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| Meeting:             | Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee |
| Date:                | 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2006                     |
| Subject:             | Waste Management Review                        |
| Responsible Officer: | Andrew Trehern                                 |
| Contact Officer:     | Andrew Baker                                   |
| Portfolio Holder:    | Environment and Transport                      |
| Key Decision:        | No   |
| Status:              | Part 1   |

## **Section 1: Summary**

### **Decision Required**

#### **For decision**

To note progress on implementing the changes agreed by Cabinet in April 2005

### **Reason for report**

To provide a progress report on the changes approved by Cabinet following the review, by Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee, of the waste management service.

### **Benefits**

To provide an on-going scrutiny of the council's waste management service

### **Cost of Proposals**

There are no costs associated with this proposal

### **Risks**

Failure to meet the Landfill Directive targets, for the diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill, could expose the council to significant financial liabilities under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

### **Implications if recommendations rejected**

Not applicable

## **Section 2: Report**

### **2.1 Brief History**

Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee reviewed the waste management service in 2004/5 and made recommendations to cabinet in April 2005. Cabinet agreed a range of changes to the service and this report notes progress to date.

### **2.2 Options considered**

None

### **2.3 Consultation**

None

### **2.4 Financial Implications**

None

### **2.5 Legal Implications**

There are no specific legal implications arising from this particular report.

### **2.6 Equalities Impact**

The extension of a recycling service to flats is addressing a long-standing issue with regard to access to the recycling service by this group of residents

### **2.7 Section 17 Crime and Disorder act 1998 Considerations**

None

## **Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents**

Appendix A – Progress on implementation.

Appendix B – Waste tonnage trends

**Appendix A - Progress on implementation of:**

**Recommendations to ensure the medium and long term success of the waste management service (Cabinet – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005)**

| No. | Description  | Progress – Mid November 2005  |
|-----|--|---|
| 1   | As an interim measure green wheelie bins to be collected weekly for a period of 18 months.   | Implemented. Waste Bin (green wheelie bins) being collected weekly.   |
| 2   | Similarly, as an interim measure, collect the Brown Bin on an alternate-week basis.  | Implemented   |
| 3   | Continue to collect the Green Box on an alternate-week basis – alternating with the Brown Bin.   | Implemented   |
| 4   | Confirm that it is the council's medium term aim to change the frequency of collection of the Brown Bin (to weekly) and the green wheelie bin (alternate weeks). The changeover would need be dependent on the successful completion of items 7 to 12, coupled with the extensive publicity and re-education campaign (item 6). The change to be introduced in the autumn of 2006 or early 2007, subject to confirmation by Cabinet. | Changeover to be confirmed by Cabinet in June 2006.<br>The possibility of moving the change forward, to July 2006, is being investigated.   |
| 5   | Confirm that the number of green wheelie bins is to be limited to one per household for all new developments. Households with more than 5 people will be allowed one additional bin subject to payment of the appropriate charge.  | New limit has been introduced on all new bins.<br>Existing multiple bins not affected. Report to Cabinet in June 2006 will reconsider this.   |
| 6   | Introduce a sustained 18-month campaign to ensure that the public fully understands the issues involved in changing the waste management system in Harrow.   | Slash trash campaign was launched in July 2005.<br>Website has been redesigned and updated. Advertising poster campaign at selected sites around the borough. Monthly feature in Harrow People.<br>Joint campaign with Harrow Observer with regular weekly feature on recycling and other green issues.<br>Redesigned service leaflet distributed during late November 2005.<br>Campaign is continuing into 2006/7. |

