

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

Date: Wednesday, 24 June 2020
 Time: 2.00 pm
 Venue: Virtual Meeting

Membership

Councillor Heather Timms (Chair)
 Councillor Neil Dirveiks
 Councillor Jenny Fradgley
 Councillor John Horner
 Councillor Andrew Wright
 Councillor Margaret Bell
 Councillor Moira-Ann Granger
 Councillor Howard Roberts
 Councillor Ian Shenton
 Councillor Jill Sheppard

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies

(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

(3) Chair's Announcement

(4) Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising 3 - 12

2. Waste Management Performance Data 13 - 16

3. Current service changes due to Covid - 19

4. Waste Partners Updates 17 - 24

5. Smarter Joint Working Verbal Report

6. Action on Climate Change Verbal Report

7. Any urgent items

8. Agenda item suggestions for next meeting

9. Dates of future meetings

30 September 2020, 2.00pm, Committee Room 2, Shire Hall,
Warwick

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

WARWICKSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2020 at Shire Hall in Warwick

Present:

Warwickshire County Council

Councillors: Neil Dirveiks
Jenny Fradgley
Heather Timms (Chair)
Andy Wright

Officers: John Cole – Trainee Democratic Services Officer
Ruth Dixon – Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager
Tamalyn Goodwin – Project Manager, Waste Strategy and Commissioning
Andrew Pau – Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Waste & Environment)

Observers: Councillor Keith Kondakor

North Warwickshire Borough Council

Councillor Margaret Bell
Richard Dobbs – Assistant Director (Streetscape)

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Councillor Jill Sheppard
Katie Smith – Contract Management and Environment Officer

Rugby Borough Council

Councillor Howard Roberts
Dan Green – Head of Environment and Public Realm
Jim Perkins – Interim Waste and Transport Manager

Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Councillor Ian Shenton
Craig Bourne – Contracts Manager (Streetscene)

Warwick District Council

Councillor David Norris
Gary Charlton – Contract Services Manager

Environment Agency

David Hudson – Environment Agency Manager for Gloucestershire and Warwickshire

1. General

(1) Apologies

Councillor John Horner and Glen McGrandle sent their apologies.

(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

(3) Minutes of the previous meeting, including matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2019 were approved as a correct and accurate record.

2. Environment Agency - Waste Crime

David Hudson (Environment Agency Manager for Gloucestershire and Warwickshire) presented a verbal report regarding the growing national problem of waste crime.

David Hudson advised that instances of large-scale waste abandonment had increased and that this represented a distinct challenge to that of conventional forms of waste crime such as littering or fly-tipping. He reported that in 2015, illegal waste activity was estimated to have cost over £600million in England alone, with some estimates suggesting an even higher figure of £1billion.

David Hudson reported that organised criminal activity accounted for many instances of serious waste crime. He displayed some slides which demonstrated the scale of the problem and advised that remote locations were often targeted alongside abandoned buildings, agricultural land and construction sites.

David Hudson stated that large-scale abandonment of waste constituted an obstacle to redevelopment due to the high cost of clearance and disposal, and that as an outcome a negative value had been attached to many affected sites. He commented that a serious risk to safety had been identified in many cases and drew attention to the abandoned Twyford factory in Staffordshire which had been accessed illegally to house thousands of bales of waste. He advised that, in the event of a fire, it was considered likely that the site would burn for over five weeks resulting in widespread disruption to transport infrastructure and serious implications for the local economy.

David Hudson outlined the motives of waste crime and reported that organised criminals sought to avoid disposal costs and landfill tax by illegally dumping materials. He added that it was common for hazardous and high-risk waste to be

disguised as low-risk waste, contributing to an exacerbated problem for land owners duped into accepting waste by scammers.

David Hudson advised that Defra had set up an independent review into serious and organised waste crime in 2018. The review found that this type of activity had been subject to deliberate colonisation by existing criminal groups who had identified it as a potentially lucrative opportunity. David Hudson reported that a Joint Unit for Waste Crime (JUWC) had been established which included representation from law enforcement agencies, environmental regulators, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the National Crime Agency (NCA).

