

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT
PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE SELECT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2nd March 2004

REPORT NO : FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

FOR INFORMATION

NAME OF WARD
ALL

REPORT TITLE : Waste Recycling - Recycling Action Plan

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 Background information is provided and a recycling action plan is presented.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee note Brent's recycling action plan.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications of this report.

4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct staffing implications of this report.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Sustainable Development (development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs) underpins European, National, Regional (London) and more local (West London and Brent) waste strategies. The environmental impact of recycling options is thus a major factor.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Under EU law the UK is being set targets. Failure to reach those targets may result in large fines. The government, in setting regional and local targets, can be expected to pass these fines on, or seek to avoid incurring them through a variety of financial instruments designed to ensure that regional and local waste management arrangements contribute to overall achievement of national targets.

- 6.2 In the short term Statutory Performance Standards for recycling have been set. Ensuring we meet them will be managed through the Best Value Regime; a tax on waste sent to landfill is already in place and is escalating.

7.0 DETAIL

A full background.

- 7.1 Brent has a statutory requirement to recycle 10% of household waste collected by 2003/04 and 18% of all household waste collected by 2005/06. Brent achieved a recycling rate of 6.6% in 2002/03. Brent is unlikely to meet the 2003/04 target. A recycling rate in the region of 8% is expected. A priority Action Plan has been developed to ensure the 2005/06 target is met. The following services have been identified for improvement.

Household collections of dry recyclables through Green Box.

- 7.2 The Green Box service currently serves 74% suitable properties (around 75,000). Improvement will be achieved through continual identification of new properties and new residents, targeting poor performing rounds, and by supplementing existing staff resources to undertake monitoring of rounds, identification of gaps in service usage, door-knocking/leafleting etc.

Household collections of dry recyclables through estates / near entrance system.

- 7.3 Phase 1 has seen 29 Estates Frames installed at 21 locations, with 30 more due in Feb 2004 and rising to a potential 200 frames by June 2004 (estimate around 12,000 households). Improvement is to be achieved through the ongoing identification of further locations to complete Phase 1 and by commencing Phase 2 to include a further 12,000 households. A further Phase 3 will be subsequently be introduced to include a further 6,000 households.

Household collection of organic waste.

- 7.4 A Bin-based fortnightly collection service (initially green garden waste only) from an estimated 15,000 households commences on 22nd March 2004. A supplementary sack-based weekly collection service by appointment from up to 750 properties per week commences on 1st March 2004. An extension of the bin service to a further estimated 15,000 households is planned for June 2004. Further expansion of the service either on the bin –based service or the sack-based service may be possible but it is important to see how the services already being funded perform before identifying scope for further collection rounds. It will also be important at the same time to track developments on when/if we can add kitchen waste to the system.

Recycling bank sites.

- 7.5.1 Currently 116 sites exist for the collection a range of materials. There is scope to strengthen this provision by adding more paper banks at some sites, locating additional mixed glass recycling banks near pubs, adding more textile banks at some sites and by introducing cardboard banks at some sites.

Civic amenity site provision.

7.6 The existing site at First Way, Wembley offers no potential for expansion, improvement, or introduction of enhanced recycling facilities. A larger Reuse & Recycling Centre is proposed within the West London Waste Authority site at Twyford. This opening of this facility in 2004 will see the introduction of a wider range of material collection systems, including WEEE and furniture and the introduction of a system for sorting and diverting Brent's Special Collection (Bulky Household) Waste.

Collection of dry recyclables from schools.

7.7 Currently, Brent has supplied 14 schools with paper recycling bins. There is scope to expand this provision to a further 60 schools. Additional recycling frames and bins (as per the Estates infrastructure) would be required. ECT Recycling, using the same vehicle(s) that collect from Estates, can provide the collection service

Education and promotion work in schools.

7.8 Currently a very limited level of activity exists through the work of the Council's two Community Waste & Recycling Officers. Improvement in promoting waste minimisation and recycling in schools will be achieved through the establishment of a dedicated post.

Home composting.

7.9 Brent Council has distributed 13,000 home composters to date (620 in 2003). In addition, an unknown number of households will have purchased their own home composters, and it is not possible to accurately calculate how many borough households have home composters. Brent Council will continue to promote the low-cost provision of home composters as a means of preventing certain types of waste coming into the waste stream at all.

Brent Council internal waste management.

7.10 The potential for recovering material from the Council's internal waste stream is not fully known, and would require a form of audit to be carried out to establish the current position, and develop a costed implementation plan. **The absence of good waste management in premises used by the Council was highlighted as a criticism and action point in the 2003 Waste Management Inspection.** Improvement will be achieved through an audit into existing waste management arrangements, including information on costs and funding sources and the identification of options for diverting different types of waste.

Other points.

7.11 External funding opportunities are being explored and bids will be prepared as necessary. Potential sources include London Waste Action, the London Recycling Fund.

7.12 Developments on the possibility of including kitchen waste in the Organic Waste Collection system are being closely monitored, as this will allow a further "material"

to be diverted from landfill and is widely expected to yield significant tonnages, contributing towards our recycling rate. We are liaising closely with London Waste Action and are considering a joint West London bid for round 9 of the bidding cycle (April 2004). WRG (based in Oxfordshire) are keen to develop an in-vessel composting unit in Sutton Courtenay to accommodate this material

- 7.13 Brent Council is continuing to collect fridges through the CA site and from the bulky household waste collection stream.

8.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Details of Documents:

- 8.1
1. Waste Strategy 2000 (website: www.defra.gov.uk)
 2. The Mayor's Draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy - Assembly and Functional Bodies Consultation (website: www.gla.gov.uk)
 3. Draft London Plan – Spatial Development Strategy (website: www.gla.gov.uk)
 4. WLWA Best Value Performance Plan 2002-2003 (website: www.westlondonwaste.gov.uk)
 5. Waste Strategy Development File – StreetCare Unit
 6. Brent Municipal Waste Strategy (Framework 2002)
 7. Brent CPA Priority Action Plan - Reaching our Recycling Targets (2004)
- 8.2 Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Chris Whyte, Streetcare Unit, Brent House, 349 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6BZ, Telephone: 020 8937 5342

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