

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

meeting date: TUESDAY 25TH MAY 2021
title: UPDATE ON RECYCLING
submitted by: JOHN HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: LINDA BOYER- WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide Members with an update on recycling rates.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Corporate Priorities – To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The disposal authority Lancashire County Council produce quarterly recycling & residual collection rates on a rolling 24-month period.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Figures recently published by LCC to cover the period March to February have once again shown excellent results for Ribble Valley recyclers. Two-year analysis has shown that Ribble Valley has a 22% improvement performance for collection of green waste, the highest in Lancashire.

3.2 Our co-mingled collections also topped the table for the most improved performance, collection improving by 37%.

3.3 Ribble Valley had the least increase in residual waste going to landfill with only a 6% increase, excellent considering the number of households staying and working from home during the lockdown periods this year.

3.4 Our paper recycling levels are still next to bottom in the league table. However, these figures include the period in lockdown last year when paper collections were suspended due to the closure of the Recycling facility at Chatburn. The performance is expected to improve on the next set of data.

3.5 The recycling sent to the LCC facility is audited for levels of contamination, the latest figures have shown that they have fallen in this area, from levels of 3% contamination increasing to 4% over the last 2 years. Paper contamination remains problematic at 3%. Dense plastics have been at levels of 6% for the last three quarters. Plastic film often exceeds the trigger level of 1%, more often being above 2%. These percentages are in line with most Lancashire authorities. In the most recent quarter textile contamination also exceeded the 1% trigger level.

3.6 LCC have now started to report on ReUse statistics which is clearly moving ReUse higher up the waste hierarchy than recycle. The figures released for the final quarter of 2020-21 has shown over 3,500 residents in the Ribble valley are part of the Freegle community. Freegle is an organisation that aims to reuse and reduce landfill by offering a free internet-based service where residents can donate and request items which would otherwise be thrown away. During this quarter 124 items or 3,500kgs were exchanged, saving 2 tonnes of CO2 with a benefit of £2,500. Contact has been made with the provider of textile/shoe and book banks to investigate the possibility of providing more 'bring sites' to Ribble Valley. In conjunction with this the current charity bring site locations are to be contacted to request for their figures to be released to gain a more accurate picture of the amount of reuse which is taking place in the borough

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources –none.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The update on the increased recycling and the associated reduction of waste going to landfill can only be considered as positive.
- Political – This will be welcomed by the public who genuinely want to recycle more and send less to landfill.
- Reputation – This rise in the rate of recycling and the reduction of landfill rates can only be good for the authority.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Committee will be pleased to note the increases in recycling and reduction of landfill elements of the report.

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For further information please ask for Linda Boyer on 01200 414467 .