

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: 11 JANUARY 2022
 title: WASTE COLLECTION PERFORMANCE
 submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on recycling performance.
- 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

Comparison of waste collection over last 3 years	18/19	19/20	20/22
Paper	1640	1366	1325
Green	3075	3443	3987
Recyclate	2474	2638	3556
Residual	15180	15421	16674
Residual kg/household	586	580	619

- 2.1 Throughout this period paper/cardboard collections have dropped by 20%, albeit the collections stopped for 2 months during the first lockdown in March 2020 and were severely decreased for months either side of the lockdown. It can be seen that the collections have not recovered since lockdown.
- 2.2 It is assumed that residents have either taken the paper to the HWRC (when open) or thrown it into the residual bin. As a result, tests on the residual waste have shown a high paper content and the amount of waste sent to landfill has increased by 10%.

3 ISSUES

General contamination

- 3.1 In years 18/19 and 19/20 contamination of residual waste has reduced from 14% to 5%. Our main contamination concern is paper/cardboard. The highest contamination was 8.58%, although this has now reduced to just over 3%, this is still the highest rate of contamination within the Lancashire boroughs.
- 3.2 Further investigation into the RVBC paper contamination has shown that a number of bins at Clitheroe market (15 x 1100 litres) have not only contained large quantities of paper and cardboard but the collection has been collected as residual waste and sent to landfill. A trial has taken place whereby some of the market bins have been labelled up as "card and paper only". This has been relatively successful and as a result the

paper has been collected separately and recycled. This will help increase the recycling, reduce the contamination in the residual, and send less waste to landfill.

- 3.3 Residents are frequently reminded that they can request additional paper sacks and/or put their paper/card in boxes for collection rather than putting it into the general waste bin.
- 3.4 With the number of new properties being built over the last couple of years, the paper collections should be increasing to above Covid levels but currently they are not.
- 3.5 Other contamination on the increase is the amount of hard plastic contained within the co-mingled collections, 7.31% where the target is no higher than 5%; also, the levels of plastic film is four times higher than the target level of 1%.
- 3.6 This could potentially all change when, or if, the White Paper is approved by Government as the material types collected increase so that the material types will change from being contamination to recycling.
- 3.7 Green waste tonnage over the same periods have increased by 30%, and the total recycling performance has improved from 34.6% for the last 2 years to 40% for the first half of 2021/22.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources - None
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The increased recycling % can only be considered 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 in landfill rates can only be good for the authority.
- Equality & Diversity – None

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 Ask officers to implement a strategy to promote the collection of paper to the levels before Covid and discourage the disposal of contaminants in the recycling stream.
- 5.2 Ask officers to implement within the current financial year.

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