



To: Executive Councillor for Environmental and Waste Services: Councillor Jean Swanson
Report by: Jen Robertson - Waste Strategy Manager
Relevant scrutiny committee: Environment 11/3/2014 Scrutiny Committee
Wards affected: Abbey Arbury Castle Cherry Hinton Coleridge East Chesterton King's Hedges Market Newnham Petersfield Queen Edith's Romsey Trumpington West Chesterton

BRING BANK REVIEW

Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Bring Bank service covers banks which the council provides at public recycling points around the city. At present there are 25 sites, 4 of which are at supermarket car parks, 14 on council land and 7 on miscellaneous other sites.
- 1.2 These points offer residents a recycling outlet for a range of materials such as textiles, that cannot be recycled through the kerbside scheme, as well as segregated banks for paper, glass, cans and certain plastics, all of which are now collected at the kerbside.
- 1.3 There is a dedicated Council vehicle which collects the segregated materials from these sites. The other material banks are emptied by our contractors. Please see 3.9 for further details of these other banks.
- 1.4 Prior to the introduction of the blue bin scheme, this vehicle also collected segregated recyclate from flats and colleges. However, almost all of these collections have now been changed to the commingled blue bin collections.
- 1.5 This vehicle is therefore not now fully utilised and operational savings could be achieved if the banks at public recycling points were changed to commingled banks and the vehicle taken out of service. This would be easier for residents.

- 1.6 The additional income generated from the sale of segregated materials is no longer sufficient to offset the cost of running a dedicated vehicle.
- 1.7 Sorting capabilities of Materials Recycling Facilities (MRF) have improved over the years so that it is now possible to generate high quality recyclate from commingled materials. Improved glass-sorting technology enables mixed glass to be sent to glass-sorting facilities for sorting by colour, so that more of it can be used to make glass bottles.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the changing of segregated recycling banks at public recycling points in the City to commingled banks, in order to make the collections more efficient and reduce costs. This changed service to commence from the end of September 2014.
- 2.2 To approve the use of the existing containers, with new labelling explaining that all materials can subsequently be recycled in one container.

3. Background

- 3.1 Since the Council moved to commingled kerbside recycling blue bins in November 2009 there has been a gradual increase in tonnage collected through the kerbside scheme as more residents use blue bins and more flats have been provided with blue bins.
- 3.2 Most of this increase has been a result of improved and easier recycling provision for residents but some has been a result of a decline in use of the bring bank scheme. Tonnages of glass, paper and cans from bring banks have fallen over the past 4 years by 75%. In 2010/11 the glass, paper and can tonnage was 1,035 tonnes and in 2013/14 it will be approximately 275 tonnes.
- 3.3 Since April 2013 we have also been moving segregated collections from Colleges to paid-for commingled collections. This easier-to-use service has been very popular and we now have most of the Colleges included in this commercial recycling service.
- 3.4 This has resulted in a reduction in the usage of the vehicle employed for the segregated collections and therefore it now makes economic sense to change all the remaining segregated banks/bins at public recycling points to the commingled system.
- 3.5 This will also enable the existing blue bin vehicles to include collections from the public recycling points within their current

household collections rounds.

- 3.6 Although the blue bin vehicles are already operating at close to full capacity, they will be able to accommodate these extra collections for the time being as the impact is marginal because of the reduced usage of bring banks by the public.
- 3.7 Currently the recycling sites have different-coloured containers for the different materials collected. The container colours are:-
- paper - light blue
 - cans – yellow
 - plastic – orange/green
 - glass – 3 different colours (green, brown and white)
- 3.8 It is proposed to continue to use these containers so that no capital expenditure is required and to attach stickers to the containers to fully inform users of the fact that they are now suitable for a mixture of materials (ie glass, paper, cans and certain plastics). Signage will also be changed. Please see section (f) on Consultation and Communications.
- 3.9 Most of the sites have other banks (e.g. textiles, books and media, low energy light bulbs and batteries, small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)) and these will continue to be provided, with collections carried out by our various contractors. The Council is also increasing the provision of these banks so that residents have more local and convenient access to facilities for recycling materials that are not included within the list of blue bin materials.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

- There will be one off savings in the first year of £116,000 which equates to repairs and renewals funds built up to replace the vehicle which will no longer be required. The on-going revenue savings for vehicle, staffing and supplies budgets amount to £77,000 p.a. but this will be partly offset by a reduction in income from the sale of materials of £28,000 pa. This results in an on-going net saving of £49,000 p.a. with effect from 1/4/2015 compared to the on-going saving that has been included in the budget cycle of £25,000 (SR3297). The additional ongoing saving over and above that included in the budget papers amounting to £24,000 will partly offset the difference in the bulky collection saving which is included in a separate report within this agenda. The part-year saving relating to the revenue costs from October 2014 to March 2015 will be £24,500.

- The 2014/15 saving is predicted to be £140,500 for both the bring and bulky collection service changes compared to £60,000 (SR3298) which was included in the budget report in January which is an additional £80,500 saving for next financial year. The ongoing saving for 2015-16 onwards is currently estimated to be in the region of £61,000 pa for both services. This assumes that the bulky collection service retains the vehicle and the council does not receive any of the bulky collection income. The ongoing saving included in the budget papers totalled £115,000 pa (SR 3297 and SR3298). Once the detailed costs of the new bulky service is known the actual savings may differ from the savings predicted as part of the January budget report. Any under/overachievements would need to be found from existing budgets or be brought to committee as part of the 2015/16 budget report.

(b) **Staffing Implications** (if not covered in Consultations Section)

The bring bank vehicle currently operates with a driver and loader. These two members of staff will be employed on other vehicles where we currently have vacancies which have purposely been filled by temporary staff.

(c) **Equal Opportunities Implications**

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and there were no identified impacts.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

The recommendations made in this report have a low positive climate change impact. Reducing the collection fleet by one vehicle has a positive climate change impact. There will also be some reduction in vehicle movements from the transportation of glass to Harlow, but there will potentially be a corresponding increase in blue bin vehicle movements to the bulking station. Material is bulked up locally before onward transportation to the MRF.

(e) **Procurement**

There are contracts for the sale of paper, cans and plastics. These contracts end in two years time. However, in order to terminate early the council is required to give six months notice. If the recommendation is approved the council will give notice to the contractors. The glass contract has recently expired and we are currently dealing with a provider on an ad hoc basis.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

These changes have been discussed with staff. No formal consultation with staff is planned as the impact will be minimal.

Communication with residents will be carried out through all the usual means, e.g. through the media using news releases, Cambridge Matters, content on the council's website, Twitter and Facebook.

(g) **Community Safety**

There are no community safety issues.

5. Background papers

This background paper was used in the preparation of this report:

- Equality Impact Assessment for the Bring Bank review and associated savings.

6. Appendices

There are no appendices

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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