David Hudson reported that in each of the 20 cases of waste abandonment referred by the Environment Agency (EA) to the NCA, it had been found that the perpetrators were involved in other forms of unlawful activity including drug-related crime. It was considered that early intervention, prevention and disruption were essential strategies in addressing the problem; David Hudson stated that partnership working with local authorities would be required to make a positive impact. He emphasised the importance of acting quickly to detect and report cases of waste crime to enable a swift response from all the agencies involved. He advised that, where evidence existed, the EA could seize plant equipment and prevent further incursions.

David Hudson identified measures which could be taken by local authorities to address the problem of waste crime, including:

- Engagement with the public including guidance in respect of the early signs of large-scale waste crime (to encourage reporting by members of the public and enable early detection) and promotion of the Environment Agency number;
- Engagement with landowners to provide advice in advance of possible contact from fraudsters including the need for clear and robust tenancy agreements;
- A briefing for Council Officers to improve awareness and facilitate early intervention.

David Hudson added that scheduling of a meeting with Warwickshire County Council and partner organisations to consider the implications of waste crime across the region could offer benefits.

In response to Councillor Fradgley, David Hudson advised that, in many instances, a landowner is duped into giving consent for their land to be used to store waste materials. He commented that the perpetrators often appeared to be credible with a seemingly legitimate explanation for their request; later it became apparent that the material would not be collected as agreed. He advised that it was often left to the landowner to cover the cost of disposal.

Councillor Bell commented that the EA had reacted effectively to a report of waste crime in North Warwickshire, however it had been felt that the Police did not have a clear understanding of the nature of the offence. She suggested that a briefing for the Police would be beneficial. David Hudson responded that a meeting between the EA and the Police had been scheduled, alongside work already being undertaken with the Rural Crime Team, to ensure that all Officers are able to react effectively.

In response to Councillor Norris, David Hudson advised that, despite diligence shown by local authorities, examples of waste materials being diverted from their intended destinations had been observed in parts of the UK. He stated that even a seemingly secure supply chain could be subject to abuse and that it was known for official documents to be falsified.

Action

Andrew Pau (Strategy and Commissioning Manager, Waste & Environment) agreed that continued vigilance was needed. He stated that he felt it would be possible to arrange the proposed meeting with Warwickshire Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Waste Collection and Disposal Officers (District, Borough and County), Environmental Health, Planning Officers, EA and any other interested parties.

3. Waste Management Performance Data

Andrew Pau (Strategy and Commissioning Manager, Waste & Environment) presented the Performance Data Report which was a standing item.

Councillor Dirveiks observed that total household waste had increased by 0.3% since last year's figures and asked if this was a result of an increase in the number of households in the County. Ruth Dixon (Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager) responded that the number of households was estimated to have grown from 253,000 to 260,000 within this period which could account for the increase in household waste.

Andrew Pau referred to the Disposal Authority (Recycling by Percent) League Table 2018/19 which indicated that, although Warwickshire County Council's performance was consistent with the levels recorded in 2017/18, the Authority had dropped by two positions to tenth place. He referred to the Collection Authority (Recycling by Percent) League Table 2018/19 and highlighted improvements made by the five District and Borough Councils since 2017/18.

Action

Andrew Pau advised that updated figures, including data which had become available since publication of the report, would be circulated to Members of the Partnership by email.

4. Smarter Joint Working (Including Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Update)

Richard Dobbs (Assistant Director (Streetscape), North Warwickshire Borough Council) introduced the report which provided an update on preparatory work for construction and commissioning of a new MRF.

Richard Dobbs reported that partner councils (Coventry City Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Walsall Council) had now entered into a Joint Working Agreement (JWA). He reported that advice had been sought at a pre-planning stage from highways and ecology personnel as well as from Severn Trent Water and that the outlook was promising.

Richard Dobbs stated that a tender evaluation was scheduled and that talks with bidders would take place from late January 2020. He reported that it was a complex project, but good progress was being made which constituted a significant achievement given the number of partners involved.

In response to Councillor Kondakor, Richard Dobbs advised that the impact of the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) consultation was not known but that modelling of different scenarios had been undertaken by technical consultants. It was considered that the outcome of the DRS consultation would not affect the viability of the MRF scheme.

In response to Councillor Shenton, Richard Dobbs stated that the initial target for the MRF to be operational by 2022 had been revised to Spring 2023 and he was hopeful that the project would meet this target. He added that plans had been coordinated to ensure that waste materials would be available for processing as soon as the MRF was declared operational, but that alternative arrangements had been identified in case of a delay.

