

**IMPROVEMENTS TO KERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICES  
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being))**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) considered a report by the Head of Operations on Improvements to Kerbside Recycling Services. This report contains a summary of the Panel's discussions.

**2. COMMENTS**

- 2.1 The Panel has been informed of the background to the proposal to include glass in the material collected through the kerbside recycling service. Having been acquainted with the latest position regarding the Council's waste collection contract, it has been that advances in technology now mean that it is possible to extract glass from waste collected at the kerbside. Changes in market conditions had prompted investment in the technology. This, coupled with the fact that the Council's waste processing contract was due to expire in December 2009, meant that it was timely for the Council to investigate the possibility to extending its service to include glass recycling.
- 2.2 The Panel has received details of the financial implications of the proposal and Members were encouraged to note that the new contractual arrangements could potentially deliver net revenue savings of up to £300,000 per annum. The contract would include a mechanism to protect the Council from significant changes in gate fee charges. In these circumstances the Panel has expressed support for the proposals. The Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services has stated that he aims to ensure that the Council continues to recycle more than many other local authorities. The proposal should make this possible.
- 2.3 Members questioned the projected level of additional blue bins that would be required and have commented that, if glass collections are introduced, in addition to the points made in the report, there is likely to be significant demand for blue bins from those existing residents who currently use green recycling boxes. With regard to the issue of charging for blue bins, whilst Members did not support charging for additional bins where residents already have a blue bin, they were in favour of charging developers for the provision of blue bins in new developments.
- 2.4 Discussion has taken place on the future operation of the mini recycling centres across the District and the proposal, in conjunction with third sector organisations, for the existing glass banks to be replaced by facilities for recycling other items such as clothes, toys batteries, etc. A proportion of the recycling credits received for the materials recycled through the new arrangements will continue to be paid to the Parish Council that owns the land on which the facilities are located. The remainder of the recycling credits will be retained by the Council to cover its costs for maintaining the sites.

2.5 Finally, the Panel has discussed the health and safety and practical implications of introducing kerbside glass collections, particularly for the elderly, and has considered the impact of the proposals on the general repair and replacement costs associated with the Council's vehicles.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

3.1 The Cabinet is invited to consider the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) as part of its deliberations on the report by the Head of Housing Services.

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