

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011  
 title: WASTE MANAGEMENT  
 submitted by: JOHN C HEAP - DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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### 1. PURPOSE

1.1 To update Members on issues relating to waste management in the Ribble Valley.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's aims and ambitions

- Mission Statement & Vision shared by Local Strategic Partnership
  - An area with an exceptional environment and quality of life for all; sustained by vital and vibrant market towns and villages acting as thriving service centres meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.
- Council Objectives
  - We aim to be a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.
  - Ensure access to services is available to all.
  - Treat everyone equally.
- Council Priorities
  - None.

### 2. ISSUES

2.1 Initiatives to improve the quality of co-mingled recyclate

During discussions with the County Council, your officers have been advised that the contamination of co-mingled material delivered by the Lancashire districts to the Material Recycling Facility at the Waste Technology Park, Farington is becoming of concern and that 7% of the material is being rejected.

Co-mingled recyclable materials collected through our 3 stream refuse and recycling collection system have always met the standards set by the markets to whom we previously sold our material. To ensure that the quality of our co-mingled waste stream remains acceptable and keep contamination levels to a minimum we have taken further steps to improve public awareness. We have produced a sticker which has been placed on the lid of each blue wheeled bin that identifies quite clearly what can and cannot be placed into the blue recycled bin. In the event that the refuse collector finds contamination in the bin, then a further sticker is attached, explaining to the householder that they must remove the offending item(s) before the bin will be emptied.

The information stickers are supported with complementary new signs, which have been placed on the side of all the refuse collection vehicles.

There has been a noticeable improvement in the quality of this waste stream.

## 2.2 Replacement of wheeled bins

In accordance with Community Services Committee Minute 407 a standard charge of £90 + vat has been introduced to cover the administration and delivery costs in providing / replacing the standard three 140m litre wheeled bins to domestic properties. This charge has been applied to new build and in circumstances where residents when moving house have taken the bin.

The new policy has been included in the guidance notes for planning applications, and letters have been sent to local solicitors, estate agents and social landlords advising that wheeled bins must stay with the property and must not be removed following the sale or moving of house.

The budget and stock for the annual order for replacement of wheeled bins has now been changed to reflect the savings due to the income generated.

## 2.3 Response to Cost Sharing Review

For Members new to Community Services Committee, Cost Sharing is a financial payment mechanism offered by the County Council as an alternative to the statutory recycling credit.

Recycling credits are paid for each tonne of domestic waste diverted from the disposal waste stream for the purpose of recycling and because this is a statutory payment there are no other terms and conditions attached.

Cost Sharing offered districts a fixed figure per domestic property served by a standardised refuse and recycling collection system however came with terms and conditions attached, such as the fortnightly collection of residual waste, separate collections of six recyclable materials delivery of all materials to the County Waste Technology Parks. Ribble Valley initially could not meet some of the fundamental terms and conditions and considered that we would be better off financially once we had achieved a 37% recycling rate.

The Cost Sharing Agreement is a 10 year contract (2004 – 2014) and contains a clause allowing for periodic reviews.

Since the introduction of the Agreement officers have been encouraged to keep the situation under review along with the issues preventing this Council entering into this Agreement.

The timetable for the review fell between the Committee meeting cycle so officers met with the Leader of the Council and chair of this Committee to discuss our response to the review document.

The response raised our concerns on what we consider are the current barriers preventing our entry into the Agreement and welcomed the opportunity to help update the document to reflect recent changes.

## 2.4 Operational issues at Farington Waste Technology Park

To remind Members, Global Renewables Lancashire Ltd (GRL) were awarded a 25 year contract by Lancashire County Council to build and operate PFI funded waste technology parks located at Thornton and Farington. The principal technology behind the waste technology parks was to recycle and compost as much of the municipal waste as possible and divert it away from landfill. Mechanical Biological treatment is used to treat residual /general waste resulting in the production of an Organic Growing Medium (OGM) which will eventually be used for the planting of woodland. Garden waste and kitchen waste is mixed and treated through in vessel composting to produce a pas (industry standard) quality compost material that GRL will market. The majority of districts have now or will shortly change to co-mingled collection of glass, cans and plastic bottles which will be separated at the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) located at the Farington site. Currently these facilities are still going through the ramp up stages.

The three stream waste from Ribble Valley is collected from our Waste Transfer Station by GRL haulier and will be delivered and processed where necessary to fit the ramp up profile. All the co-mingled recyclables from the three stream collection service is now being delivered to the Material Recycling facility at the Farington site.

Waste inputs were reduced at Farington during April and May as a direct result of an odour issue. Around mid January Global Renewables received complaints from residents of Farington and the surrounding areas regarding odour from the facility. Investigation identified a problem with the bio-filter which, being a biological process, took longer to fix than was anticipated

This information was reported to the meeting of the Lancashire Waste Partnership on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011 who have stated that although extremely disappointing there was no impact to District collections and their contractor now have a set of 7 key indicators in place which will flag up problems with the bio-filter before any odour becomes a nuisance.

## 3. RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications: -

### Resources

- The budget for the replacement of wheeled bins has now been split to reflect the income generated as a result of the new charging policy and therefore will result in future savings to this Council.

### Technical, Environmental & Legal

- There are no specific technical, environmental or legal issues arising directly out of the report at this stage.  
However the issues where agreement has not been reached are technical, environmental and legal in nature.

### Political

- There are no specific political issues arising out of this report.

Reputation

- There are no risks to the Councils reputation as a direct result of this report.

4. CONCLUSION

Members are requested to note this report.

JOHN C HEAP  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Background Papers – Waste Management Files  
For further information please contact John Heap on 01200 414461.