In response to Councillor Shenton, Richard Dobbs reported that the outcome of discussions with potential additional partner authorities would be known by the end of January 2020. He added that headroom for additional partners had been factored in to the project plan and that increased participation from local authorities could be absorbed by the MRF's capacity to receive commercial and industrial waste.

Richard Dobbs reported that it was anticipated that Tamworth Borough Council and Lichfield District Council would soon reach a decision in respect of their involvement in the scheme. He added that investment modelling had been undertaken to consider the outcome of different scenarios, including additional partners and a reduction in single use plastic, and it was determined that the project was on a secure footing.

In response to Councillor Norris, Richard Dobbs advised that the impact of Brexit had been considered. He commented that it was impossible to mitigate all risk, but that detailed planning work had taken place. He added that it was doubtful that

waste exports to EU nations would cease, albeit at an increased cost, but that a domestic market existed for most waste products.

In response to Councillor Norris, Richard Dobbs commented that partner authorities would be reliant upon the MRF to dispose of waste irrespective of the impact of Brexit. He added that the DRS was likely to result in an additional supply of mixed plastics for sorting and the new facility would be well placed to accept this waste. He commented that local authority waste was anticipated to increase which underlined the validity of the proposal.

Andrew Pau (Strategy and Commissioning Manager, Waste & Environment) advised that an announcement in respect of the second round of the DRS consultation was expected soon and that a potential implementation date would become clearer as the initiative progressed.

5. Action on Climate Change

Andrew Pau (Strategy and Commissioning Manager, Waste & Environment) presented a verbal report in respect of the declaration of a climate emergency by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and the five District and Borough Councils, and the commitment to address climate change.

Andrew Pau reported that a cross party Task and Finish Group had been established with a focus on demonstrating how WCC will move towards carbon neutrality. He advised that a report would be presented to Cabinet on 30 January 2020.

The Chair commented that the effectiveness of the response from local authorities to the climate emergency was dependent upon the level of support offered by central government. She advised that a letter to Parliament had been produced to outline the Authority's requirements in respect of resources and changes to legislation; she encouraged partnership councils to act similarly.

In response to Councillor Kondakor, Councillor Norris explained that Warwick District Council had examined options in respect of electric refuse collection vehicles. He advised that a model was in production which had attracted national interest from local authorities and that trials had indicated a positive outlook; however, concerns remained regarding the usability of the technology and the likely effect that a fully electric powered fleet would have on the national grid. In response to the Chair, Councillor Norris advised that insufficient data was available to determine if the electric collection vehicle would be suited to rural conditions. He commented that the vehicle required large amounts of power and any decision to convert to an electric fleet would require detailed planning.

Councillor Fradgley commented that hydrogen fuel cell technology was in development and could eventually offer a more sustainable alternative to electric power. She highlighted that this was a transitional phase and suggested that contracts with external providers be versatile to allow flexibility to adapt. Gary

Charlton (Contract Services Manager, Warwick District Council) advised that a provider was unlikely to consent to a risk-free contract and that withdrawal from a contract could be expensive.

Councillor Norris agreed that hydrogen fuel cell technology offered a more environmentally friendly solution, however, he highlighted that the major fuel companies were now introducing charging points which suggested that electric power would become the mainstream alternative to fossil fuels for the foreseeable future.

6. Updates from Waste Partners

Ruth Dixon (Waste Strategy and Commissioning Manager) provided an update in respect of the trial scheme proposed to be undertaken at Cherry Orchard Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Kenilworth to encourage sorting of recyclable from non-recyclable materials. She advised the scheme was due to commence in February 2020 and that a less busy time of year had been chosen to improve conditions for the trial. She explained that the principle of the initiative was to encourage users of the HWRC to pre-sort waste items in order to improve recycling rates and prevent loss of recyclable materials; a sorting space would be made available at the facility to encourage this practice.

Ruth Dixon reported that publicity material for the initiative had adopted the tagline “let’s sort it together” and that efforts had been made to emphasise the positive local benefits of the scheme. She advised that the project would be launched with a banner and ‘meet and greet’ representatives at the HWRC entrance; the facility would be well staffed to ensure smooth operation of the new arrangement. She explained that if the trial was a success it would be introduced in the County’s other HWRCs.

