

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13 NOVEMBER 2018
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND
CULTURAL SERVICES)

RECYCLING PERFORMANCE

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 EOSC have requested an overview of the Council's current recycling performance and how it compares with other councils across Hertfordshire. The purpose of this report is a direct response to this request.

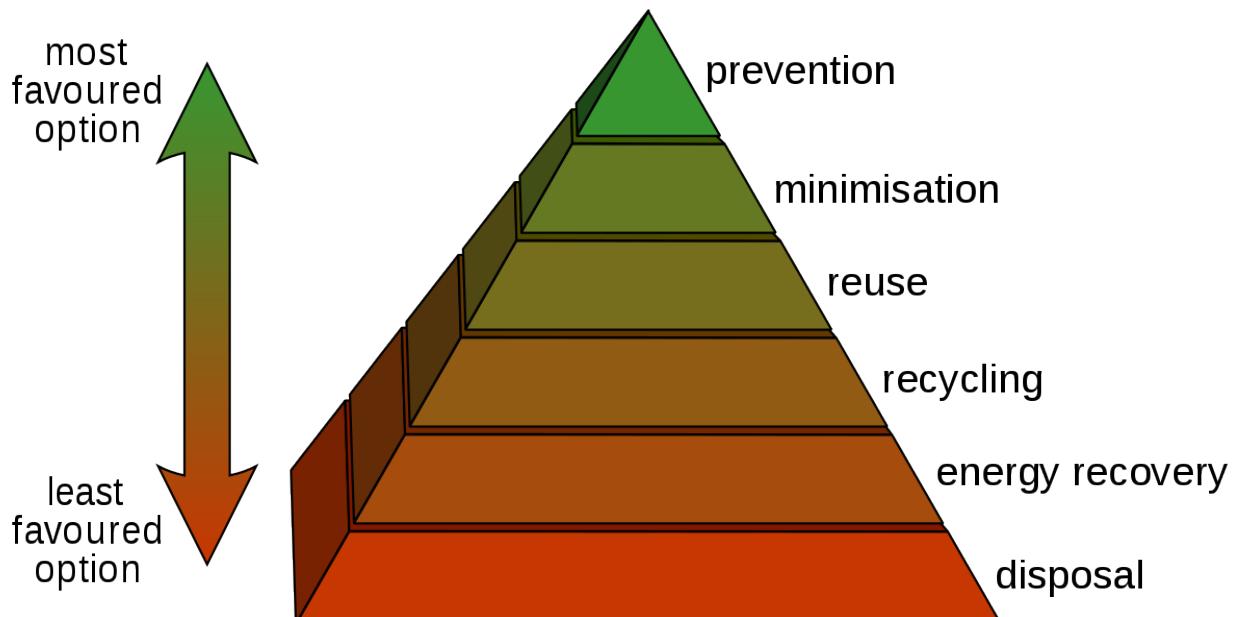
2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of this report.

3 Explanation

The Waste Hierarchy

- 3.1 The “waste hierarchy” ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling and last of all disposal as shown in the diagram below.



- 3.2 It is therefore more important to focus on the need to minimise and reduce waste in the long term rather than purely looking at ways to increase recycling.

- 3.3 The table below shows the total waste per household in 2017/18 and it should be noted that Welwyn Hatfield had the lowest amount of waste generated per household in Hertfordshire.

| Total household waste (kg per household) | |
|---|----------------|
| Authority | 2017/18 |
| Broxbourne | 916 |
| Dacorum | 873 |
| East Herts | 901 |
| Hertsmere | 899 |
| North Herts | 866 |
| St Albans | 859 |
| Stevenage | 846 |
| Three Rivers | 899 |
| Watford | 841 |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 788 |

Council's Current Recycling Service

- 3.4 The Council currently provide the following reuse and recycling services:
- On Request Bulky Waste Collection (a proportion of material e.g. furniture is reused)
 - Fortnightly Collection of Blue Lidded Bin (mixed recycling)
 - Fortnightly Collection of Inner Paper Caddy (newspapers and magazines)
 - Fortnightly Collection of Garden Waste (chargeable)
 - Bring Sites
- 3.5 In addition, Hertfordshire County Council also operate a network of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), where residents can take excess recycling.
- 3.6 The overall recycling rate achieved in 2017/18 was just over 43% and the table below shows the corresponding data in all the authorities in Hertfordshire.

| 2017/18 Recycling Rate | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Authority | 2017/18 |
| Broxbourne | 41.80% |
| Dacorum | 52.50% |
| East Herts | 49.40% |
| Hertsmere | 43.60% |
| North Herts | 57.50% |
| St Albans | 59.50% |
| Stevenage | 38.30% |
| Three Rivers | 62.40% |
| Watford | 44.30% |
| Welwyn Hatfield | 43.40% |

- 3.7 The table below shows the recycling options in other boroughs in Hertfordshire during 2017/18.

