

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 21 MAY 2013
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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WASTE MANAGEMENT

Larger Green Bin Scheme

Members are advised that the scheme for the provision of larger green, wheeled bins has been delayed, with completion now expected by the end of September 2013. Whilst Officers have prepared the Tender specification, Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) has advised that their new Framework Agreement has issues that they are currently attempting to resolve.

Publicity and promotion of the scheme has commenced with information and the option to 'opt out' included within the 3-stream collection calendar and the latest edition of the Ribble Valley News. Currently, there have been 2400 households who have opted out of the scheme, and it is still anticipated that this number will increase as we further promote the scheme.

Recycling Performance

The Council's recycling performance rate for the year 2012 / 2013 was 36.59% down from 43.15% in the previous year 2011 / 2012.

This was, in the main, due to instructions from the Environment Agency (EA) that leaves recovered from street cleansing operations cannot be included in the feedstock for in-vessel composting. Overall, our green waste tonnage sent for composting in 2012 / 2013 was down by over 926 tonnes. The decision by the EA to prevent leaves from street cleansing being used for composting, was as a result of a small number of trials that showed high pollutant contamination levels. Officers have offered to take part in further trials, but was not pursued, as this would affect the disposal authorities' composting process.

As leaves are now mixed with our general waste, this has also had a significant effect in increasing the amount of residual/general waste reported as generated by each household.

Farington Waste Technology Park

Since the opening of this facility, the operators, Global Renewables Lancashire Limited (GRL), has had difficulty preventing odour problems emitting from the site. Although it is claimed that they have now resolved the problem, they have recently appeared in court, accused by the EA of failing to comply with environmental permit conditions in relation to odours coming from the site.

It has been reported that the company pleaded guilty on all counts and received a significant fine, with costs.

We understand that Lancashire County Council is now working closely with GRL to ensure that the Farington plant operates, in future, to the high standards that are expected of it.

CONCLUSION

Any further developments will be reported to a future committee.

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