

Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel 23 July 2015

Report title	Waste management and minimisation	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Steve Evans Cabinet Member for City Environment	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Nick Alderman, City Environment	
Originating service	Commercial Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Chris Huddart	Head of Service
	Tel	01902 556788
	Email	Chris.Huddart@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

1. The Panel is recommended to review and provide feedback on the draft literature to promote recycling across the city.

Recommendations for noting:

1. The Panel is asked to note the current collection arrangements for waste and recycling and the cost disposing household waste generated within the city.

1.0 Purpose

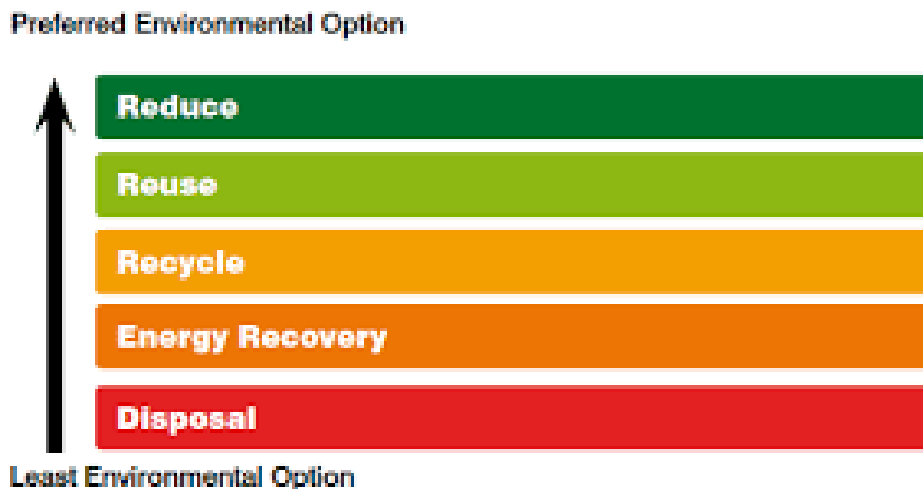
- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Scrutiny Panel to note the current arrangements for the collection and disposal of waste within the city and to review and provide feedback on the draft literature to promote the benefits of recycling to citizens across the city.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Waste and Recycling Service is delivered in partnership with Amey (formally Enterprise Managed Services) and provides a waste collection, recycling and disposal service for approximately 105,900 households across the city that fulfils the requirements of residents and the government. The current contract commenced in April 2006 with the contract term set at 14 years (i.e. expiring in 2020). Under the contract, Amey are responsible for all aspects of the day to day operations within the household and trade waste and recycling collection and disposal services. This includes operating two Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC).
- 2.2 The current collection services includes 14 weekly domestic and food collection rounds plus an additional hard to reach properties round, 7 fortnightly garden waste collection rounds between April and November and 7 fortnightly co-mingled dry recycling collection rounds.
- 2.3 Occupiers of conventional properties have been provided with a 140 litre wheelie bin for residual waste deposited at Wolverhampton Energy from Waste plant, a 23 litre bin for food waste recycled at an anaerobic digestion plant; 240 litre wheelie bin for garden waste directed to windrow composting and a 240 litre wheelie bin for the collection of co-mingled dry recyclates for sorting at a material recycling facility (MRF). An assisted collection service for the elderly and infirm who are not able to present their refuse or recycling containers at the edge of their property is in operation on all rounds.
- 2.4 Waste management legislation has been implemented over several years to improve waste collection and disposal with the general concerns being:
- Public Health
 - Local environmental issues (Local pollution issues)
 - Global environmental issues (Climate Change)
- 2.5 The Environmental Protection Act (1990) defines the duties of Waste Collection Authorities, responsible for the collection of waste from households and Waste Disposal Authorities, responsible for the disposal (treatment) of household waste. As a unitary authority, Wolverhampton City Council has a statutory responsibility to act as both the Waste Collection and Disposal Authority.
- 2.6 The revised Framework Directive names four recyclable materials (paper, glass, metals and plastics) that must be collected separately from general waste for recycling.