In response to Councillor Kondakor, Ruth Dixon advised that Leamington Spa Repair Café had been consulted alongside All Together Greener in Kenilworth. Andrew Pau (Strategy and Commissioning Manager, Waste & Environment) added that an objective of the scheme was to remove electrical items from the waste stream and if possible, to test items for resale by Age UK.

Dan Green (Head of Environment and Public Realm, Rugby Borough Council) observed that the range of materials identified as recyclable at the HWRC differs from that specified as recyclable for kerbside collection. He suggested that this distinction be emphasised in the promotional literature. Ruth Dixon indicated that a draft copy of the “let’s sort it together” leaflet would be made available and that input from Partners would be welcomed for improvements in future trials.

Ruth Dixon advised that the Warwickshire Waste Partnership Conference 2020 was scheduled for 11 March 2020 at Shire Hall, Warwick; the theme of the event would be waste and climate change. The Partnership was shown a draft programme for comment.

In response to Councillor Norris, the Chair advised that WCC's Climate Emergency Report had not yet been made available to the public, she was supportive of presenting a unified message across the six authorities but emphasised that the process initiated by the declaration of a climate emergency was still in its first phase. The Chair emphasised that the Conference was an opportunity for ideas sharing rather than decision making.

Craig Bourne (Contracts Manager (Streetscene), Stratford-on-Avon District Council) requested that consideration of the new Warwickshire Waste Partnership Strategy be included as an agenda item at the next meeting of the Partnership and at the Conference.

Councillor Norris advised that Warwick District Council had liaised with 14 potential waste contractors and received three tender responses with a view to renewing contracts from April 2021. He advised that options for electric vehicles had been considered.

Councillor Shenton emphasised the value of school visits to raise awareness of recycling and waste practices and suggested that a common approach across the County would present benefits. Councillor Bell commented that Mars Wrigley offered an educational programme to schools to discourage littering. She suggested that the Partnership could notify schools of this service. The Chair agreed that the subject merited attention and should be developed by the Waste Partnership at future meetings.

The Chair referred to work in progress to consider the cost of collecting and disposing of food waste and its impact on the environment. She commented that the current data was incomplete and showed some irregularities. She requested that further consideration be given by Partners to the longer-term outlook for arrangements for partnership working.

Action

Ruth Dixon indicated that a draft copy of the "let's sort it together" leaflet would be circulated to Partners.

7. Any Urgent Items

There were none.

8. Agenda Item Suggestions for Next Meeting

Craig Bourne (Contracts Manager (Streetscene), Stratford-on-Avon District Council) requested that consideration of the new Warwickshire Waste Partnership Strategy be included as an agenda item at the next meeting and at the Conference.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

The Waste Partnership noted the dates of future meetings:

- 18 March 2020, 2.00pm, Shire Hall, Warwick
- 10 June 2020, 2.00pm, Shire Hall, Warwick
- 30 September 2020, 2.00pm, Shire Hall, Warwick
- 9 December 2020, 2.00pm, Shire Hall, Warwick
- 17 March 2021, 2.00pm, Shire Hall, Warwick

The meeting closed at 3.35pm

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Chair

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Warwickshire Waste Partnership

24th June 2020

Waste Management Performance Data

Recommendations

- (1) The Partnership is asked to note the provisional data for the year 2019/20.

1.0 Data Overview

- 1.1 This report contains a mixture of data taken from Waste Data Flow and from Warwickshire County Council in-house records and at the publication of this report are considered estimates.
- 1.2 The figures should be treated as provisional as data may be changed until data from authorities is approved by the EA and DEFRA through the Waste Data Flow System.
- 1.3 The key targets from the Warwickshire Waste Strategy are listed below:

Partnership Targets 2020	Reuse, Recycling and Composting Rate 65%	Kg of Residual Waste per Household 311kg (excluding HWRC waste)
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Provisional Waste Management Data 2019/20

