

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 7</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020</b>	<b>CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR SERVICE DELIVERY</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>ADRIAN LOWERY, 5764, adrian.lowery@southderbyshire.gov.uk</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>RECYCLING RATE - HOW CAN IT BE IMPROVED?</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: (See Notes)</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Committee notes and discusses the information contained in this report.
- 1.2 That the Committee endorses the use of the information contained in this report to inform the future scope of the Council's recycling service beyond the end of the Council's current recycling contract in October 2021.

## **2.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 As part of its annual work plan the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has requested a report on how the Council's recycling rate can be improved. This report has been prepared to facilitate discussion on this matter.

## **3.0 Executive summary**

- 3.1 South Derbyshire District Council's recycling and composting performance in 2018/19 was 45.82%, this places the Council in the top 50% of English Local Authorities but outside of the top 25%.
- 3.2 In comparison with other Authorities the Council performs well on composting waste but does not perform as well on recycling yields per household or on residual waste yields per household.
- 3.3 A full waste collection service options appraisal is needed to inform the Council on the best future service options and service delivery model beyond the Council's current recycling contract which is due to end in October 2021. The options appraisal will also need to consider how the Council will meet future recycling targets, Members' and residents' aspirations and compliance with emerging legislation.
- 3.4 A report will be presented to the next Environmental and Development Services Committee in January 2020, which will request the resources to undertake a full waste services options appraisal and approve a timetable for delivery.

3.5 Further reports will be presented following the outcome of the waste services options appraisal.





#### 4.0 **Detail**

4.1 In order to assess the potential improvements to recycling performance it is important to understand the Council's current performance levels how they compare with other authorities. It is also important to understand the different types of collection schemes in place in authorities that appear to be performing better than South Derbyshire.

4.2 The data used in this report is primarily sourced from the Waste Resources Action programme (WRAP), a government funded organisation. WRAP source its data from all Local Authorities who are required to submit returns to the Government via a portal known as Wastedataflow. Figures used are from the most recent full year data covering 2018/19 financial year.

4.3 A number of different classifications are used to benchmark authorities in a meaningful way, these include;

- The Office of National Statistics (ONS) Area Classification - this assigns authorities into groups which have key population characteristics in common such as housing type and age distribution.
- The ONS Nearest Neighbours – this assigns the Council's four closest Authorities using the ONS Area Classification.
- The Rurality Classification - this is a six-part classification combining rural nature and deprivation level.
- Derbyshire Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) - all Derbyshire District/Borough Councils.
- The Key used in the comparator tables where upper and lower quartiles are used as the assessment of performance is:

			
Authority is in bottom 25% of LAs	Authority is in bottom 50% of LAs	Authority is in top 50% of LAs	Authority is in top 25% of LAs

4.4 'Widely Recycled' materials are those defined through the On-Pack Recycling Label scheme as being accepted at the kerbside by 75% or more local authorities. These materials are glass, cans, paper, card and plastic bottles.

4.5 Improvements to recycling cannot, in the main, be achieved without impacting on the overall household waste collection service and as such it is important to understand all the elements that contribute to the data.

4.6 For the purposes of this report it is probably better to determine the understanding of recycling to include waste diverted from disposal and include composting and reuse figures. The report covers household wastes which includes:

- Recycling – kerbside green bin, bring banks, charity collections.
- Composting – brown bin.

- Residual Waste - black bin, Saturday freighter service, litter, street sweepings and fly tipping

4.7 The last full year figures (2018/19) show a yield of 157.4kgs per household per year of recycling, 237.5kgs yield of composting and 467kgs of residual waste.









































4.8 In 2018/19 the Council's overall recycling and composting performance was 45.82% of collected household was recycled or composted. This placed South Derbyshire in the top 50% of English Authorities.

4.9 The overall performance figure was comparable with the Council's ONS nearest neighbours performance, with the exception of Flintshire County Council.

Local Authority	% of hhw recycled or composted
Flintshire County Council	57.89%
NW Leicestershire	45.85%
South Derbyshire	45.82%
North Warwickshire	45.45%
Hinckley & Bosworth	43.85%

4.10 Different councils clearly operate different schemes and as such the makeup of materials can have a significant impact on the final tonnage figures.






4.11 The following table compares the Council's yields of different recycling materials.

Category	Paper	card	Cans	Glass	Plastic bottles	Mixed Plastic	Textiles	Widely Recycled <sup>1</sup>
Yield kgs/hhd/year	43.2	20.3	11.6	65.7	15.6	6.0	1.0	156.4
Other UK Authorities								
Other East Midlands Authorities								
Other Derbyshire Authorities								
ONS area Classification								
Rurality Classification								

<sup>1</sup>'widely recycled' materials are those defined through the On-Pack Recycling Label scheme as being accepted at the kerbside by 75% or more local authorities. These materials are glass, cans, paper, card and plastic bottles.

