 95 tonnes less than the same period of time the year before. Whether this can be directly attributed to the container charges is unclear. A further review will be carried out after 12 months.
- 5.2 Refuse and recycling collection changes over Christmas went smoothly with very few issues reported.
- 5.3 The Health and Safety Executive have spent a day with us and are due to come back for another day to observe Suez in operation. We await a report into their findings and any further actions required.
- 5.4 Collection calendars continue to be provided online only (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running) and we have received no complaints about this. The saving is approximately £5k per year.

## **6.0 Stratford District Council**

- 6.1 A further tonne of batteries has been sent for reprocessing from our kerbside collection service.
- 6.2 Recommendations from the bulky items collection service are being progressed.
- 6.3 We have carried out a review of all the communal bin stores to increase the recycling opportunities at sites and reduce contamination.

- 6.4 We have carried out a biennial review of properties with an assisted collection to confirm continued eligibility. Over 350 properties have been removed from the list.
- 6.5 A review of collections from schedule 2 properties is going to take place. This was a recommendation in a recent audit of the waste management service.
- 6.6 We are supporting Biffa with their Driving Recklessly on Pavements (DROP) campaign in a bid to deal with vehicles driving dangerously around collection trucks which puts operative's lives in danger.

## 7.0 Warwickshire County Council

### 7.1 Communication activities update:

- i. Now with nearly 5,000 subscribers, the January / February edition of the 'Recycle for Warwickshire' e-newsletter featured post-Christmas 'clutter-busting' tips. The publication achieves open rates of around 45 – 50% which is considered well above industry standard. See <http://preview.mailerlite.co.uk/j9s7e4>
- ii. A recent survey carried out by Waste Management showed that residents were more likely to separate food waste for recycling at kerbside if they used a compostable caddy liner. However, many residents felt that the prices offered by supermarkets and online retailers were too expensive to continue using them long term. In response to these findings, Waste Management went out to the market to find the best price option for residents and have recently awarded Biobag Ltd a concession contract to provide residents of Warwickshire 150 compostable caddy liners for only £7.95 (inc P+P). The scheme will be launched within the next few months and promoted through various outlets including social media and local press.
- iii. The Recycle for Warwickshire Social Media feeds (Facebook page and Twitter handle) continue to grow with more than 1,000 followers between them.
- iv. Since its launch in July 2016, the Feed Your Caddy rewards programme has seen more than 1,000 households registering and pledging to recycle all their food waste. For further details visit: [www.feedyourcaddy.co.uk](http://www.feedyourcaddy.co.uk)
- v. A pilot bin-slimming scheme called 'Slim Your Bin' was launched in 4 of the 5 Waste Collection Authorities in November 2016 and already more than 270 'slimmers' have been recruited onto the 4-week training programme. Delivering the initiative is leading recycling rewards agency Local Green Points who will also be presenting at the Waste Partnership Conference on 1 March 2017. Official launch of the pilot in Rugby Borough was postponed by mutual consent of WCC and RBC in light of the suspension and uncertainty over their biowaste (food and garden) collections. For further details visit: [Http://news.warwickshire.gov.uk/blog/2016/11/17/warwickshire-residents-embark-on-brand-new-bin-slimming-challenge/](http://news.warwickshire.gov.uk/blog/2016/11/17/warwickshire-residents-embark-on-brand-new-bin-slimming-challenge/)

### 7.3 Procurement activities update:

#### *Extensions*

- i. The Household Waste Recycling Centre haulage contract and the Lower House Farm Waste Transfer Station operation and haulage contract were extended in November 2016 for 5 years.
- ii. The textile recycling tender was extended for 1 year. The contract will expire in February 2018.
- iii. The glass recycling tender was extended for 1 year. The contract will expire in March 2018.
- iv. The tyres reprocessing and disposal tender was extended for 1 year. The contract will expire in March 2018.
- v. The leachate removal and disposal tender was extended for 2 years. The contract will expire in March 2019.

#### *Procurements*

- i. The mattress tender was awarded to Mid Counties and the contract commenced in October 2016. The contract is for 2 years.
- ii. The 'Slim your Bin' tender was awarded to Local Green Points and the contract commenced in October 2016. The contract is for a 7 month pilot with a possible 1 year extension.
- iii. The paint collection and re-use/recycling tender was awarded to Paint 360 and the contract commenced in October 2016. The contract is for 2 years with a possible 26 months extension.
- iv. The tender for the online retailing of discounted, compostable kitchen caddy liners was awarded to Biobag Ltd. The contract is for 22 months and will commence in March 2017.
- v. The plasterboard recycling tender was awarded to Reconomy and the contract will commence from April 2017. The contract is for 6 months with a possible 6 month extension.
- vi. The final evaluation of the metal recycling tender is underway with an announcement of a preferred bidder imminent. The contract will commence from May 2017. The contract is for 1 year with a possible 2 year extension.
- vii. The intention to award letter has been sent out for the composting of garden waste from household waste recycling centres. The formal award letter will be sent out on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

- viii. The carpet recycling tender was not awarded as the tenders exceeded the authority's budget as determined and documented prior to the launching of the procurement procedure. The Council is now considering its options.
- ix. The scientific monitoring and analysis at waste management sites tender is out to tender.
- x. Future tenders planned for this year include; WEEE, Paper/card and mixed soft plastic, waste composition, textiles, glass, tyres.

### 7.3 Other Activities

- i. The annual Waste Partnership conference took place on 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- ii. A workshop took place at the December Warwickshire Waste Partnership; the aim of the event was to facilitate discussions around possible waste efficiency savings opportunities in Warwickshire.
- iii. Awards
  - In November 2016, WCC Waste Management picked up two awards for the Grey to Green food waste recycling programme. The programme scooped gold at the International Green Apple Awards for Environmental Best Practice as well as taking the title of Joint Winner (with HMRC) in the Public Sector Sustainability Awards: Best Waste / Recycling Project.
  - Grey to Green is a finalist in the LGC Awards 2017, and Cllr Jeff Clark will be attending the awards ceremony in London on 8 March accompanied by WCC Waste Management representatives.
  - Grey to Green food waste recycling campaign has also reached the finals of the Institute for Continuous Improvement in Public Services (ICiPS) Awards 2017 in the Innovation category, the awards ceremony takes place in York on 15<sup>th</sup> March.
  - In September 2016, WCC Waste Management was crowned 'Best Service Team of the Year (Waste Management and Recycling Service) at the association for public service excellence (APSE) service awards 2016.

## Background Papers

- 1. None

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