

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

Date: 22nd May 2013

Title: Additional Recycling Materials

Submitted by: T Nicoll

Portfolio: Environment and Recycling

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

- To update Cabinet on the extension of the range of material recycling opportunities for residents collected on the kerbside agreed by Portfolio Holder.
- To highlight the importance to reuse and recycle waste via the new revised waste hierarchy.
- To ensure that the current service provides residents with a system that meets their needs, complies with legislation and ensures that waste is dealt with in an environmentally responsible, safe yet simple and flexible manner.

Recommendations

- That Cabinet acknowledges the extension of the range of materials (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and batteries) that can be presented in the Council blue box for recycling and reuse.
- That Cabinet acknowledges the increase in the number of bring sites that have capacity to recycle WEEE from 3 to 6 sites.

Reasons

- To provide resident greater flexibility to recycle batteries and WEEE at the kerbside and at bring sites across the Borough.
- To remove potentially harmful materials from residual waste bins.
- To Increase material going to reuse and recycling.

1. **Background**

The Councils current recycling and waste strategy has been prepared following the principles agreed by Cabinet in October 2007 and consultation with stakeholders. It sets out the direction for the Waste Management services up to 2016. The strategy was prepared taking account of national guidance (Waste Strategy for England 2007) and the 'principles

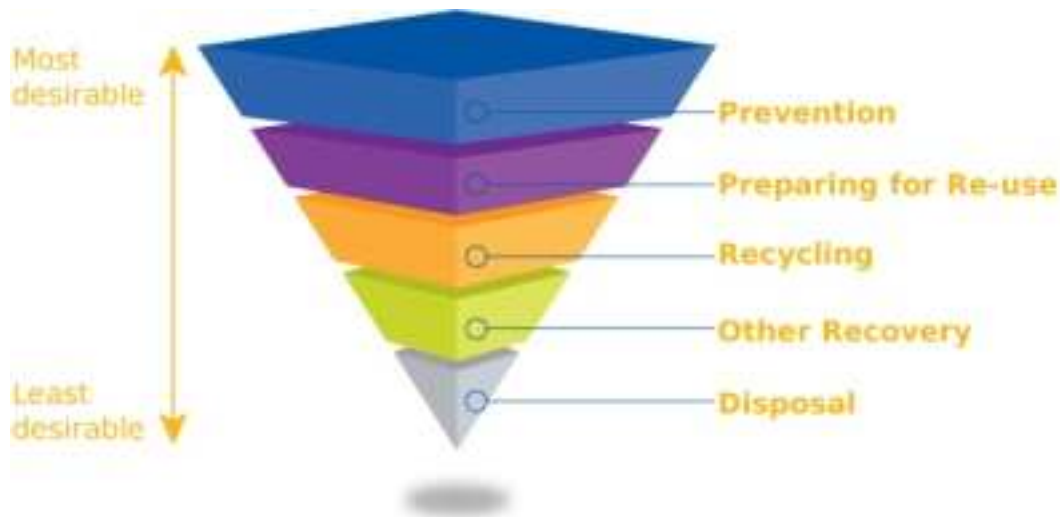
and policies' set out in the Integrated Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (2020 Vision).

The service under went a major redesign in 2010, with the introduction of weekly food waste collection, fortnightly garden, residual and kerbside recycling of paper, card, plastic, cans and textiles. Due to residents and staff commitment to the service this has seen an increase in recycling from 27% in 2008/9 to 51% in 2011/12, as well as a reduction in residual waste by over 35%. Over the same period it has been possible to provide a more financially efficient service. The service has been recognised on a national basis and has won five national awards and been nominated in a number of others over the last couple of years, due to the design and standard of the service.

During 2012 the waste hierarchy was revised putting more importance on the preparing for re-use stage. One area that this supports is the collection of small electrical items and batteries.

Waste Hierarchy

Focus	Stages	Include
Most Desirable	Prevention	Using less material in design and manufacture. Keeping products for longer; re-use. Using less hazardous materials
	Preparing for re-use	Checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing, whole items or spare parts
	Recycling	Turning waste into a new substance or product. Includes anaerobic digestion and composting if it meets quality protocols
	Other recovery	Includes incineration with energy recovery, gasification and pyrolysis (thermal decomposition) which produces energy.
Least Desirable	Disposal	Landfill and incineration without energy recovery



2.0 **Issues**

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Batteries are two of the fastest growing elements of waste streams in the UK, and an increase in the prevalence of these items is being experienced within the residual waste since the implementation of the Councils Recycling Strategy. Items such as these should not be disposed via incineration or landfill due to environment harm that this may cause. These materials are also made up of materials which are in limited supply, such as rare metals and plastics which can be reused or recycling.