1. Provisional performance 2019/20 (household waste)

	2018/19	2019/20	Change
Recycling/Reuse rate	59,551 tonnes	60,567 tonnes	☺ 1,016 tonnes up
	23.5%	23.8%	☺ 0.3% up
Composting rate	70,594 tonnes	71,250 tonnes	☺ 656 tonnes up
	27.9%	28.1%	☺ 0.2% up
Recycling, Composting and Reuse rate	130,145 tonnes	131,817 tonnes	☺ 1,672 tonnes up
	51.4%	51.9%	☺ 0.5% up
Landfill rate	30,718 tonnes	26,171 tonnes	☺ 4,547 tonnes down
	12.2%	10.3%	☺ 1.9% down
Energy from waste	92,245 tonnes	95,966 tonnes	☺ 3,721 tonnes up
	36.4%	37.8%	☺ 1.4% up
Total Household waste	253,108 tonnes	253,954 tonnes	✘ 846 tonnes up
			✘ 0.3% up

2. Estimated performance for year 2019/20 (household waste)

HH	North Warwickshire			Nuneaton and Bedworth			Rugby			Stratford			Warwick			HWRC			Warwickshire		
	27,820	28,090	28,428	56,140	56,520	57,174	45,720	46,300	49,729	57,340	58,580	60,353	62,550	63,670	65,395	N/A	N/A	N/A	249,570	253,160	261,079
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 est	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 est	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 est	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 est	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 est	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 est	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 est
Recycling rate	5,335 tonnes 19.0%	4,948 tonnes 18.6%	5,521 tonnes 20.6%	9,292 tonnes 19.3%	9,125 tonnes 19.0%	9,003 tonnes 19.3%	10,277 tonnes 25.7%	10,397 tonnes 25.6%	10,318 tonnes 25.7%	14,044 tonnes 25.2%	13,336 tonnes 23.9%	13,366 tonnes 23.6%	10,823 tonnes 20.9%	10,621 tonnes 20.9%	10,602 tonnes 20.6%	10,982 tonnes 36.1%	11,124 tonnes 36.0%	11,757 tonnes 36.6%	60,753 tonnes 23.9%	59,551 tonnes 23.5%	60,567 tonnes 23.8%
Composting rate	7,417 tonnes 26.4%	7,188 tonnes 27.0%	7,443 tonnes 27.7%	11,258 tonnes 23.4%	11,759 tonnes 24.5%	9,058 tonnes 19.4%	7,573 tonnes 18.9%	7,561 tonnes 18.6%	8,504 tonnes 21.2%	19,503 tonnes 35.0%	20,003 tonnes 35.8%	20,888 tonnes 36.9%	16,212 tonnes 31.0%	16,732 tonnes 32.9%	17,439 tonnes 33.8%	7,763 tonnes 25.5%	7,351 tonnes 23.8%	7,918 tonnes 24.7%	69,726 tonnes 27.4%	70,594 tonnes 27.9%	71,250 tonnes 28.1%
Recycling, Composting and Reuse Rate	12,752 tonnes 45.4%	12,136 tonnes 45.6%	12,964 tonnes 48.3%	20,550 tonnes 42.7%	20,884 tonnes 43.4%	18,061 tonnes 38.7%	17,850 tonnes 44.6%	17,958 tonnes 44.2%	18,822 tonnes 46.9%	33,547 tonnes 60.3%	33,339 tonnes 59.6%	34,254 tonnes 60.5%	27,035 tonnes 52.3%	27,353 tonnes 53.7%	28,041 tonnes 54.4%	18,745 tonnes 61.6%	18,475 tonnes 59.7%	19,675 tonnes 61.3%	130,479 tonnes 51.4%	130,145 tonnes 51.4%	131,817 tonnes 51.9%
Residual	15,307 tonnes 54.6%	14,476 tonnes 54.4%	13,895 tonnes 51.7%	27,586 tonnes 57.3%	27,184 tonnes 56.6%	28,554 tonnes 61.3%	22,163 tonnes 55.4%	22,709 tonnes 55.8%	21,345 tonnes 53.1%	22,113 tonnes 39.7%	22,565 tonnes 40.4%	22,394 tonnes 39.5%	24,700 tonnes 48.0%	23,562 tonnes 46.3%	23,523 tonnes 45.6%	11,703 tonnes 38.4%	12,467 tonnes 40.3%	12,426 tonnes 38.7%	123,572 tonnes 48.6%	122,963 tonnes 48.6%	122,137 tonnes 48.1%
Total	28,059 tonnes	26,612 tonnes	26,859 tonnes	48,136 tonnes	48,068 tonnes	46,615 tonnes	40,013 tonnes	40,667 tonnes	40,167 tonnes	55,660 tonnes	55,904 tonnes	56,648 tonnes	51,735 tonnes	50,915 tonnes	51,564 tonnes	30,448 tonnes	30,942 tonnes	32,101 tonnes	254,051 tonnes	253,108 tonnes	253,954 tonnes
Kg of residual per HH	550 Kg	515 Kg	489 Kg	491 Kg	481 Kg	499 Kg	485 Kg	490 Kg	429 Kg	386 Kg	385 Kg	371 Kg	395 Kg	370 Kg	360 Kg	N/A	N/A	N/A	495 Kg	486 Kg	468 Kg
Kg of all waste per HH	1,009 Kg	947 Kg	945 Kg	857 Kg	850 Kg	815 Kg	875 Kg	878 Kg	808 Kg	971 Kg	954 Kg	939 Kg	827 Kg	800 Kg	789 Kg	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,018 Kg	1,000 Kg	973 Kg

