

Title:	<b>Waste and Recycling Review</b>
Portfolio holder:	<b>Councillor Linda Conley</b>
Reporting officer:	<b>Kevin Gibbs</b>
Key decision:	<b>Yes</b>

---

### **Purpose**

To present the completed review of waste and recycling and to propose a plan for its implementation.

This document has been circulated to Members of the Cabinet and copies have been placed in the Members Room.

### **Background**

A motion to Council on 11 April 2007 called for a full review of all options for waste collection and recycling. Cabinet agreed the scope and format of the review in June and wide-ranging consultation took place over the summer months. A Members' seminar on the subject was held in September.

An interim report was presented to Cabinet in October and it was resolved to:

- Note the content and conclusions of the review to date.
- Agree that the four options highlighted in appendix C of the report be developed further.
- Request a final report when the short-listed options had been considered in more detail.

The completed review has been circulated separately.

### **Implementation Plan**

The agreed options were:

- Provide additional bring sites for cardboard and plastic bottles.
- Education and awareness campaign to release recyclable materials still in the grey bins.
- Tailored service for specific locations.
- Participation survey to improve black box recycling.

A proposed timetable for the implementation of these options is shown at appendix 1. This takes account of the need to carry out some further data analysis and to secure the agreement of the County Council. It is hoped that

some quick wins, specifically one or two additional bring sites, can be brought on line prior to Christmas, with the remaining work taking place in the new year.

### **Performance Improvements**

Recycling is one of the Council's corporate priorities and implementing the recommendations of the review will have a positive effect on the Council's recycling rate.

It is estimated that if a further 3600 tonnes per year of recyclable material can be recovered from the grey bins, this will raise the Council's recycling rate to around 50%. This is a challenging target and could only be achieved by a combination of strategies. Potential effects are given below:

<b>Workstream</b>	<b>Predicted Additional Tonnage PA</b>	<b>Predicted Recycling Rate Change</b>
Additional bring sites and / or conversion of bring sites to take plastic and cardboard	600 tonnes or 20% of card & plastic bottles identified as still in the waste stream	1.2% increase
Participation survey and education and awareness campaign	2250 tonnes or 50% of dry recyclable material identified as still in the waste stream	4.5% increase
Tailored service to specific areas	Giving people what they want could improve recycling	Not known

The above predictions are based on the fact that it is unrealistic to expect to capture more than 50% of recyclable material identified as still in the waste stream (source WRAP report – Appendix E of the review).

The net effect of the above would raise the Council's recycling rate to around 48%. To reach the 50% recycling rate would require additional work such as optimising the collection of compostable waste in the green bin or the collection of food waste.

The implementation of the mechanical and biological treatment plant and a new household recycling centre at Westbury may also contribute to hitting the 50% target in the long term.

## Key Issues

The waste and recycling team are under resourced to carry out this additional work, particularly in the short term. To ensure that the outcome of the review is successfully implemented, it is proposed that some additional temporary resource is applied to the service. This would ensure, in particular, that the education and awareness campaign and the participation survey are properly planned and actioned.

## Risk Management

Without the application of some additional resource, as mentioned above, it is likely that the review would not be implemented properly or would be significantly delayed.

There is also a risk that finding acceptable sites for the additional bring sites may be problematic.

## Financial Implications

It is proposed that one-off funding of £30,000 be made available for the implementation of the review. This would cover temporary staffing inputs and also additional publicity and communications. This would be funded from the projected year end surplus on the General Fund in the current year.

## Legal and Human Rights Implications

There are no direct legal or human rights implications.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Agrees and adopts the Waste Review as providing the direction for the service in the period prior to local government reorganisation.
- b) Agrees the implementation timetable as set out in appendix 1
- c) Approves the allocation of £30,000 to resource the implementation of the waste review.

## Key Decision Box

Statement of reason for key decision	The recommended options will influence the Council's recycling performance and hence a corporate objective of recycling more waste. Some options may marginally increase waste collection and recycling costs.
Options considered and rejected	All four options recommended in the review are to be implemented.
Date of implementation	The draft timetable for implementation is shown in the table above.



## Appendix 1

### Draft Timetable for Implementation

Task	Nov 07	Dec 07	Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Jul 08	Aug 08
<b>Bring Site Work</b>										
Agree short term actions with WCC	■									
Identify locations for new sites		■								
Agree implementation with WCC		■								
Produce communication material			■							
Implement changes				■						
<b>Participation Survey</b>										
Analyse existing round information	■									
Develop plan to target poor areas		■								
Set up review points to measure change										
Implement changes			■	■	■	■	■	■		
<b>Education &amp; Awareness Campaign</b>										
Review policies		■								
Produce education & awareness plan			■							
Redesign website				■						
Update education & awareness material				■						
Implement campaign					■	■	■	■	■	■
<b>Tailored Services</b>										
Agree "special" areas with ward members	■									
Cross check with participation information		■								
Develop solutions			■							
Communicate & implement change				■	■					