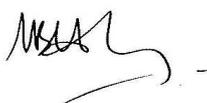




<b>Report to:</b>	Environment and Neighbourhoods Committee	<b>Date:</b>	18 June 2015
<b>Report title:</b>	Future Provision of the Neighbourhood Recycling Centres		
<b>Report from:</b>	Mary Morrissey, Strategic Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration		
<b>Ward/Areas affected:</b>	Boroughwide		
<b>Chair of Committee/Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Jill Whitehead		
<b>Author(s)/Contact Number(s):</b>	Amy Harris, Waste Strategy and Community Engagement Manager, 020 8770 6389		
<b>Corporate Plan Priorities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Open Council</li> <li>• A Green Council</li> <li>• A Fair Council</li> <li>• A Smart Council</li> </ul>		
<b>Open/Exempt:</b>	Open		
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	2 June 2015

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Council has implemented significant improvements over recent years to the kerbside recycling service which means that residents are now able to recycle mixed dry recyclables at home. This report therefore considers the options for the future provision of the Neighbourhood Recycling Centres (NRCs), with a recommendation to remove the mixed recycling banks from the sites.

## 2. Recommendations

The Environment and Neighbourhood Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Remove the Council's mixed dry recycling banks from all NRCs, retaining the banks for materials that cannot be recycled at home.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 During the "Smarter Services" review of Sutton's Waste Management service, the Executive made the decision to review the provision of NRC's on an individual basis in areas where people now have adequate arrangements at their own homes.
- 3.2 There are 24 NRC's in Sutton with 16 of these providing mixed dry recycling banks that residents can use to recycle the same materials that they can recycle at home. At the other 8 NRC sites there are banks for materials that cannot be recycled at home such as textiles, shoes, books, DVD's and CD's. Appendix A provides a map of all NRCs.
- 3.3 Sutton residents receive a comprehensive recycling service from their home reducing the need for residents to use NRCs. All households have green bins for mixed dry recycling and blocks of flats have communal recycling bins. Flats above shops are offered green bins where there is space and recycling sacks when there is no space available.

## 4. Progress on NRC Reviews

- 4.1 The review process involved surveying NRC users, residents that live in the areas surrounding the NRC's, and monitoring complaints and flytipping incidences. The findings were taken to the relevant local committee who made the final decision about the future provision of a specific



NRC. The surveys confirmed that the majority of residents surveyed had mixed dry recycling facilities at home. Generally the findings showed that the NRC's:

- Were frequently contaminated with materials such as polystyrene, rubble and food waste
- Being abused by businesses that are legally required to have their own waste arrangements
- Often had bins that were overflowing (due to abuse)
- Were used by residents and businesses that do not live in the borough
- Were used occasionally by residents to recycle materials they could not recycle from home

- 4.2 Since 2013, all of the local committees have considered at least one NRC review and taken the decision to remove the mixed dry recycling banks but to retain the textiles and book banks. During this period 11 NRC reviews took place and resulted in the removal of mixed dry recycling banks from 10 NRC's.
- 4.3 The Mount NRC is the only site to be reviewed where no changes have been made and this was subject to further consultation with the residents.
- 4.4 Where the mixed dry recycling bins have been removed the land has been transformed back into its former use. Feedback received indicates that there has been an improvement in terms of the way these sites look.
- 4.5 At the NRC's where mixed dry recycling banks were removed there was a reduction in flytipping incidences from 15 in 2013 to 5 in 2014. However at the remaining NRCs the number of flytipping incidences increased over the same time period (104 to 142 incidences).
- 4.6 Whilst the number of NRC's with facilities for mixed dry recycling has reduced over the last two years, our recycling rate has remained the same at 37%. Therefore, the provision of mixed dry recycling bank NRC's across Sutton has little impact on our recycling rate.
- 4.7 The banks for materials that cannot be recycled from home continue to be used by local residents. About 100 tonnes of textiles and shoes and 50 tonnes of books, DVD's and CD's were taken by residents were deposited in these banks and recycled in 2014/15.