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HWRC Performance 19/20	Burton Farm HWRC	Cherry Orchard HWRC	Hunters Lane HWRC & Transfer	Judkins HWRC	Lower House Farm	Princes Drive HWRC & Transfer	Shipston HWRC	Stockton HWRC	Wellesbourne HWRC	Total
Recycling %	59.34	58.20	62.34	61.43	59.23	61.98	66.23	65.45	60.86	61.30

3. April Tonnes Comparison 2019 to 2020 (1st till 30th)

District & HWRC Tonnes

	NWBC		NBBC		RBC		SDC		WDC		WCA Totals		HWRC		WCC	
	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20
Composting	712	153	655	1,022	699	971	1,894	2,544	1,486	1,457	5446.2	6147	637	37	6,083	6,184
Residual	1,339	1,589	2,486	2,833	2,173	2,262	1,759	1,737	1,901	1,889	9658.2	10310	2,840	351	12,498	10,661
Total	2,051	1,742	3,141	3,854	2,873	3,233	3,653	4,281	3,387	3,346	15104.3	16456	3,477	388	18,581	16,844

Tonnage and Percentage Change

	NWBC		NBBC		RBC		SDC		WDC		WCA Totals		HWRC		WCC	
	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-20
Composting	-560	-78.6%	367	56.1%	272	38.9%	650	34.3%	-29	-2.0%	700.5	12.9%	-600	-94.2%	100	1.7%
Residual	250	18.7%	347	13.9%	88	4.1%	-22	-1.2%	-12	-0.6%	651.7	6.8%	-2,489	-87.6%	-1,837	-14.7%
Total	-309	-15.1%	714	22.7%	361	12.6%	628	17.2%	-41	-1.2%	1352.1	8.9%	-3,089	-88.8%	-1,737	-9.3%

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

24 Jun 2020

Waste Partners Report

Recommendation(s)

1. The Waste Partnership is asked to acknowledge the updates on the various waste activities taking place in each area since the last partnership meeting in January 2020.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the various waste activities taking place in each authority area.

2.0 North Warwickshire Borough Council

- 2.1 Green bin collections were suspended for four weeks (early April – early May) due to coronavirus. The service is now fully operational using extra vehicles, agency, leisure and County Council staff. In the four weeks following the suspension 1,320 tonnes of garden and food waste were collected, an increase of 981 tonnes when compared to the same time last year. There has also been an increase in refuse and recycling tonnages during lockdown measures
- 2.2 In March the Council agreed to introduce chargeable garden waste collections from 1st June 2020. The introduction of this service has now been suspended until April 2021. The opt-in charge will be applicable to all green bins. Officers are planning the introduction of this service, including the promotion of alternatives including home composting. Officers are also working with a local garden centre to provide vouchers and special offers to residents after they sign up.
- 2.3 Bulky waste collections were suspended from 24th March to 18th May due to coronavirus. The service is now fully operational again. There has been an influx of bookings, with many for the collection of fridges and freezers.
- 2.4 The introduction of in-cab technology, originally planned for September 2020 has been delayed.