Other Boroughs in Hertfordshire

| | Refuse Collection | Dry Recycling Collection | Garden Waste Collection | Separate Food Waste Collection |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Broxbourne BC | Fortnightly | Fortnightly (Boxes) | Fortnightly | - |
| Dacorum BC | Fortnightly | Fortnightly (Fully Commingled) | Fortnightly | Yes |
| East Herts DC | Fortnightly | Fortnightly (Partially Commingled, Separate Paper) | Fortnightly (incl. food) | - |
| Hertsmere BC | Fortnightly | Fortnightly (Partially Commingled, Separate Paper) | Fortnightly (incl. food) | - |
| North Herts DC | Fortnightly | Fortnightly (Partially Commingled, Separate Paper) | Fortnightly (incl. food) | - |
| St Albans City & DC | Fortnightly | Fortnightly (Boxes) | Fortnightly | Yes |
| Stevenage BC | Fortnightly | Fortnightly (Boxes) | Fortnightly (incl. food) | - |
| Three Rivers DC | Fortnightly | Weekly (Fully Commingled) | Fortnightly | Yes |
| Watford BC | Weekly | Weekly (Fully Commingled) | Fortnightly (incl. food) | - |

- 3.8 The top three authorities with the highest recycling rates in 17/18 were Three Rivers, St Albans and North Herts. It should be noted that all of the three authorities had different recycling collection regime during that year. On the other hand, East Herts, Hertsmere and North Herts had almost identical recycling collection regime and yet their recycling rates were widely different. 43.6% in Hertsmere, 49.4% in East Herts and 57.5% in North Herts. This shows that the recycling collection regime provided by the council is only part of the influence to the actual recycling rate achieved. In other words, even when all the authorities in Hertfordshire introduce the same recycling service as the top performing authority (i.e. Three Rivers), it is extremely likely that there would still be a marked difference in recycling rates between authorities.

- 3.9 Recycling rates are actually predominantly influenced by other factors:

- The range of materials that can be recycled; and
- Demographics, socio economics and behaviour of residents.

- 3.10 Officers have adopted the following working practices and projects to reduce residual waste and increase the recycling rate:

- a) Delivering calendar cards at a minimum of twice per year to highlight the Council's collection services;
- b) Running awareness events throughout the year e.g. compost giveaway day and WEEE takeback event;

- c) Active members of the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership WasteAware group.
- d) Engaging with students throughout the academic year, including door knocking and attending university events.
- e) Working with Serco to ensure that recycling bins containing the wrong items are not collected at the kerbside and no excess residual waste is collected.
- f) Ensuring the majority of households only have use of 180l bin for refuse (unless eligible for a larger refuse bin).
- g) Trialling additional recycling at selected flats within the borough.
- h) Trialling 'on the go' recycling in Hatfield town centre and looking to extend this to WGC town centre.
- i) Improving the collections at the Council's network of recycling centres.

Streetscene Procurement

- 3.11 Officers are currently in the process of procuring a new StreetScene contract, to commence in April 2020, and this work is overseen by the StreetScene Procurement Board, with any service changes agreed by Cabinet.
- 3.12 The Procurement Board has made a recommendation to 6th November Cabinet that the bidders for the Waste Collection and Street Cleansing contract should return their bids for the final tender stage based on the increase recycling rate option. It should be noted that as the procurement process is still progressing, officers cannot discuss in any detail what options have been proposed by the bidders, however the Cross Party Procurement Board has been kept informed of the progress.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 There are no legal implications associated with the recommendation.

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 There are no risks associated with the recommendation.

7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

- 7.1 There are no security and terrorism implications associated with the recommendation.

8 Procurement Implication(s)

- 8.1 There are no procurement implications associated with the recommendation.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 9.1 There are no climate change implications associated with the recommendation.

10 Human Resources Implication(s)

- 10.1 There are no human resource implications associated with the recommendation.

11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

- 11.1 There are no health & wellbeing implications associated with the recommendation.

12 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

- 12.1 There are no communication and engagement implications associated with the recommendation.

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 13.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority (Our Environment), and specifically to the achievement of (reducing waste and improving recycling).

14 Equality and Diversity

- 14.1 EqIA was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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