

Meeting:	Environment and Economy Sub-Committee
Date:	10 March 2005
Subject:	Scrutiny Review of Household Waste Management
Responsible Officer:	Area Director, Urban Living
Contact Officer:	Alicia Weiderman, Scrutiny Officer Andrew Baker, Waste Management manager
Portfolio Holder:	Environment and Transport
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part I

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

That the Sub-Committee:

- Consider the report from the scrutiny review of Household Waste Management.
- Refer the report and its recommendations to the Cabinet for consideration and officers be authorised to advise the appropriate bodies of Cabinet's views.

Reason for report

The scrutiny review of Waste Management review was commenced in July 2004. The review and the following objectives:

1. To examine the progress of initiatives to meet/surpass the Council's 2005/2006 BVPI 82 and BVPI 91 recycling targets.
2. To investigate and recommend to the Executive new initiatives to further expand recycling and composting beyond 2005-06.

This report presents findings from this review for the consideration of the sub-committee.

Benefits

This report provides recommendations on how Harrow Council can increase recycling and improve waste management services. It draws on the opinions of local residents, policy officers and experts the area. It also takes into account best practice from other local Councils in an attempt to improve Harrow's services.

It also recognises the efforts and successes of the Council to date in this complex area.

Cost of Proposals

Costs of the proposals would need to be considered by the service area in assessing the feasibility of particular recommendations.

Risks

Some recommendations in this report may result in increases in spending.

Implications if recommendations rejected

Council will not be able to benefit from the research and experiences of this review group. It may miss opportunities to increase recycling rates in the local area.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

In 19 April 2004, the Environment and Economy Sub-Committee agreed its work programme for 2004/05. As part of the work programme it was agreed that the sub-committee would be considered as an item for in-depth review following appropriate scoping of the item.

At the meeting on the 9th July 2004 the sub-committee received a presentation on the waste situation in Harrow. Following a report from the officer the committee agreed to continue with the in-depth study of waste management in Harrow.

The objectives of the review were to:

- a. To examine the progress of initiatives to meet/surpass the Council's 2005/2006 BVPI 82 and BVPI 91 recycling targets; and
- b. To investigate and recommend to the Executive new initiatives to further expand recycling and composting beyond 2005-06.

The review considered information from a variety of sources. Considerable research into waste management was conducted. Visits to

the local authorities of Bexley, Daventry and Barnet provided the review with information with which to benchmark Harrow's current system.

Analysis of the current waste management system was also conducted. This included reviewing its success and the perception of local residents in Harrow Council's services.

Based on this research, recommendations have been made in the attached report.

2.3 Consultation

Consultations were done in a variety of methods. A survey of residents was conducted at the Harrow Show in 2004. This survey was designed to elicit responses from residents about their perceptions of recycling in the borough.

The Waste Manager was regularly involved in the review offering his valuable input to the review. Discussions were also held with Recycling Officers and Collection Workers to obtain their perspectives on the issue

2.4 Financial Implications

A number of the recommendations will have financial consequences that have not been fully quantified at this time. The potential costs and savings arising from implementing the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Group will need to be considered further in the context of their affordability within the existing budget for the service and the Council's medium term budget strategy.

2.5 Legal Implications

None at this stage.

2.6 Equalities Impact

This review has taken into consideration equality issues. In particular, it reviews the opportunity to provide recycling services to areas that currently are not serviced (e.g. flats).

Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents

Appendix A: Report of the scrutiny review into Household Waste Management.