

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 8

meeting date: TUESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2019
title: RECYCLING REPORT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform members of the current issues facing recycling.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The amount of household waste being sent to landfill is rising at a rapid rate of 3% per year. The cost of landfill to LCC was £47m in 2016/17 and estimated to rise to £75m in 2024/25. Recycling rates have dropped over the last few years, and in Lancashire we recycle less than half of our waste (45.7%) and in Ribble Valley last year only 30% sent for reuse, recycling or composting. A contributing factor to the low recycling rate was caused by a refuse collection vehicle being out of service for 3 months, this had to be replaced by a single bodied hire vehicle thus resulting in a drop in green collection of 250 tonnes (in July August & September) and blue collection of 100 tonnes. This contributed to a drop in the recycling rate for this quarter of 3.3%

2.2 The aim of the Pots Tubs and Trays Campaign across the county is therefore to reduce bin bag waste, increase recycling by collecting more plastic and processing operations extracting more plastic at the recycling plant. The objective of the Campaign is to recycle 27,000 tonnes of plastic pots, tubs trays as well as plastic bottles from October 2019 to October 2020

2.3 Recycling is known to be highest amongst those over 45 years, more affluent groups and home owners. The 50% of households who are recycling but could be more effective are broadly younger families and these are the target audience for this campaign i.e. they do recycle but have the potential to recycle more!

2.4 Prior to rollout we instructed all waste collection teams to empty blue/green bins into the recycling side of the Refuse Collection Vehicle, (where in the past we have inspected and rejected any bins which are contaminated into the residual side.) There are now increased sorting facilities at the recycling plant to deal with higher levels of contamination. This has increased our recycling rate by 5.4% in the first quarter of the year!

2.5 The Council's communications officer issued press releases, and an article in Ribble Valley News and the RV website had a news item on its main page 'Lancashire Does'

- 2.6 The recycling sticker placed on bins, produced and paid for by LCC re Pots Tubs & Trays, does not mention we still want glass & cans, residents giving feedback it's misleading. We have told LCC and our own message will stress the point that glass and cans are still welcome. The stickers were rolled out w/c 30th September and will continue on 'blue' weeks until all the bins in the borough have been 'stickered'
- 2.7 Since the roll out the Council's website has been changed to make it easier for residents to find 'What goes in my bins' and it now includes more detailed information on the types of things that can go inside each bin. Contact centre staff has all received hard copy of this information for quick, confident responses to enquiries.
- 2.8 On a trial basis we have now started to collect trade paper and cardboard (previously expressly prohibited by LCC) by using the household paper & card crews for town centres rather than the Garwood. Where possible they collect any trade paper & card outside town centres as they are passing. All trade must have paid stickers attached because we are obliged to charge for commercial waste collections. The intention is to keep trade prices consistent across the service.
- 2.9 School recycling- we have agreed to offer this to schools with a (free-to-them) 140/360l. blue bin (if paid for by LCC, see later)
- 2.10 New residents- as residents move into the area the contact centre staff send them a pack which includes their collection day and how we collect their waste; a reprint of these leaflets is currently being produced.
- 3 ISSUES
- 3.1 LCC is offering a District Grant Fund to be used for any waste initiatives which may help performance. It is the Council's intention to submit a bid for the purchase of 140/360l. blue bins for schools (see above) and 240l. blue bins for households. The money will be paid in Jan/Feb and can be used anytime through the year
- 3.2 Advertising on side of the refuse collection vehicles; we are awaiting the banners for the vehicles which are being produced and paid for by LCC.
- 3.3 Communal areas- it has been highlighted recently that some have 1100l bins, this means the residents do not have the opportunity to recycle, they will be contacted over the coming months to gauge their commitment to recycle their household waste
- 3.4 There are currently 880 properties in the Ribble Valley who do not have a waste bin, they dispose of their waste via a lilac sack which is collected by the crews. These residents do not have the option to recycle their waste
- 3.5 Advertisement campaigns-social media-newspaper will be season led over the next 12 months eg Christmas recycling, Easter etc.
- 3.6 We're looking at the possibility of changing how we collect trade glass, cans and plastic with the Garwood in town centre eg two customers in the town centre we currently empty 27 x 360l. blue bins every week which currently goes into landfill (as instructed in the past by LCC)

4. RISK ASSESSMENTS

- Resources – Some of the costs for the new proposals will be met by Lancashire County Council
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – There would be no changes to the collection of the new materials. The changes would have an impact on the environment as less plastic would be sent to landfill.
- Political – This would be welcomed by the public who do not understand why more plastics are not collected for recycling.
- Reputation – This would raise the rate of recycling and be good for the authority.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 That Committee agree to offer the opportunity for all residents to purchase an additional recycling bin blue/green?
- 5.2 Agree to offer a free exchange for 140l. blue bins to 240l. blue bins for households (currently offer this for customers with larger gardens)- do we offer 360l. blue to all households of 6 persons or more?
- 5.3 Agree that officers review lilac bag customers to ensure that the list for properties is analysed and properties that could now have bins do so. Also to investigate the merits of offering a clear plastic bag to lilac bag users for those residents who choose to recycle.

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HEAD OF ENGINEERING

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REF: Adrian Harper Community Services 30.10.18