**Appendix A - Progress on implementation of:**

**Recommendations to ensure the medium and long term success of the waste management service (Cabinet – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005)**

| No. | Description   | Progress – Mid November 2005   |
|-----|---|--|
| 7   | Confirm materials to be collected in Brown Bin to be garden waste, kitchen waste and cardboard. Garden waste no longer accepted in the Waste (green wheelie) Bin.   | Fully implemented  |
| 8   | Note that the Area Director (Urban Living) is to sign a contract for the deposit of waste, collected by the Brown Bin scheme, for in-vessel composting – as agreed in May 2004.                           | Contractor appointed. Final negotiations on contract details.  |
| 9   | Complete introduction of Brown Bin across the Borough. Scheduled for completion by the end of June 2005   | Completed.<br>Final 9000 bins (of 65,000) distributed in October following agreement with Unison on the reorganisation of collection rounds to equalise workloads.   |
| 10  | Increase participation in the Green Box scheme across the Borough to encourage households not currently using the scheme to do so (from October 2005) – as identified in the Scrutiny Review.             | Major drive on increasing participation will be built into programme for change of frequency. See Item 4 above.<br>Growth in green box tonnage has been 11% plus per year over the last three years. See Appendix B) |
| 11  | Launch a service for the collection of plastic bottles from households (from October 2005) to encourage recycling and free capacity within the waste bin.   | Roll-out of plastic bottle recycling scheme started in November. Scheme is being introduced in three phases. (November, January and April).<br>Phases 1 and 2 complete.  |
| 12  | Introduce electronic identification technology (e.g. bar-coding or similar) on Green Boxes to improve monitoring of participation.  | Bid to DEFRA for funding was not successful. Change will need to be funded by the council.<br>Bid for capital funding submitted for 2006/7.  |
| 13  | Re-brand existing green wheelie bins as TRASH Bins to avoid confusion with the green colour and “green issues” and confirm that dark grey bins will be used, in the future, for new and replacement bins. | Dark grey is now the colour for waste bins. All publicity material now refers to Waste Bin collections.  |

**Appendix A - Progress on implementation of:**

**Recommendations to ensure the medium and long term success of the waste management service (Cabinet – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005)**

| No. | Description   | Progress – Mid November 2005  |
|-----|---|---|
| 14  | Introduce a recycling service for flats for three materials – paper, glass and cans/plastic bottles (From September 2005)   | <p>Flats recycling scheme was launched in February 2006. Project team is in process of identifying and assessing a range of flats - both public and private sector.</p> <p>Second phase of scheme will be introduced in April.</p> <p>Scheme is being integrated with revamped bring site system (see below).</p> |
| 15  | Improve the recycling centre service (bring banks) by replacing the current igloo based bank service with collections based on wheeled bins. Include the collection of plastic bottles (within cans) – From September 2005. | <p>Changes to the recycling centre service have been completed.</p> <p>Igloos have been replaced at all locations apart from two supermarket sites where paper-banks are still supplied and emptied by Cheshire Recycling.</p> <p>Plastic bottles are now collected with cans.</p>                                |
| 16  | Complete the alterations to the Civic Amenity Site – including the purchasing of two small parcels of land to the rear of 73 and 75 Cullington Close (by agreement with the owners) and alteration works to the site exit.  | Completed.  |
| 17  | Note that all new wheeled bins are to be fitted with chips to enable the future introduction of automatic bin reading when the bin is emptied.  | <p>All new bins are procured with integral chips.</p> <p>Bid for capital funding to enable retro-fitting of chips and introduction of scanning equipment in 2007/8 and 2008/9.</p>  |
| 18  | Confirm the current policy of providing financial support for people using reusable nappies (i.e. home laundered or laundry service) and increase the payment to (up to) £100 per family.                                   | Scheme is in operation. Almost 50 families have taken up this offer over the last two years.  |
| 19  | Confirm existing two strikes and out policy for dealing with contaminated Brown Bins  | Following completion of the Brown bin roll-out and a subsequent period of grace, this policy is now being enforced.   |

**Appendix A - Progress on implementation of:**

**Recommendations to ensure the medium and long term success of the waste management service (Cabinet – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005)**

