














Report of: Environment Scrutiny Committee

To: Executive Board

Date: 16th July 2007

Item No:

Title of Report : Recommendations on the implementation of the Council's waste collection scheme.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summary and Recommendations</u></p>
	
	<p>Purpose of report: To present to the Executive Board recommendations from the Environment Scrutiny Committee on the Council's waste collection</p>
	<p>eme.</p>
	<p>Key decision: No</p>
	<p>Portfolio Holder: Councillor Jean Fooks, Cleaner City Portfolio Holder</p>
	<p>Scrutiny Responsibility: Environment Scrutiny Committee</p>
	<p>Ward(s) affected: All</p>
	<p>Report Approved by: Councillor Sid Phelps, Chair of Environment Scrutiny</p>
	<p>Committee, Emma Griffiths, Legal and Democratic Services, Andy Collett, Finance and Asset Management.</p>
	<p>Policy Framework:</p>
	<p>Recommendation(s): The Executive Board is asked to respond to the</p>
	<p>Scrutiny Committee's recommendations:</p>
	<p>1. If it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations outlined.</p>
	<p>2. If it agrees when will the recommendations be implemented and who will take the lead?</p>
	<p>3. If it disagrees why?</p>
	<p>4. If more information is required from other officers when that will be considered?</p>

1. Minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Committee – 11th June 2007

13. WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING SCHEME - UPDATE

The Interim City Works Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) on the implementation of the new recycling and waste collection scheme.

Resolved to:

1. note and comment on the report as follows:

- In reply to a question regarding side waste, closed lids and communication with residents Geoff Melotti said that he understood that information regarding the need to constrain the amount of residual waste had been circulated in one of approximately four leaflets which had been circulated to residents. Mr Melotti agreed to confirm the details to Members after the meeting.*
- Bins left on the pavement might be construed as a highway obstruction. The Council's operatives would be reminded that bins should be returned to gardens or storage areas and that residents were to leave bins at their property boundary not on pavements.*
- Currently, approximately 20 Recycling Champions were in place to support residents and advise City Works of emerging problems and it was hoped that more members of the public could be persuaded to become involved with this initiative.*
- As part of the imminent review of the 24 bring-bank sites in the City, the possible relocation of recycling banks would be looked at further by City Works officers as well as the use of containers in general in an attempt to meet the needs of householders with inadequate storage space for recycling bins.*
- Noted the number of written complaints which had been received and responded to. Councillor Pressel said that she had also received many verbal complaints. Councillor Fooks confirmed that the scheme was subject to continuous monitoring.*

The Environment Scrutiny Committee recommended to the Executive Board that:


i). The Council should run an article in Your Oxford, showing where Oxford's recycling goes after collection. This is to maintain publicity for the scheme and to ensure that Oxford's residents are fully informed as to what happens to

their rubbish. Photographs from the materials recycling facility would be a useful addition to the article.

ii). The Planning Business Manager is reminded of the importance of consulting with City Works on all new developments to ensure that bin storage is adequately provided for and that such provision is guaranteed through the application of conditions to planning schemes. City Works should respond to these requests within the consultation period.

2. Environment Scrutiny Committee – 11th June 2007

2.1 The Environment Scrutiny Committee received an update on the Council's waste collection scheme at its meeting on 11th June 2007. The Committee was encouraged to learn that recycling rates had reached 39% in May 2007, but were also keen to ensure that the Council would continue to do all that it could to increase rates further.

2.2  The Committee agreed it was important to present a positive image of the Council's waste collection service to the people of Oxford. Therefore, the Committee recommends that:

- The Council should run an article in Your Oxford, showing where Oxford's recycling goes after collection. This is to maintain publicity for the scheme and to ensure that Oxford's residents are fully informed as to what happens to their rubbish. Photographs from the waste recycling plant would be a useful addition to the article.

2.3 Secondly, the Committee also wants to make sure that the recycling scheme is available to as many households as possible. The importance of ensuring that there is adequate bin storage on new developments was stressed. Therefore, the Committee agreed to recommend that:

- The Planning Business Manager is reminded of the importance of consulting with City Works on all new developments to ensure that bin storage is adequately provided for and that such provision is guaranteed through the application of conditions to planning schemes. City Works should respond to these requests within the consultation period.

2.4 The Environment Scrutiny Committee hopes that the Executive Board endorses these recommendations and sets out a timetable for the production of an article for the Your Oxford magazine.

3. Comments from the Portfolio Holder (Councillor Jean Fooks)

3.1 I would like to thank Environment Scrutiny Committee for their continuing interest in the new refuse and recycling scheme. The details of where our recycling goes are on the Council website and officers are preparing an article for the next Your Oxford on this topic.

3.2 I understand that City Works are currently consulted on planning applications for large new developments and I have asked that Planning officers are reminded to check the adequacy of waste storage and collection arrangements on all new developments.

4. Comments from the Strategic Director

4.1 The Strategic Director endorses these recommendations and comments.

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Background papers:

