

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO THE  
Economy Environment & Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**REPORT TITLE:** Recycling & Waste Service

**Submitted by:** Head of Recycling & Fleet Services - Andrew Bird

**Portfolio:** Environment & Recycling

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Purpose of the Report**

This report has been prepared for members to consider following requests from the Chair for updates and statements on the following issues:-

- Progress on the development for the introduction of the new recycling collection service.
- Capital requirements for the new recycling collection service.
- The number of times comingled collections have taken place over the last quarter.
- Briefing on how the department coped with the recent bad weather, and any lessons learnt to be taken contingency plans for this year
- Briefing on governments recently announced consultation for their Resource and Waste Strategy.
- Quarter 3 performance – for information

**Recommendations**

**That the report be noted.**

1. **Background**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Cabinet resolved that the Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee receive regular updates from the Cabinet Member on the detailed planning and modelling of the new recycling service including timescales and costs in the run up to its implementation to help shape its design and direction and report back into the Cabinets decision making process.

- 1.2 In addition to these updates this report details some of the continuing challenges faced by the Recycling and waste service, and measures put in place to manage them effectively will be provided to the committee.

2. **Issues**

2.1 **Progress on the development for the introduction of the new recycling collection service.**

A high level timeline for projects has been produced to bring the new recycling service into operation on a phased approach over the next 12 to 18 months. The main project areas are detailed in the high level project document attached to this report at appendix 1.

2.2 **Capital requirements for the new recycling collection service.**

Capital requirements so far have indicated that £3.7million will be required in 2020/21 financial year. This figure excludes recharges and is subject to the outcome of detailed service modelling and costing to confirm the number of rounds, vehicles, and staffing resources required.

Currently the predicted capital spend is as follows-

Capital requirement	Cost
Procurement of Wheelie Bins and distribution	£913,000
Procurement of suitable receptacle for paper and card (if an existing box is not utilised)	£154,000
Procurement of vehicles – 7 x 26t twin pack RCV’c + 1 x 16t twin pack RCV for dry recycling 7 x 7.5t collection vehicles for food collections	£2,133,000
Modifications to Knutton Lane Depot Transfer Station	£500,000 - TBC

Options for contract hire or leasing of vehicles is currently being investigated as an alternative to Capital funding.

2.3 **The number of times comingled collections have taken place over the last quarter.**

Recycling and Waste services have been running small vehicle collecting comingled recycling on a trial basis since July 2018. This has been used predominantly in terraced streets with tight access and cars parked on either side of the road where collections using the ‘normal’ recycling collection vehicles are difficult due to the side loading, and takes a considerable amount of time.

The trial has demonstrated that collection times have been vastly improved with average collections being more efficient than using the standard recycling vehicles. Studies of the existing service and trial have shown, that based on the current service the average pass rate is 821 Properties over the course of a 7:24 Shift, this equates to 55 seconds per property. Based on the New Service Trial we are passing an average of 1050 properties in a 4 hour period, this equates to 23 seconds per property.

Comingled collections have also taken place when issues with bad weather have occurred and when we have had to take a standard recycling vehicle off the road due to faults or breakdowns.

Over the last three months this has occurred on 30 occasions.

All material collected comingled has been taken to Stoke-on-Trent City Councils bulking station, from where it then goes to a MRF for processing and recycling.

2.4 **Briefing on how the department coped with the recent bad weather, and any lessons learnt to be taken contingency plans for this year.**

Recycling and Waste Services were forced to suspend collections on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January. The department was able to catch up, although recycling collections took a week to recover fully. As always the department takes the opportunity to examine success and any failures in order to provide valuable lessons for the future.

A decision was made to start Thursday's collections as normal, rather than trying to recover Wednesday's collections first, and schedule overtime and Saturday working to recover Wednesday's work. This was to avoid impacting on additional days collections, and worked well.

Areas which didn't work so well, was on communications, although the website was regularly updated and messages were sent via social media, residents didn't take much notice, or didn't read them. This is an area we are now working with the Councils media team to resolve.

The bad weather protocol, has now been updated following this last spell of bad weather, and is attached to this report at appendix 2 for information.

2.5 **Briefing on governments recently announced consultation for their Resource and Waste Strategy.**

DEFRA released its Resources and Waste Strategy on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 along with details of the consultations on the main policy areas that will be coming out in early 2019. Many the policies that are contained in the Strategy are subject to consultations that will determine either whether they will happen and/or the detail of how they might happen.

There are some significant changes in waste policy across the UK that will have some fundamental impacts on local authority operations contained within the strategy. It also looks to enact some of the requirements of the EU Circular Economy Package that the UK has signed up to and agreed to implement in full.

Consultations were released on 18<sup>th</sup> February, and focus on four main areas -

- Consistency in Recycling Collections (across England)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging and the concept of full net cost recovery for local authorities
- Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) for the UK
- Taxing plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content

All four consultations run for 12 weeks with a closing date of 12 May for the plastic packaging tax one and 13 May for the other three.

A large proportion of the consultations are applicable across the UK and not just to England, despite the devolved nature of waste policy across the UK.

The Council will be responding formally to the consultations.

## 2.6 Quarter 3 performance – for information

The following table details the performance for recycling and composting, together with missed bin statistics for quarter 2 of this financial year.

### Recycling Performance

	Quarter 2 – July to September 18	Quarter 3 – October to December 18.
Overall Recycling Rate	51.2%	45.99
Dry Recycling Rate	19.39%	19.28%
Garden Composting	26.57%	16.69% (No collections in December)
Food Waste AD Composting	5.59%	5.26%
Residual Waste Kg's per household (low figure is good)	103.66 kg's	97.85 kg's

### Reported Missed Bins

	October 18	November 18	December 18
Recycling	150	155	149
Residual	62	128	35
Garden	48	80	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>184</b>
% of successful collections	99.94%	99.914%	99.95%

3. **Options Considered** (if any)

Not applicable to this report

4. **Proposal**

Not applicable to this report

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

Not applicable to this report

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

6.1 Development of a new recycling service is a key Corporate Priority.

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

7.1 The Council has a legal duty under the Waste Framework Directive 2012, to provide collection services for non-recyclable waste, and to collect separately four streams of recycling, namely, paper/card (fibre), metal, plastic, and glass all free of charge.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

All recycling and waste collection services, both current and proposed are subject to the department undertaking a Equality Impact Assessment.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

9.1 This report details financial implications as detailed in section 2.2 above.

10. **Major Risks**

Not applicable to this report

11. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

Not applicable to this report

12. **Key Decision Information**

Not applicable to this report

13. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

Not applicable to this report

14. **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 – High Level Project Plan for the new Recycling Collection Service.

Appendix 2 – Revised bad weather protocol.

15. **Background Papers**

None