

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>REYCLE MORE UPDATE AND THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WASTE SERVICE</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Councillor Wyatt Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Services	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#">Recycle More – The Plan</a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
		<b>Key Decision:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	Eunomia is an independent consultancy and have been commissioned by officers (£25,543+VAT) to lead on a review of the service, supported by officers. The firm is a nationally renowned organisation that is an expert in this field and works with Defra particularly on developing policies and practical solutions in the field of local authority waste and resources services. Any future financial implications will be subject to a separate Scrutiny report and Cabinet report, detailing the financial implications for the Council.	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The wider review of the waste service and a refresh of the current Recycle More Plan will be subject to a separate Scrutiny report and Cabinet report, detailing the legal implications for the Council.	
	<b>Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	There are no staffing and corporate implications arising from this report. The wider review of the waste service and a refresh of the current Recycle More Plan will be subject to a separate Scrutiny report and Cabinet report, detailing the staffing and corporate implications for the Council.	
	<b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:</b> Yes	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To confirm the progress achieved since Recycle More was adopted in 2019, and present an outline of how Recycle More will be refreshed between 2023 – 2030, allowing Cabinet to comment and provide feedback.  To make Cabinet aware of a planned wider review of the Waste Service.	
<b>Reason for Decision</b>	To provide an update on the progress being made in	

	recycling across the district and agree to commence a review of the service.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>THAT CABINET:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. PROVIDES COMMENT ON THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED TO DATE BY RECYCLE MORE</b></li> <li><b>2. AGREES TO SETTING UP AN ALL-MEMBER WORKSHOP.</b></li> <li><b>3. REQUESTS THAT COMMUNITY SCRUTINY ADDS THE WASTE SERVICES REVIEW TO ITS PROGRAMME.</b></li> </ol>

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 'Recycle More – The Plan' was devised, and subsequently adopted by Cabinet on 9 April 2019. It sought to encourage households to recycle more items, more often, increasing dry recycling by one hundred tonnes over the next four years and generate £500,000 by selling the dry recycling collected from households across the district. Recycle More supported and committed to the delivery of these objectives.
- 1.2 The plan's main aim was to increase the recycling rate from the 2018/19 rate of 45% to 50% over the following years - 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. Prior to the adoption of Recycle More, the recycling rate had plateaued for five years between 45% and 46.7%.
- 1.3 Recycle More identified six key themes which are listed below. Each of the themes were incorporated into a yearly action plan. This report will detail the progress made since the adoption of Recycle More in 2019 which covers:
1. Reducing black bin waste
  2. Food waste recycling
  3. Increasing recycling
  4. Employers and employees
  5. Changing hearts, minds, and habits
  6. Housing growth.

## **2. RECYCLE MORE PROGRESS ACHIEVED TO DATE**

- 2.1 **Reducing black bin waste** – Recycle More has supported the reduction of black bin waste as residents have embraced the need to reduce, reuse and recycle. As a result, in 2021-22 the Council collected 24,255 tonnes of black bin waste. In contrast, 22,250 tonnes were collected in the following year of 2022-23. This is a reduction of 2,005 tonnes (8%).
- 2.2 **Food waste recycling** – a weekly food waste trial was launched for 2,000 households in October 2019. Due to Covid, the trial was paused in March 2020, however, it resumed in October 2020 and the trial area was doubled in size to 4,000 households.

In 2021, the Council asked customers on the trial to complete a survey, some of the findings can be found below.

- 95.22% of respondents said they would continue to recycle their food waste if the collections were made permanent.
- 60.87% of respondents said there was more space in the black bin after recycling their food waste.

In autumn 2022, communication was undertaken to further encourage customers to use the service. This involved writing a letter to all customers on the trial to promote use of the service along with an accompanying guide. Also, black bins were stickered with 'no food waste' stickers, encouraging customers to recycle their food waste. Since the communication, there has been a 13.7% increase in the average participation of customers using the service, and there has been a 24% increase in food waste tonnage collected.

The food waste is sent to an anaerobic digestion facility in Atherstone, Warwickshire, where it is turned into biogas, which is used to generate electricity and heat. It also produces a bio-fertiliser for use in farming.

To date, 585 tonnes of food waste has been collected, representing a carbon saving of 439 tonnes, compared to had it been sent to landfill.

- 2.3 **Increasing recycling** – 470 customers have trialled two different wheeled recycling container systems. The first trial took place in October 2019 using a system known as the Triple Stack.
- 2.4 The Council gained feedback from Conwy County Borough Council who moved from a box and bag recycling system to the Triple Stack system. They confirmed it takes 5-10 seconds longer (mainly due to stacking the system back together after emptying). However, very quickly the waste operatives become efficient in how they empty and restack the system.
- 2.5 A second wheeled recycling container system was developed and became available, called the multi-box recycling system (MBRS). The system was trialled with 250 customers, including 30 customers that trialled the Triple Stack system.
- 2.6 The Council was the first local authority to trial the MBRS. It has since been acknowledged by the manufacturer (IPL Global) that significant improvements are required to the product. These include a different design to the wheels, and the overall product needs to be more robust, as the product is comprised of too many different parts. This is supported by customer feedback for those on the trials, as 90% of customers found the design of the Triple Stack system robust enough, whereas 59% of customers found the design of the MBRS robust enough.

On this basis, discussions took place between officers and IPL Global regarding the future development and improvement of the MBRS. As IPL Global is the manufacturer of both systems, they felt the improvements required to the MBRS were not financially viable. Therefore, they will no longer manufacture the MBRS, but will continue to manufacture the Triple Stack system.