4.12 The poorest performing materials for South Derbyshire are paper and card and this could be attributed to both the capacity for these materials within the current scheme and the quality restrictions placed on these materials.

- 4.13 The Council currently provides capacity to collect 520kgs of residual waste per household per year, based on a fortnightly collection of 240 litre bins. The average yield per household is currently 467kgs per year. This figure does not compare well with the best performing councils, the Council's ONS nearest neighbours or other Derbyshire Authorities. South Derbyshire is in the bottom 50% on most comparators and the bottom 25% in the Rurality Classification.

Category	Household Residual Waste collected at kerbside (kg/hhd/yr)
Yield (kgs/hhd/year)	467.0
Other UK Authorities	
Other East Midlands Authorities	
Other Derbyshire Authorities	
ONS area classification	
Rurality Classification	

- 4.14 The comparison with the Council's ONS nearest neighbours is slightly more favourable.

Local authority	Household Residual Waste collected at kerbside (kg/hhd/yr)
Flintshire County Council	361.0
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	454.1
South Derbyshire District Council	467.0
North West Leicestershire District Council	509.5
North Warwickshire Borough Council	525.3

- 4.15 Also, in comparison with Derbyshire neighbours the Council's residual waste yield is comparatively high.

Local authority	Household Residual Waste collected at kerbside (kg/hhd/yr)
Derbyshire Dales District Council	299.1
High Peak Borough Council	390.3
Chesterfield Borough Council	391.7
North East Derbyshire District Council	426.2
Erewash Borough Council	455.7
South Derbyshire District Council	467.0
Amber Valley Borough Council	478.9
Bolsover District Council	506.3
Derby City Council	529.3

- 4.16 Reducing capacity by moving to a less frequent (for example a four weekly residual waste collection) or replacing all 240 litre bins with 120 litre bins and collecting these fortnightly as is the case now, would move approximately 207kgs per year to the recycling or composting bins, potentially lifting the District's recycling/composting rate to 69.8%.
- 4.17 Derbyshire Dales District Council is the county's highest performing Council in respect of overall percentage of waste recycled or composted, this was achieved following the introduction of 120 litre bins for residual waste and weekly food waste collections.
- 4.18 Unfortunately, national, regional, ONS and rurality benchmarks are not currently available for composting yield benchmarks; this is one area where South Derbyshire compares favourably with other Derbyshire authorities.
- 4.19 The table below shows that the Council has the second highest composting yield, only behind Derbyshire Dales District Council.

Local authority	Household Composting Waste collected at kerbside (kg/hhd/yr)
Derbyshire Dales District Council	261.3
South Derbyshire District Council	237.5
North East Derbyshire District Council	163.6
Chesterfield Borough Council	156.5
High Peak Borough Council	153.3
Erewash Borough Council	149.3
Bolsover District Council	148.5
Derby City Council	135.3
Amber Valley Borough Council	44.1

- 4.20 Over the last decade, the policy framework in England has lacked strong drivers for increasing local authority recycling performance. At a national level, this has contributed to a lack of progress in improving recycling collections and associated English recycling rates in recent years, meaning that the UK is likely to miss the 2020 50% recycling target. However, this looks set to change quite dramatically as a result of the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy which was published in late 2018. The Strategy and the accompanying legislation that it will give rise to is likely to be the catalyst in leading significant changes in how waste is managed over the next few years.
- 4.21 The revisions to the EU Waste Framework Directive include 'legally binding' recycling targets for municipal waste of:
- 55% by 2025
  - 60% by 2030
  - 65% by 2035
- 4.22 The UK government has indicated it will be adopting the revisions and the Resource and Waste Strategy is expected to at least set targets for municipal waste equivalent to these at a national level.
- 4.23 Currently, the Council is unlikely to meet the 2020 target irrespective of any short-term measures that may be implemented. Possible short-term measures could include a door-to-door promotion to encourage participation and to reduce contamination, a publicity campaign or changes to reduce some residual collections including removal of the Saturday freighter service. which adds around xx tonnes of residual waste, none of which is recycled, to the Council's overall waste arisings figure, anecdotal evidence suggests that a good proportion of this is commercial waste.
- 4.24 Given that the current recycling and composting contracts expire in October 2021 and that most of the Government's initiatives from the Environment Act will not be implemented until around 2023, it may be prudent for the Council to consider a short-term extension to the current arrangements and accept a lack of step change

improvement to ensure that all solutions can be fully explored, prior to committing to longer-term contractual or other arrangements.

