

**Meeting Of The Select Committee On The Environment Recycling Working Group –  
28<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

**Report Of The Director Of The Urban Environment**

**Recycling Trial Collection Scheme**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To advise the Group on the introduction of a new trial recycling collection scheme for cardboard and plastic bottles.

**Background**

2. Recycling collection performance peaked during 2009 at slightly above 30%. At the end of the 2009/10 financial year this had decreased slightly to just below 30%. This was attributed to a number of reasons, mainly a reduction in the amount of waste paper collected. This was due in part, perhaps, to the economic downturn, but also due to a varying rate of participation, a relatively static performance.
3. There is a need to stimulate growth and expansion in the service to arrest this decline, and to increase recycling performance in order to achieve performance targets. A trial service has been introduced across the borough in selected areas incorporating a total of 11,000 households. The trial will collect cardboard and plastic bottles, in addition to the collection of glass cullet, cans and waste paper. The aim of the trial is to increase the level of participation by residents and also to increase the overall amount of material recovered for recycling. It is anticipated that the trial will produce a 5% increase, from 15 to 20% in the participating areas.
4. Additional boxes, and new bags will be provided to aid the exercise. Two new bags have been issued to households in the trial areas, one for paper and card, and one for plastics and cans. Glass will be collected from the recycling box. A full leafleting and publicity campaign has been incorporated into the project. This service trial is being introduced in this month, September, in conjunction with a change to the waste collection service. Replacement sacks have been pre-delivered, in a roll of 26 sacks, to residents rather than weekly sack delivery. The service is now a kerbside rather than a back door collection, and residences are limited to 3 backs per week. This will produce efficiency savings, and it is hoped that the limitation on the number bags to be collected will further stimulate residents to separate their waste and recycle more. An update briefing will be given to the Group at the meeting.

## **Finance**

5. The cost of the trial has been offset by the predicted additional income from the extra material collected, and the anticipated savings arising from a reduction in waste disposal costs. The financial implications of extending the scheme across the whole of the borough will have to be considered as part of the bigger budget review for future years.

## **Law**

6. The Council's duties and powers regarding waste management, including recycling, and the collection and disposal of waste, are set out in Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended.
7. The Council may also do anything which is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of its area under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

## **Equality Impact**

8. There are no equality issues arising from this report, which is provided purely for information purposes.

## **Recommendation**

9. That the Working Group notes the report and supports this new initiative to improve recycling in the borough.



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**John Millar**  
**Director of the Urban Environment**

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