There are currently WEEE banks at only three of the 19 bring site locations in the borough, these being at Clayton Shops, Newcastle Sainsbury and Wolstanton Asda. Currently we provide no other outlets for the collection of these materials and to this end most household WEEE and batteries do end up being put in the residual bin, which may cause harm to the environment or are potentially dangerous during the disposal process.

3.0. **Changes to Service**

After the agreement of Portfolio Holder it was agreed that the Council would work with Acumen Distribution, the council's current recycling contractor and Environcom Limited, to extend the opportunity for residents to recycle WEEE and batteries, both at the kerbside and at bring sites. The extension to the scheme has been undertaken at no cost to the council and has not added any additional Council supplied containers or bags to the collection system. Environcom Limited is the UK's largest independent company specialising in the management of unwanted electrical appliances. Once collected, the items will then either be repaired, smartened up and sold, harvested for spare parts to repair other products, or reduced back to fragments of raw materials to feed back into manufacturing.

During May the number of bring site locations that can receive WEEE will be increased from the current three to six. The additional banks are being placed at the following bring sites: Kidsgrove Tesco, Knutton High Street and Wolstanton Marsh. This would provide a more even coverage across the borough.

From 14th May WEEE and batteries have been added to the range of materials that can be presented in our blue recycling box and for collection fortnightly. Residents have been asked

to collect batteries in a clear plastic (sandwich) bag for safety; then place this in to their blue box. The collection crews will then place the batteries in a special box located on the collection vehicle. A similar service will also be offered to also Schools within the Borough.

Residents have been asked to place WEEE items in a standard carry bag, (thus ensuring the item is not too large), and then place the bag in/on their blue box. The reason why only small items can be collected is that these items must be stored separately on the collection vehicles. The compartment that is being used for this use is already on the vehicle and it can only accommodate items no larger than 35cm by 40cm.

The types of WEEE items that can be collected includes

- Kettles, toasters, irons and other small kitchen appliances
- Hairdryers, hair straighteners and hair clippers
- Clocks, watches, calculators and torches
- Remote controllers, mobile phones, cameras and chargers
- Radios, alarms, mini hi-fi's and CD and MP3 Players
- Small electronic toys e.g. remote control cars
- Power tools, smoke detectors and thermostats
- Mobile phones and laptop batteries (place in a separate bag)
- Household batteries (place in a separate bag)
- Any small electrical item with a plug or that uses batteries

The material is being bulked at the Hot Lane Depot; then transported to Environcom for reuse or recycling.

Residents have been informed about the changes to the service and the additional materials they can now recycle via the quarterly service leaflet sent to all residents on 7th May. The message will be reinforced with additional articles in The Reporter, press releases and Councils website.

It is expected that this service will remove been 20 and 25 tonnes of WEEE and batteries from our residual waste stream.

4.0 **Outcomes Linked to Corporate Priorities**

The change of service relates to the effective delivery of high quality collection and treatment arrangements for recycling and waste, which would contribute to the following:

A clean, safe and sustainable borough

- ❖ The negative impacts that the Council, residents and local businesses have on the environment will have reduced
- ❖ Our streets and open spaces will be clean, clear and tidy

A Healthy and Active Community

- ❖ Council Services will be influenced by resident engagement, enabling local communities to shape services which directly affect their lives.

A co-operative Council, delivering high quality, community driven services.

- ❖ High performing services will be delivered for all residents and customers.

5.0 **Legal and Statutory Implications**

The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC) requires a reduction in bio-degradable waste to be land-filled by 75% in 2010, when compared against the 1995 level.

The Government's Waste Strategy requires 40% of domestic waste by weight to be recycled by 2010 and 50% by 2020. The waste strategy is designed to increase recycling and therefore meet the legislative requirements without incurring financial penalties from Europe.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 empowers the Council as a Waste Collection Authority to direct householders how to present waste. The service will also follow regulations as laid out in the EU Battery Directive 2006 and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2006

6.0 **Equality Impact Assessment**

This is a minor change to the service and it is believed that a full equality impact assessment is not required as it currently falls under the existing full equality impact assessment for the collection service.

7.0 **Financial and Resource Implications**

There are limited financial implications in respect of adding these additional materials collected for recycling either on the kerbside or at bring sites. This change will be cost neutral to the currently collection and treatment budget.

8.0 **Major Risks**

Due to the nature and size of the change suggested there are no major risks connected with the provision of this amendment to the service.

9.0 **Key Decision Information**

The decision is one that would affect all wards of the Council. It has therefore been included on the Forward Plan.