

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE <sup>7</sup>  
17 SEPTEMBER 2013

REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY  
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

NEW RECYCLING SCHEME – REMOVING CARD FROM THE  
ORGANIC WASTE STREAM – PROGRESS WITH  
IMPLEMENTATION: UPDATE SEPTEMBER, 2013

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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Purpose/Summary of Report

- To advise Members on the progress being made to change dry recycling collections to a dual stream system, since the previous report in June 2013.

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION FOR ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: That</u></b>	
<b>(A)</b>	<b>The progress in implementing the new be scrutinised.</b>

1.0 Background

1.1 In March 2013, following consideration by Environmental Scrutiny Committee, the Council approved a scheme to change the current kerbside sorting of dry recyclables using boxes to a dual stream comingled system, with paper being kept separate in a box and all other dry recyclables placed in wheeled bins.

1.2 The primary motive behind this change was to enable cardboard to be moved from the organic waste stream into

the dry recycling, as it was proving difficult to compost the card and with changing standards for compost quality it would be impossible for processors to meet the new standards with the level of coated card being collected. The need to change also provided an opportunity to consider how recycling services could be improved and performance increased.

## 2.0 Report

- 2.1 The report details the progress made to date on the project, since the earlier progress report in June 2013, covering planning, programming, procurement, communications and outlines some of the milestones that have or are to be met.

### **Progress**

- 2.2 A project plan with a separate media plan and associated risk assessment was drawn up to enable all the actions necessary to deliver the new service commencement in November 2013, to be identified and tracked. Contingency plans developed to mitigate against any potential delays. Considerable progress has been made since the scheme was approved.
- 2.3 The first two of the six 'twin pack' (two compartment) vehicles will be delivered week commencing 16 September, 2013 with the others arriving in pairs every fortnight, so all six vehicles will be with us, and with livery by week commencing 14 October, well before the 11 November service change date and allows plenty of time for driver and operative training.
- 2.4 The wheeled bins will go into production on 5 September, with the first bulk deliveries to the Buntingford Service Centre beginning w/c 16 September, i.e. two weeks before house to house deliveries commence. Successive bulk deliveries will continue as stock is distributed. The supplier has committed to being able to complete the house to house deliveries in the timescale the Council require. With deliveries beginning w/c 30 September for 4 weeks, with a further week possible to "mop up" any areas not completed in the 4 weeks. An initial stock of 10,000 inner paper boxes was ordered and will be delivered to the depot w/c 16

September, two weeks before individual deliveries begin. The leaflet asking residents if they wanted an inner paper box was distributed in early August, resulting in over 20,000 requests for the inner box to date, so a further 14,000 have been ordered, with delivery confirmed for 30 September. As the delivery schedule will take 4 weeks this should allow sufficient time before they are needed. There was a cut off date for residents to order the new box of 30 August. Any requests made after this date will be batched up so that deliveries can be made by area, which will be more cost effective. The public's response to the inner paper box is very encouraging and shows that people are engaging with and welcoming the service change.

- 2.5 Articles about the new service were in the last issue of The Link and a further article will be in the next issue as well. The delivery leaflet, that will be in a clear envelope and attached to the bins when they are delivered, is with the printers. The service leaflet and calendar are in draft form and will be ready in time for distribution in early October.
- 2.6 Nine road shows at a variety of events have been held, including carnivals, farmers markets, housing association open days, to reach as wide an audience as possible. The new service, bin and inner box have been very positively received at all the road shows. There has been minimal negative reaction to date (end of August) with around 70 residents declining to take the third bin. A number of these issues have been resolved and a variety of arrangements made to enable the bin to be accepted.
- 2.7 A range of communications with partners and other organisations is underway.

### **Significant Milestones**

- 2.8 The new service will commence on 11 November 2013. Key milestones taken from the project plan are shown below:

<u>Action Completed</u>	<u>Date</u>
Procure vehicles and containers	May
New collection rounds designed	May
Design media	May
Branding	May
Opt in leaflet	May
Opt in leaflet delivered to residents	August
Delivery leaflet	August
Road shows	June - Sept

<u>To be Completed</u>	<u>Date</u>
Service Leaflet & Calendars	September
Vehicles delivered	6 Sept – 14 October
Bulk bin deliveries to depot commence	16 September
Inner paper boxes delivered to depot	16 & 30 September
Calendars & Service leaflets delivered	October
Container deliveries	30 Sept -24 October
Information pack and presentation to Members at Council Meeting	16 October
New service starts	11 November

### 3.0 Implications/Consultations

Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**,

#### Background Papers - None

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