

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 10 January 2011  
title: GENERAL REPORT  
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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PETER McGEORGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICER  
KATHERINE RODGERS, ARTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

## 1 PURPOSE

To inform members of a change in CCTV arrangements, of developments in Waste Management, and the latest project of the Arts Development Service.

## 2 CCTV MONITORING

Ribble Valley Borough Council has joined with Blackburn with Darwen BC and Burnley BC to procure the services of a single contractor for the monitoring of the CCTV equipment in each of the councils' own monitoring suites.

The contract, which commenced on 1 December 2011, will continue the current individual monitoring arrangements of each authority for a minimum period of twelve months. The anticipated annual cost saving achieved through the introduction of the new arrangements, when compared with continuation of the original arrangements, is approximately £12,000.

## 3 WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 3.1 Recycling Performance

Ribble Valley waste management performance figures are continuing to improve with our half yearly recycling rate at 44.55% and the rate for April – Nov at 45.99%.

The tonnage of green waste collected has increased by 15.66% on this period last year with tonnage of co-mingled also increasing by 3.6%.

We can confidently predict that the recycling credit income from these materials will bring in an additional £30,000 on budget estimates for 2011/2012 (subject to adverse weather conditions).

Growth in housing developments year on year will invariably increase recycling tonnages and accordingly recycling credit income.

### 3.2 Co-mingled waste reject rates at Farington Waste Technology Park

Global Renewables Lancashire Operations Ltd, (Lancashire PFI contractor) employ a team of internal waste auditors to assess materials within the facilities with waste audits within each facility undertaken on a quarterly basis. At Thornton, the residual and green waste streams are audited, whilst at Farington, co-mingled dry recyclables in the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) are also included.

We have been advised that the current contamination level of material processed through the MRF is 11.2%, and Lancashire County Council are advising that we

should report this as the standard reject rate when submitting our waste management data to governments through the Waste Data Flow system.

As Ribble Valley has taken effective action to address contamination within the blue wheeled bins for co-mingled glass, cans and plastics, officers have objected to the imposition of a standard reject rate.

It was reported to Community Services Committee in March 2011 that, in an effort to improve public awareness on the types of materials that can and cannot be placed into the blue recycling wheeled bin, a programme of initiatives had been planned to include:

- A sticker to put on each blue wheeled bin, explaining the material types in more detail.
- New signage for the recycling and refuse collection vehicles displaying what containers can and cannot be placed into the blue bin.
- Promotional articles within the Ribble Valley News.

All these initiatives are supported through random inspections by the collection crews, and inspections of the loads when deposited in the Waste Transfer Station building.

Since starting the collection of co-mingled recyclables, we have never had a load rejected by any of the markets and, as such, have never reported any reject rate within our submissions to Waste Data Flow.

Your officers, working in partnership with officers from other Lancashire districts, have challenged Lancashire County Council on the validity of the reject rate, and also raised a series of questions ranging from the inspection process at the MRF to the classification of contamination.

Accepting a standard reject rate would result in a reduction in our performance figures, and incur a reduction in recycling credit payments of approximately £13,000, and Members will be kept up to date with any future changes.

### **3.3 Rationalisation of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)**

Members are advised that the consultation period for Lancashire County Council's rationalisation of Household Waste Recycling Centres ended on 30 September 2011.

County received more than 22,000 responses to the consultation document and it will come as no surprise to Members that almost all opposed the proposed closures.

Following the report submitted to this Committee on 19 July 2011, officers produced a detailed response to the consultation document raising our concerns on the impact the continued closure of HWRCs and objected in the strongest possible terms as resolved by this Committee.

On 15 December 2011 following a review of the responses received, Lancashire County Council approved the closure of the four HWRCs at Garstang, Great Harwood, Bacup and Colne effective from 19 March 2012. At the time of writing this report Lancashire County Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee were to meet to decide whether to 'Call In' this decision.

#### 4 ARTS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

The Arts Development service is supporting **Creativity Works** in funding bids submitted to Heritage and National Lottery. The bids are to produce high quality engaging artistic experiences for Pennine Lancashire's creative communities, interjected with inspirational contemporary art programming. In Pennine Lancashire, we have been developing a working model that enables us to add value to the Local Authorities' current arts delivery, and helps address the challenges we face. We do this by working collectively on strategic projects. This way of working, enables us to increase our commissioning ambition, develop good practice, innovation and creativity across the region, filtering down to grass routes, attracting new audiences through providing a collective offer, and realise economies of scale. This collective endeavour is called Creativity Works.

Creativity Works was set up in 2002 as a consortium of Arts Development Officers and arts organisations based in Pennine Lancashire. Creativity Works has been leading a change in the approach to arts and heritage work in Pennine Lancashire, putting the audience and community at the centre of delivery, reinterpreting collections through contemporary art, and fostering partnerships and collaboration. These funding bids will aim to grow from that foundation, and continue to develop a strong cultural offer and infrastructure through a programme of work, including artist residencies within the community, and local artist support and development, all of which will culminate in a large celebratory commission in 2013.

##### **We want to:**

- Bring inspiring artists to work in Pennine Lancashire, adding to the cultural and creative life of Pennine Lancashire and raising the profile and aspiration of art in Pennine Lancashire.
- Create opportunities for participation in arts-based activities for our creative communities.
- Work with, and support, existing and emerging artists and organisations in Pennine Lancashire.
- Improve and develop the Arts Development infrastructure in Pennine Lancashire.
- Secure new partnerships and sustain current relationships, both within and externally to Pennine Lancashire.
- Continue to improve and spread the word about the cultural offer in Pennine Lancashire.

We intend to deliver and develop a high quality arts programme for residents and visitors across the sub region, linking in with other initiatives and areas, providing strategic arts development provision in areas where there are gaps in delivery, addressing big society and the Localism bill agendas and ambitions, acting locally but thinking globally to expand the cultural ambition for the region.

**This will include:**

- High quality art experiences for participants and audiences.
- Building opportunities for research, learning and relationship-building between national artists, emerging artists and local artists.
- Facilitating and continually developing [www.artsmap.co.uk](http://www.artsmap.co.uk) an online resource to collectively promote visual arts and heritage opportunities for engagement in the region, both to local participants and cultural tourists. This will also operate as a platform to develop and deliver new digital work.
- Engaging audiences in visual arts activity in unexpected spaces in Pennine Lancashire
- Opportunities for artists and subsequently participants to interact, engage and respond with Pennine Lancashire's dynamic landscape and heritage
- Opportunities for communities to work with artists through socially engaged practice.
- Programming devised through partnerships and collaboration that will include additional opportunities for local artists, through supportive artist roles, artist talks and CPD.

**How**

This project will deliver in three thematic areas:

- 1) The Big Wow!
- 2) Arts residencies
- 3) Arts and cultural Infrastructure

This project has been developed in line with Creativity Works strategic aims. This cross-district strategic work has proved to be a successful development model in our past projects and will be continued into this programme. Leading by example and supporting people to gain the skills, experience, contacts and confidence as part to the process of working in partnership with us. Subsequently they are then in a position to continue work beyond the lifetime of the project.

**5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

Notes the contents of the report.

JOHN C HEAP  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information on CCTV, please ask for Terry Longden 01200 414523  
Waste Management: Peter McGeorge 01200 414467  
Arts Development: To see more detail of the 3 thematic areas to be delivered through this project; please contact Arts Development Officer, Katherine Rodgers  
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