| No. | Description   | Progress – Mid November 2005   |
|-----|---|--|
| 20  | Note the moves to develop closer links with People First to encourage understanding and participation of children through the education system.   | <p>Close links have been developed with People First and this work is continuing.</p> <p>Eco-conference was held at Park High School on October 11<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Work on developing a curriculum based programme, to be launched in September 2006, is continuing.</p>  |
| 21  | Review Risk assessments on the operation of alternate week collections of residual waste to ensure that the Health and Safety of the workforce is protected by appropriate measures, including training.  | Work has started. To be completed by end of April 2006   |
| 22  | Provide financial incentives in the form of prize draws for households participating in the Green Box and Brown Bin schemes.  | This scheme is on hold pending the introduction of bar-coding and bin chips. See 12 above.   |
| 23  | In partnership with the WLWA and the development of their joint Waste Strategy consider the options for the provision of a MRF (Materials Recycling Facility) to process mixed recyclable materials. This will allow a wider range of materials to be collected and possibly allow the use of compaction vehicles for their collection. | <p>Draft joint strategy is out to consultation with report to Cabinet in December. Strategy is not specific on whether MRFs will be developed or not. The proposed development plan indicates an early decision on this, once the Strategy has been adopted.</p> <p>Approval of the strategy has been delayed pending the receipt of comments from the Mayor of London.</p> <p>ODPM's review of the Mayor's powers has also introduced a degree of uncertainty into this process. The management of waste in London is a major area in the review. It is possible that the GLA will become responsible for waste disposal across the whole of London. such a change could have a significant effect on the draft joint waste strategy. The government's proposals are expected to be published in the near future.</p> |

**Appendix A - Progress on implementation of:**

**Recommendations to ensure the medium and long term success of the waste management service (Cabinet – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005)**

| No. | Description  | Progress – Mid November 2005   |
|-----|--|--|
| 24  | Quarterly progress reports to be submitted to Cabinet during the 18 month roll-out period including monitoring the public response. Monthly performance reports, at ward level, to also be developed | Quarterly progress on recycling rate is made to cabinet via the CORVU system. In the first half of the year our recycling rate was 27% (compared to a target of 25.2%).<br><br>Monthly reports still to be developed.    |
| 25  | Cabinet to receive a follow-up report on the use and financial implications of providing free composting units   | Waste minimisation is a significant element in the joint waste strategy.<br><br>The report on the change of frequency (item 4) will include a range of other matters. The provision of free composters will be included. |
| 26  | Cabinet to receive a report on a strategy to encourage local businesses to reduce non-recyclable packaging   | Pending.   |

## Appendix B – Waste Tonnage Trends

| <b>Overall tonnage</b>                   | <b>2001/2</b> | <b>2002/3</b> | <b>2003/4</b> | <b>2004/5</b> | <b>2005/6</b> |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Delivered to WLWA (household plus trade) | 75893         | 79782         | 79692         | 80281         | 73344         |
| Recycled and composted                   | 8521          | 8977          | 12769         | 19801         | 27404         |
| CA Site hhd                              | 21851         | 14982         | 13654         | 16793         | 12339         |
| 20% recovered                            | 0             | 3726          | 3413          | 4198          | 3085          |
| CA Site trade                            | 6659          | 6189          | 6386          | 4509          | 3466          |
| <br>                                     |               |               |               |               |               |
| Waste to landfill                        | 104403        | 100953        | 99732         | 101583        | 89149         |
| Waste diverted                           | 8521          | 12703         | 16182         | 23999         | 30489         |
| Percentage diverted                      | 8.2           | 12.6          | 16.2          | 23.6          | 34.2          |
| <br>                                     |               |               |               |               |               |
| Total waste                              | 112924        | 113656        | 115914        | 125582        | 119638        |
| Annual increase (%)                      |               | 0.6           | 2.0           | 8.3           | -4.7          |
| Increase 2001/2 to 2005/6 (%)            |               |               |               |               | 5.9           |

### **Green Box Tonnages**

|                               |      |      |      |      |      |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| paper                         | 4623 | 4590 | 4759 | 5186 | 5728 |
| glass                         | 1177 | 1003 | 1333 | 1537 | 1767 |
| cans                          | 266  | 153  | 310  | 379  | 490  |
| textiles                      | 31   | 38   | 44   | 52   | 61   |
| Total                         | 6097 | 5784 | 6446 | 7154 | 8046 |
| Annual increase (%)           |      | -5.1 | 11.4 | 11.0 | 12.5 |
| Increase 2001/2 to 2005/6 (%) |      |      |      |      | 32.0 |