

Central Dudley Area Committee – 5th November 2008

Report of the Director of Adult Community and Housing Services (DACHS)

Recycling within Building Services

Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Committee with an overview of the recycling initiatives within the Building Services Division of DACHS.

Background

2. The Building Services Division manages the repairs and maintenance service of the Council's Housing stock of approximately 23,000 homes and undertakes in excess of 150,000 repairs or improvements per annum.
3. The Division undertakes these works using a variety of external partners, specialist contracts and it's Direct Labour Organisation (DLO).
4. Building Services operates a fleet of vehicles, which undertake material deliveries and waste collections for the DLO and selected contractors.
5. Most waste is transported directly to local Transfer Stations for recycling and treatment. During 2007/08, 32,000 waste collections were made and approximately 6,500 tonnes of waste was delivered to these facilities.
6. Over 70% of waste deposited at these facilities is segregated and recycled. This includes bricks, aggregate, timber, plaster, metals, cardboard, green waste and plastic products.
7. Currently less than 30% of the waste generated from the Council's Housing stock goes into landfill and our waste management operators are endeavouring to further reduce this amount as recycling technologies and new markets emerge.
8. Building Services also utilise a local Skip operator whom recycles in excess of 50% of any waste deposited and taken from site.
9. In addition to waste generated on site, recycling of waste generated via the Division's stores operation is also undertaken. This includes recycling office paper and envelopes, cardboard used as packaging, glass, timber from it's Joinery Mill operation and damaged pallets, used for material deliveries.

10. Building Services' external partners also embrace recycling initiatives similar to our own. In addition, Mitie, our painting partner, recycle part used tins of paint to St Thomas's Network for community use. Our internal works contractors, FHM & Lovell, arrange recycling of old kitchen unit carcasses back to chipboard mills for processing.
11. Site Waste Management Plans for large projects and contracts place a greater emphasis on reducing waste and maximising recycling. In addition, Building Services has recently begun negotiating sustainability targets with its key supply chain partners.
12. There have also been recent improvements in internal material management process to reduce waste of new materials provided, e.g. increased flexibility of the quantities of items supplied with orders and speedy collection of materials no longer required, such as where a project has been delayed due to access difficulties.
13. Packaging of materials is also regularly discussed with suppliers to maintain a balance of reducing waste, while ensuring products are not damaged during transit.

Finance

14. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

Law

15. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 enables the Council to do anything that which is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well being of the area.

Equality Impact

16. The report complies the Councils Equality and Diversity Policy and there is no direct impact on any group.

Recommendation

17. That the Committee notes the contents of this report.



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Linda Sanders

Director Adult, Community and Housing Services.