This legislation also requires the treatment and disposal of waste to be in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy, which shows waste treatment and disposal options in the order of environmental preference, these are:

- i) Reduce the amount of waste produced
- ii) Reuse materials repeatedly
- iii) Recycle, using materials to make new products
- iv) Recover energy from waste
- v) Safe disposal of waste to landfill (least preferred option)



- 2.7 The costs associated with waste collection and disposal services are traditionally high, with the disposal charges being a high proportion of the costs involved. Landfill disposal is by far the most expensive treatment option. The wide scale environmental impact of landfilling waste have seen it become subject to legislation that limits its use, as well as financial measures being implemented to encourage the use of alternatives. Landfill disposal is subject to Landfill Tax, which is currently set at £82.80 per tonne of waste that is landfilled. This is in addition to the disposal charge that the Landfill operator charges. Landfill Tax also had the effect of making other forms of treatment and disposal more competitive and in the early years the avoidance of Landfill Tax had the effect of “subsidising” the introduction of kerbside recycling collections.

2.8 The table below shows the current waste and recycling collection service offered to households in Wolverhampton. Also shown are the indicative processing costs for a tonne of each waste type.

	Materials collected	Container	Collection frequency	Treatment costs (per tonne)
Recycling collections	Paper, cardboard, glass, steel and aluminium cans and plastics	Black wheeled bin (240 litre)	Fortnightly	£15.00
Garden waste	Organic garden waste for composting	Green wheeled bin (240 litre)	Fortnightly (suspended during winter months)	£25.00
Food waste	Organic waste for anaerobic digestion	Food waste caddy (23 litre)	Weekly	£41.00
Residual waste	Remaining waste collected for incineration	Brown wheeled bin (140 litre)	Weekly	£57.00

2.7 Disposal and processing costs for each waste type vary. The cost of processing recyclable material and organic wastes (garden and food waste) is much cheaper than the cost of incinerating waste. Therefore, it is prudent for the council to encourage householders to use the more environmentally friendly forms of waste treatment (recycling, composting garden waste and anaerobically digesting food waste) because the cost of disposal for these methods of treatment is far cheaper. Encouraging residents to use the more environmentally friendly options also has the effect of reducing disposal and treatment costs to the council.

2.8 Recently, legislation has been introduced to improve the quality of recyclable material collected by Councils. This has caused recycling processors to take action to reduce the amount of contaminants in recycling collections. By operating separate collections of organic waste (garden and food waste) Wolverhampton is offering residents the opportunity to have this waste processed correctly and is reducing the chances of this material entering the black bin and becoming a contaminant in the recyclable materials.

2.9 Contaminated recycling may be rejected at the processing plant. If this occurs the recyclable material will have to be disposed of in some other way and this will incur additional costs for the Council. It is in everyone's interest to encourage the collection of clean, quality materials for recycling.

3.0 Waste and recycling communications plan

- 3.1 The importance of ensuring that citizens dispose of their waste in a sustainable manner is set out in section 2 of this report. The purpose of the communications plan is to set out the annual activities that will support operational delivery of the waste collection service and to inform citizens on how to use the collection service provided by the council in the correct manner, in order to minimise the annual operating cost of the service. The waste management communication work is currently undertaken by Amey which includes outreach visits to community groups and households that is supported by the Council's Communications Team.
- 3.2 The key aim of the communication plan is to
“effectively promote waste prevention and recycling to residents, motivating and enthusing residents to take responsibility for managing their waste in a more sustainable way”
- 3.3 The means by which messages are communicated to the citizens need be undertaken in such a way to ensure that they are accurate and accessible to everyone by using a range of media and languages that is appropriate to the target audience. The communications plan will maximise the engagement and involvement of citizens thereby enabling them to provide feedback when necessary.
- 3.4 In particular, the Waste Partnership is currently reviewing all promotional literature in relation to the collection service, to ensure that messages are clear and understandable by citizens. Draft copies of these leaflets are contained in Appendix 1, and the panel are requested to provide feedback on the contents of the leaflets.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The legislative requirements for the delivery of the current collection service are set out in this report. However, there are also financial benefits associated with improving resident's behaviour patterns to reduce the amount of waste overall, separate the organic waste for separate treatment and recycle well.
- 4.2 The production and distribution of this promotional literature is currently undertaken by Amey as waste management communication work.

[TT/09072015/S]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 In order to comply with current legislation the Council has to offer all households a recycling collection separate from the residual waste for four named materials (paper, glass, metals and plastics). Recent legislation has been introduced to improve the quality of recyclable materials collected and this may have an impact on how the Council delivers its recycling collections in the future. [Legal Code: TS/09072015/W]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no immediate equality implications arising from this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 The Waste Hierarchy outlined in the revised Waste Framework Directive shows waste treatment and disposal options in the order of least impact on the environment. This legislation now makes it a legal requirement that waste is treated, where possible, in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no Human Resource Issues contained in this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications contained in this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 None