3.0 Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council

3.1 Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleansing

- a) Continuing to respond to the current COVID-19 guidance with regards to key services and safeguarding of key worker staff.
- b) Risk assessments have been prepared and circulated to NBBC staff in preparation for a gradual return to work of staff where possible.
- c) Bulky waste collections have restarted, with risk controls in place. Waste officers are currently assessing the task with a view to increasing collections.
- d) All household waste functions operating as normal.
- e) Key worker covid-19 testing has been continuing where necessary.
- f) Street cleansing operating as normal following the introduction of social distancing safeguards.
- g) Household recycling collections are operating as normal, with some increased additional material (primarily cardboard) reported.
- h) Enforcement resumption currently being negotiated and is likely to commence within the next 4 to 6 weeks in conjunction with social distancing safeguards and national guidelines.
- i) Commercial waste service continuing for those premises still open and is likely to increase further with expected opening relaxations for retail outlets and schools.
- j) The 2020/21 green bin scheme has again had a very positive take up response.

3.2 Promotions/Communications

- a) All promotions and communications continuing where possible to support core services.

3.3 Climate Change Emergency

- a) Climate change meetings have been scheduled are set to resume using remote access facilities for officers and members attending.

4.0 Rugby Borough Council

4.1 Fleet procurement progress nearly complete with all Lots now awarded. For infrastructure and technology reasons, all vehicles are diesel powered although alternative fuels were interrogated as part of the contract evaluations. The delivery of the new vehicles has been delayed due to the lockdown across Europe affecting all manufacturers.

4.2 Work completed on a new 14 year rolling fleet replacement programme.

- 4.3 New consolidated Policy Document detailing all service standards across all waste collection, street cleansing, Graffiti, flytipping, littering, winter maintenance etc. awaiting approval from February Full Council meeting. WCC facilities and services are referenced within this Policy Document.
- 4.4 Climate emergency committee meetings progressing to establish scope and scale of actions to be implemented. Agenda now firmly framed by impacts and evidence gained from the period of lockdown.
- 4.5 Green waste subscriptions now 23,700. Already 620 more subscriptions than 2019-20 totals, largely due to lockdown.
- 4.6 Contamination of our Dry Mixed Recycling is currently 10.5%. Still work to do to drive this percentage down further but contamination has been decreasing each month since April 2019.
- 4.7 Recruitment process successfully completed for waste, recycling and street cleansing operatives, significantly reducing our reliance on Agency workers
- 4.8 Review of commercial waste service efficiency and effectiveness commenced in February but halted in late March due to lockdown. Project will recommence when stores and customers resume business
- 4.9 Efficiency and effectiveness audit initially planned for March for the waste and recycling collection services. This follows the internal audits carried out in 2019 for the fleet management and green waste collection services. This Audit will now take place in July and we will update future meetings regarding its progress and outcomes
- 4.10 With the exception of a 2 week period where bulky waste collections were suspended, RBC has maintained all collection services through the lockdown period and have been working very closely with all group colleagues to ensure that best practice, advice, guidance and documentation is shared with all partners at all times.
- 4.11 RBC continue to liaise closely and take an active role in WPP working groups.
- 4.12 After a successful recruitment exercise, we appointed a new Executive Director/Head of Paid Services during this period with Mannie Kettley replacing Adam Norburn.

5.0 Warwick District Council

- 5.1 Currently in the process of tendering for our new waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance contracts which will start April 2021. Initial bids were received in April. Sustainability is featured quite heavily and bidders were asked to submit carbon reduction plans and costs for Electric Vehicles.

- 5.2 It became necessary to suspend textile collections from our kerbside recycling scheme earlier in the year due to the state of the market. There were no textile reprocessors willing to accept our kerbside collected material.
- 5.3 Have managed to keep all waste collection services running during COVID-19 crisis apart from an initial 2-week suspension of green bin collections. It became necessary, quite early on, to reduce crew sizes to enable social distancing so additional vehicles were hired, drivers from street cleansing services were seconded to help with waste collections and WCC helped with the provision of taxis to transport loaders out to rounds. Sustained increase in tonnages across all services.
- 5.4 Staff changes – Rob Hoof (Head of Neighbourhood Services) and Gary Charlton (Contract Services Manager) have both left WDC to take up new roles at other Local Authorities. Zoe Court has been appointed as Contract Services Manager.