- 2.7 **Increasing recycling** – The recycling of household batteries and mobile phones at the kerbside was introduced in December 2019. Customers are able to recycle AA, AAA, watch, hearing aid, mobile phone, laptop, and power tool batteries. To date, 15 tonnes of batteries and 100 kg's of mobile phones have been collected and recycled.

The recycling of batteries and mobile phones not only diverts these items away from landfill or incineration, but also it helps to reduce the risk of fires occurring in

customer's black bins at home or in the waste collection vehicles when black bins are emptied. Batteries and mobile phones which are collected for recycling are safely stored on the recycling collection vehicles, until they reach the Council's recycling depot, where they are stored safely too. Collections then take place from an approved battery and mobile phone recycling company.

- 2.8 **Employers and employees** – Recycling facilities are provided at the Whitwick Business Centre, the Customer Centre, Linden Way Depot and the Parks Depot. More recently, all of the sites receive weekly food waste collections.
- 2.9 **Employers and employees** – Since November 2021, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) gloves worn by the waste operatives are sent for reuse, instead of being a single-use item. The gloves are sent away for hot-washing and returned for use. To date, 756 kgs of gloves have been reused.
- 2.10 **Changing hearts, minds, and habits** – a successful competition was held with primary schools asking for children to name the six recycling collection vehicles. Over 300 entries were received, the winning names include Recyclosaurus Rex and Bindiana Jones, which appeared on the collection vehicles in February 2021.
- 2.11 **Changing hearts, minds, and habits** – a quarterly environmental e-newsletter was introduced in April 2022. It provides a round-up of news, tips and advice from the environmental teams at the Council, including updates regarding Recycling More. To date, it has 249 subscribers.
- 2.12 **Housing growth** – Waste Services continue to be a statutory consultee for planning applications received by the Council. The proposed development is reviewed ensuring recycling is easy and convenient for new residents. This includes not having an over-reliance on bin collection points, where customers have to take their recycling to, if their property is served by a private driveway.
- 2.13 **Housing growth** – The Council has submitted its own application for a development of 101 dwellings off Waterworks Road in Coalville. The Waste Service is working collaboratively with the Planning Service, ensuring the development is designed to facilitate easy and convenient recycling collections. If the development is approved, it is hoped it can be used as a blueprint for other developers to use when designing new developments.
- 2.14 **Housing growth** – The Planning Service is due to develop a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). An SPD builds upon and provides more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted local plan. Waste Services will be a key stakeholder during the development of the SPD, ensuring waste and recycling collections from new developments are convenient for customers and waste operatives.

### **3. RECYCLE MORE REFRESH AND A REVIEW OF THE WASTE SERVICE**

- 3.1 It is an appropriate time to refresh Recycle More and plan a wider review of the waste service, as some key legislation and policies at a national, regional and Council level have been adopted, as listed below.
  - Environment Bill 2021 – key requirements, e.g. food waste recycling
  - Zero Carbon 2020
  - Zero Litter Campaign 2022

- Resources and Waste Strategy for Leicestershire 2022 to 2030 – a key strategy which aligns with Recycle More.

As well as the introduction of the legislation above, further legislation and updates are anticipated in 2023, which include:

- **Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England** – this is designed to increase consistency and standardisation in recycling to reduce confusion in the materials that can be collected for recycling at kerbside. The government is also exploring the requirement for local authorities to collect further recyclables at the kerbside, notably plastic film and tetra paks.
- **A Deposit Return Scheme in England** – is a way of encouraging more people to recycle drinks containers, such as plastic bottles and cans. They work by charging anyone who buys a drink a small deposit for the bottle or can that it comes in. Consumers can then get this money back when returning the bottle or can to a collection point to be recycled. Any business that retails the materials confirmed in the scheme may have to act as a return point.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility** – packaging producers will be required to pay the full cost of managing packaging once it becomes waste. This will encourage producers to use less packaging and use more recyclable materials, reducing the amount of hard to recycle packaging placed on the market.

3.2 During 2023-24, it is proposed that a review will be carried out of Waste Services. The review will contain two main elements – firstly a review of the collection regime and approach (the What), and the second element (the How) regarding how collections are delivered.

As part of the review, consultation and engagement will take place with members, customers, businesses, town and parish councils, and other key external stakeholders.

The council's waste services workforce has been involved in Recycle More, and will be for emerging developments, including the review of the waste service. As part of Recycle More, members of the workforce, including union representatives sit on a project team monitoring progress, ensuring full transparency, and this will continue during the review of the waste service. The workforce will also be briefed at key stages of the review, and the union representatives involved, as appropriate.

It is proposed that an all-member workshop be set-up prior to the summer break, and that Community Scrutiny be asked to oversee the development of the proposals. Below is the proposed programme outlining the key actions and dates.

3.3 Proposed programme for Waste Service review and Recycle More refresh:

Key Milestone	Date
All-member workshop	12 July 2023
Parish and town council engagement	September 2023
Resident engagement	October - November 2023
Businesses engagement	October - November 2023
Present the future development of the Waste Service to Community Scrutiny and Cabinet	Spring 2024

Policies and other considerations	
Council Priorities:	Developing a clean and green district.
Policy Considerations:	See the background paper.
Safeguarding:	None.
Equalities/Diversity:	As part of the wider review of the waste service, a full assessment on equalities and diversity impact will be carried out.
Customer Impact:	As part of the wider review of the waste service, a full assessment of the customer impact will be carried out.
Economic and Social Impact:	None.
Environment and Climate Change:	Reducing carbon emissions featured prominently in the development of the current Recycle More Plan, and a wider review of the waste service and a refresh of the current Recycle More Plan would significantly reduce carbon emissions, notably the introduction of sperate weekly food waste collections.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Detailed in the report – see sections two and three.
Risks:	As part of the wider review of the waste service, a full assessment of the risks will be carried out.
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