- 4.25 A recent study was undertaken by WRAP for all Derbyshire Authorities to identify joint working and shared cost/benefit opportunities. Whilst most of the joint working options have hit complications due to conflicting contract/procurement termination and commencement dates, there still exist some options for South Derbyshire to explore joint working/procurement with either or both Chesterfield and Derby City regarding collection services.
- 4.26 Further to the above; opportunities also exist to explore joint cost/benefit sharing with Derbyshire County Council (DCC) by introducing changes to service provision.
- 4.27 The recent work undertaken by WRAP, across Derbyshire, identified a collection model, that whilst it increased collection costs delivered significant disposal cost savings, which if implemented could deliver a net saving to both Councils whilst also delivering an estimated performance figure of over 60% for South Derbyshire.
- 4.28 It is important that in moving towards achieving the likely recycling targets that all options are explored including service delivery options and service provision models. The range of options for both service delivery and provision is extremely varied and, in some cases, extremely complex.
- 4.29 A full report setting out a timetable for delivering a comprehensive waste collection service which will meet residents' needs and achieve the highest possible performance standards will be presented to the Environmental and Development Services committee in January 2020.
- 4.30 The report will recommend the appointment of additional resources to enable the Council to conduct a comprehensive Waste service review and explore all potential service delivery and provision models. An integral part of this work will be to undertake a Members' workshop to present options which will guide a future report and implementation of a comprehensive waste service for South Derbyshire.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 Costs of securing additional resources to help officers undertake a comprehensive review and options appraisal, currently estimated at circa £20k.
- 5.2 Long-term financial implications will form part of the options appraisal and subject to a future report.

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

### **Employment Implications**

- 5.1 To be reviewed as part of the full options appraisal and subject to a future report

### **Legal Implications**

- 5.2 The new Environment Act has undergone its first reading, the requirements of the new legislation will need to be considered as part of the options appraisal, but may not be fully known until 2022.

- 5.3 The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012, require the separate collections of materials (paper, card, metal, glass and plastics) except where we can demonstrate either a Technical, Environmental, Economic or Practicable (TEEP) reason for not moving to a fully source segregated service, it is almost certain that the new Environment Act will require the separate collection of food waste unless TEEP applies.

### **Corporate Plan Implications**

- 5.4 The current Corporate Plan is committed to increasing recycling and as a significant Environmental focus, any changes to service provision will primarily focus on the practicable delivery of this aim.

### **Risk Impact**

- 5.5 Risks and opportunities will form a significant element of the option appraisal and will be subject of a future report.

## **6.0 Community Impact**

### **Consultation**

- 6.1 There will inevitably be some impacts on the Community where service delivery is changed to meet future targets and aspirations, it is important that in order to be successful we bring our Community on the journey with us. Consultations with the public will be dependent on the outcome of any options appraisal.

### **Equality and Diversity Impact**

- 6.2 To be considered as part of the options appraisal.

### **Social Value Impact**

- 6.3 To be considered as part of the options appraisal.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.4 The Government Resources and Waste Policy and new Environment Act should provide the biggest driver to delivering Environmental Sustainability for future generations and it is essential that the Council take this opportunity to be a the forefront of service delivery innovation.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 There are no short-term fixes to significantly improve recycling performance by more than one or two percentage points.
- 7.2 There is a certain amount of uncertainty for future service provision due to the ongoing developments in Government legislation and its timing in relation to the Council's recycling and composting contracts.



- 7.3 There are a number of potential risks around committing to a service model at the present time; however, there are also significant potential opportunities.
- 7.4 The recycling service cannot be viewed in isolation to the whole waste collection and disposal service.

## **8.0 Background Papers**

- 8.1 Resources and Waste Policy
- 8.2 WRAP Derbyshire Waste Collections Options Summary
- 8.3 Draft Environment Act
- 8.4 The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

### **Notes:**

- \* Category – Please see the Committee Terms Of Reference in [Responsibility for Functions - Committees](#). This shows which committee is responsible for each function and whether it has delegated authority to make a decision, or needs to refer it elsewhere with a recommendation.
- \*\* Open/Exempt - All reports should be considered in the open section of the meeting, unless it is likely that exempt information would be disclosed. Please see the [Access to Information Procedure Rules](#) for more guidance.
- \*\*\* Committee Terms Of Reference in [Responsibility for Functions - Committees](#).