6.0 Stratford-on-Avon District Council

- 6.1 SDC have continued to provide the full range of waste collection and street cleansing services throughout the pandemic. All waste streams have seen a significant increase in volume. To enable us to complete the rounds, we have had to limit collection to bins only, and suspend the collection of recycling side waste.
- 6.2 April and May saw a 39% increase in fly tipping across the district, compared with 2019 figures.
- 6.3 We have continued to focus on contamination, letters have been sent to occupiers of properties where contaminated bins have been presented for collection.
- 6.4 The chargeable garden waste service was due to start on 1st June 2020, this has been postponed, the new start date as yet to be confirmed.
- 6.5 Our Social media posts have been focusing on food storage and environmental messages.

7.0 Warwickshire County Council

- 7.1 Covid - 19
 - a) The Partnership has worked together throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure the continuation of waste services across the County.
 - b) HWRCs closed on March 24th and 6 reopened on Monday 18th May with a booking system to manage social distancing. Shipston was the 7th site to

reopen on 22nd June. The systems in place have ensured that visitors and staff are able to keep 2 metres apart, nearly all of the waste streams are available, and queueing has been minimal. There are currently over 12,000 appointments available per week across the 7 open sites.

7.2 Pre-sorting of waste to increase reuse and recycling

The first 6 weeks of the sorting station trial at Cherry Orchard in Kenilworth was a success. It was designed to reduce general waste, in particular capture more electricals for reuse and recycling. It has not been feasible to resume this when the site reopened, due to social distancing. However, the booking system has given us the opportunity to ask users of all sites to pre-sort their waste, both to increase reuse and recycling and to reduce time spent depositing waste on site. Limiting the number of visitors at each site within each time slot also helps site staff to monitor and provide advice to maximise recycling.

7.3 Communication activities update:

- a) 9,160 subscribers received the June edition of the 'Warwickshire Recycles' e-newsletter, with a 36% open rate and 6.5% click rate. It featured: the impact of Covid 19 on waste services; booking a visit to a HWRC; home composting; reducing food waste; sustainable fashion. The summer edition will be out in August.
- b) Slim Your Bin has recruited 1,188 'bin dieters' onto its 4-week training programme. We have added a module called Slim Your Bin Kids, packed with ideas for keeping children entertained with practical activities the bring home the waste minimisation message. We will be asking elected members from all local authorities to help to promote the scheme.
- c) Home composting events in the spring had attracted 146 delegates, however all events had to be cancelled. Instead, we produced a YouTube Home Composting Workshop, which we linked all booked delegates to and also launched to the wider Warwickshire audience. The video has been viewed 586 times and feedback has been very positive.
- d) The countywide food waste recycling behaviour change campaign – In to Win, continues across the county. 5795 households are now signed up.
- e) All waste reduction behaviour change activity is promoted with regular posts on our social media accounts. Facebook followers have increased dramatically to 2,180 (Warwickshire Recycles) with 939 followers on Twitter (@WarksRecycles). Initial Facebook posts about the recycling centre reopening peaked at 47,000 organic views. We are monopolising on this increased traffic to our social media accounts but also continuing our campaign posts on waste minimisation, home composting and recycling.

7.3 Procurement and Contracts update:

- a) The following contracts have been extended:

- Glass recycling
- Textile recycling
- Tyre recycling/disposal
- Waste composition analysis
- Ryton landfill gas

b) The following contracts have been awarded following a competitive process:

- Caddy liners concession has been awarded to Compost Bag Company; the contract will see members of the public able to purchase high quality liners online at a good price
- Purchase of 20 (40 cubic yard) RoRo containers from GJF Fabrications
- Scientific monitoring of landfill sites was awarded to Enitial Limited
- Wood reprocessing has been awarded to Jack Moody Ltd
- Metals recycling has been awarded to Whites of Coventry
- Corporate CCTV has been awarded to Open view
- Utilisation of Leicestershire County Council clinical disposal contract with Tradebe

c) Upcoming procurements or those currently taking place are paper and card recycling, paint recycling, plasterboard recycling and haulage of kerbside waste.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 None.

9.0 Next steps

9.1 Updates on progress to be provided at the Sept 2020 meeting.

Background papers

None.

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