

Committee(s): Enforcement, Environment and Housing	Date: 16 March 2021
Subject: Recycling Roll Out of Communal Bins Update	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Greg Campbell, Corporate Director of Environment & Communities	Public
Report Author: Name: Greg Campbell Telephone: 01277 312500 E-mail: greg.campbell@brentwood.gov.uk	For Information

Summary

The report provides an update on the roll out recycling communal bins.

Recommendation

R1. Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

Main Report

Introduction and Background

1. Since the introduction of the new recycling scheme in August 2020 the Depot have been rolling out the changeover of the new scheme to residents with communal bin areas across the borough. There are approximately 280 communal bin areas including schools in different locations making up less than 16% of the refuse service. It was agreed at the start that the communal bins would be changed over after the initial roll out to the majority residential houses. This enabled the appropriate contracts to be set up, it would have been difficult to set up contracts for recycling based on the communal bins volume alone.
2. The Council therefore changed over to the new recycling scheme for the majority of residential properties first. Further the work around communal bins is labour intensive with each communal bin requiring a changeover of signage and lids which have correct apertures in order to ensure the correct waste goes into each bin. This change over of signage and apertures is important as it will reduce contamination which at present is considerably high compared to other residential housing recycling collected. This change in bins represents an opportunity to create much better quality waste.

3. We are presently 60% of the way through the roll out and envisage that this will be complete by June 2021. The roll out has been delayed due to a few factors but mainly the effect of Covid on staff numbers at the Depot. Methods to manage the effect of covid at the outset severely hit operations when the new recycling scheme was introduced, staff worked from support vehicles to maintain social distance, and more recently Covid effected Depot services in the last month and a half due to a number of staff being affected directly by Covid or having to self-isolate. This has delayed the change overs. Further the catch up from Christmas and the need to liaise with private management firms to allow us to change over has also slowed down delivery of some of the communal bins.
4. Due to the delay the service is considering what other methods it can introduce to speed up the roll out.
5. While roll out is continued the service are continuing to collect orange mixed recycling waste and we will ensure those areas that request orange sacks will receive them.

Reasons for Recommendation

6. To provide feedback to Members on the performance of the recycling scheme.

References to Corporate Plan

7. Within the 'Protecting the Environment' priority, the Council strives to 'Improve and enhance our waste management services'. The effective collection of dry recycling is critical to this.

Implications

Financial Implications

Name/Title: Phoebe Barnes, Corporate Finance Manager (Deputy S151)

Tel/Email: 01277 312839/phoebe.barnes@brentwood.gov.uk

The cost of supplying orange sacks for these areas until June 2021 can be met from within existing budgets.

Any costs not able to be met from existing budgets will be funded from the Waste Reserve.

By rolling out the new recycling scheme to the communal bins, this will give the Council an opportunity to generate additional income compared to having to pay to dispose of waste.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Amanda Julian, Corporate Director (Law & Governance) & Monitoring Officer

Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / amanda.julian@brentwood.gov.uk

There are no direct legal implications contained within this report.

Economic Implications

Name/Title: Phil Drane, Corporate Director of Planning and Economy

Tel/Email: 01277 312610/philip.drane@brentwood.gov.uk

There are no direct economic implications.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices to this report

None