#### Increasing Recycling from Home

- 4.8 Sutton continues to be committed to becoming greener and managing waste sustainably, with waste reduction, reuse and recycling continuing to be priority. Last year, we successfully secured £1.2 million of external funding to help residents recycling more and waste less. As a result of the funding, those living in flatted properties received reusable flats recycling bags to help them store recycling in their home and transport the recycling to the communal area.
- 4.9 Further activity is planned for this year to encourage residents to reduce, reuse and recycle more throughout 2015/16.

#### Monitoring of existing sites

- 4.10 Between 1 March and 8 May 2015, our data has been collected during visits to the existing sites. A total of 165 visits have taken place during this time and the key findings are:
- The mixed dry recycling banks were contaminated during 62% of the visits
  - There was flytipping present during 95% of the visits
  - During 49% of the visits the mixed dry recycling bins were overflowing
  - The Civic Centre NRC was the only site with no issues during the monitoring period.
- 4.11 The contents of contaminated mixed dry recycling banks have to be sent to landfill and are therefore not contributing to our recycling rate. Instead the NRC's are continuing to attract household and commercial waste both in the bins and as flytipping on the ground.



## 5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Each of the Local Committees has reached the same decision for future provision of 10 of the 11 reviewed NRC's. As a result of the changes to the NRC's, indications are that flytipping has reduced, more residents have the sufficient facilities to recycle from their home, our recycling rate has been maintained and the area previously occupied by bins looks better aesthetically.
- 5.2 Given the success of the changes made to the NRC's to date it is proposed that the remaining mixed dry recycling banks are removed from the NRC's. It is also proposed to maintain the third sector banks, which both allow residents to recycle materials they cannot recycle from home and provides an income for local charities.
- 5.3 The agreement to a proposal will be supported by a communication campaign to inform residents of the change in local facility and how they can order additional recycling bins. Information will also be sent to managing agents and businesses, where appropriate.
- 5.4 It is proposed that the changes to individual NRC's are implemented between 1 September and 30 November 2015. The changes to each site will be phased to ensure that any construction work required to transform the site into its former use takes place on the same day the bins are removed.

## 6. Impacts and Implications

### Financial

- 1.1 The costs associated with communicating the changes made to residents near to 16 NRCs are estimated to be £7,500.
- 1.2 The removal of the recycling banks will not incur any costs. However, the transformation of the area currently used for mixed dry recycling banks to its former use may have financial implications. This will include installation of parking, removing fences, breaking up concrete and replacing with grass. The average cost for alterations at the other sites was £1,500. Alterations to 15 NRC's would cost therefore around £24,000. Following committee approval further work will be completed to firm up these costs.
- 1.3 The total cost is around £31,500.
- 1.4 There will be cost savings associated with reduced flytipping and a reduction in the number of bins supplied and needed to be emptied by the green wheeled bin rounds.

### Legal

- 6.5 There are no legal implications with regards to the subject matter of the report.

### Communities

- 6.6 Communities near to one of the 15 NRC's, from which the mixed dry recycling bins will be removed, would lose a local recycling facility. However, additional recycling capacity (extra or larger bins) would be supplied to residents on request.

### One Planet Sutton

- 6.7 It is unlikely that there would be any impact on the recycling rate through removing the mixed dry recycling banks as long as residents near to the NRC's affected are provided with the capacity they require enabling them to recycle these materials from their homes.

### Integrated Impact Assessment

- 6.8 An integrated impact assessment has been completed. It concludes that group affected by the removal of mixed dry recycling is that of residents that do not have any or enough recycling



facilities at home. Mitigation measures will be put in place to provide recycling bins to those that do not have recycling facilities at home and increase the number of bins where capacity is lower than required.

**7. Appendices and Background Documents**

<b>Appendix Letter</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix A	Neighbourhood Recycling Centres Map

<b>Background Documents</b>
None.

<b>Audit Trail</b>		
Version	Final	Date: 2 June 2015
<b>Consultation with other officers</b>		
<b>Officer</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments checked by</b>
Finance	Yes	Peter May
Legal	Yes	Fabiola Hickson