

EXETER CITY COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY
18 JANUARY 2011

EXECUTIVE
25 JANUARY 2011

RECYCLING PLAN (2011 - 2016)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present Members with a revised recycling plan for the next five years, 2011 – 2016.

2. CHALLENGES & PROPOSED NEW INITIATIVES

- 2.1 The challenge ahead for the Council is to sustain and improve recycling rates against a background of a reduction in the weight of packaging, and diminishing returns from the education and initiatives that the Council carries out to encourage recycling. In addition, there will be other challenges introduced by the commissioning of the Exeter Energy from Waste plant and a potential new large materials reclamation centre (a super-MRF) at Newton Abbot; these two major infrastructure projects will change the landscape of waste management in Exeter over the next 5 years.
- 2.2 The current Government's plans on waste management, when these become clearer, will also have a direct bearing on the way Exeter manages its recycling arrangements. In the interim the key areas proposed for review in the short term are briefly described below.

Bring bank sites

- 2.3 The new glass and paper collection vehicle has a weighing facility which enables each bring bank to be individually assessed for use. This information will be used to streamline the collection route, align the provision of banks with most use, and inform collection frequencies to avoid over-filling. It will facilitate a more efficient management system and help ensure the right mix of bank containers for each particular locality.

Garden waste collection

- 2.4 In addition to households renting brown bins, biodegradable sacks are available from selected retail outlets throughout the city. Approximately 30,000 bags were sold in 2009/10 at a cost to the customer of 60 pence per bag. However, the disadvantage of this system is that all roads in the City must be visited on the relevant collection day in case a bag is put out by a resident. The cost-effectiveness of this option will be examined, with the possibility of replacing the sacks with re-usable bags for hire.

Incentive scheme

- 2.5 Incentive schemes which reward those households with high recycling yields are highly topical currently. Some councils, such as the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, are already piloting such schemes in association with national retailers.

The Council will investigate the merits of such incentive schemes that encourage more recycling, and assess their relevance to Exeter.

3. RECOMMENDED

It is recommended that:

- 1) Scrutiny Committee – Community supports and Executive approves the Recycling Plan 2010-2016.

HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

S:PALP/ Committee/111SCC1
7.1.11

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report:**