

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Environmental Services Portfolio Holder

24 January 2011

AUTHOR/S: Executive Director (Operational Services) / Environment Services Manager

RECYCLING BRING BANK SERVICE REVIEW

Purpose

1. This report outlines the findings of the bring bank service review and makes recommendations for future bank provision.
2. This a key decision because
 - It is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area of the District comprising two or more wards (all wards).
 - It is made in the course of developing proposals to amend the policy frameworkand it was first published in the August 2010 Forward Plan.

Recommendations

3. That the Portfolio Holder agrees that:
 - (a) The bring bank service should focus on the collection of those materials for recycling that cannot be collected through the blue bin service where this can be done at minimum cost.
 - (b) Current materials should be migrated from the bring banks wherever possible to the blue bin service where this can be done cost effectively and at minimum risk
 - (c) Glass and can banks should be removed and replaced, wherever possible, with free of charge banks for materials such as textiles, shoes, books, CDs/DVDs and toys, which cannot be recycled through the blue bin service, thereby maximising recycling opportunities for residents, reducing cost and maximising income to the council
 - (d) Paper banks should be retained and serviced by Environment Operations at no additional cost, due to the risk of loss of material if they were removed.
 - (e) Parish councils and/or site owners should be consulted before any changes to specific sites are made. Where they would like to retain particular banks, which otherwise would be removed, it is proposed that that they cover all associated operating costs.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The recommendations will maximising recycling opportunities for residents, reduce costs and maximising income to the council

Background

5. There are currently sixty-six bring bank sites throughout South Cambridgeshire accepting at least one of the following materials for recycling:
 - (a) Paper

- (b) Glass bottles and jars
 - (c) Cans
 - (d) Cartons (e.g. Tetrapak)
 - (e) Textiles
 - (f) Shoes
 - (g) Books
6. There are significant variations between sites in terms of the number and type of banks provided and their degree of use. Due to space restrictions at sites and the lack of availability of sites generally, there is no scope to extend the range of materials collected through the banks.
7. The amount of material collected at bring banks has steadily fallen over time with a 60% reduction between 2003/04 and 2009/10 as residents have increasingly switched their recycling to the kerbside collection. Over the same period there has been a 74% increase in material collected at the kerbside and this move away from banks to kerbside is likely to continue following the introduction of the blue bin service in October 2010
8. There is a degree of duplication in the materials collected through the bring and kerbside schemes (e.g. glass, cans and paper). Between April 2010 to November 2010 only 10% of glass, cans and paper materials recycled were collected through the bring bank scheme with remainder being collected at the kerbside.
9. The bring bank service is provided through ten contractors that supply and empty banks at an annual cost of £15,800 (2010/11). The council has been involved in an exploratory joint tendering exercise by the RECAP Partnership for the provision of bring bank services¹. The aim of the tender was to provide a more cost effective and comprehensive bring bank service to the RECAP partners through economies of scale. The agreed proposal in the 2010/11 H&ES service plan for Environment Operations to take over the servicing of paper banks from October 2010 was postponed until the results of the RECAP joint tender were known.

Considerations

10. The results of the RECAP tender were not as anticipated. The cost of the provision and emptying of paper, cans and glass banks was in fact significantly greater than the council is currently paying. However, there were a range of additional materials e.g. DVD's, CD's, toys, waste electronic and electrical equipment (WEEE) that could be collected at no cost to the council.
11. With the introduction of the blue bin service and the tender results of the RECAP joint procurement project there is an opportunity to rationalise the bring banks service. A range of materials could be migrated from the banks to the blue bins e.g. paper, glass and cans, saving on collection costs at no additional cost to the blue bin service. Removal of these banks would also free up space to accommodate new banks, allowing the banks service to concentrate on the collection of materials that cannot be collected in the blue bin.
12. A number of the bring bank providers offer a free of charge service for the collection of books and textiles. Charities such as the Salvation Army (textiles) and Oxfam (textiles and books) provide banks across the district, with BCR and ECR providing

¹ RECAP Bring Bank Procurement Partners – Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire

textile and shoe banks. These materials are generally re-used and collecting through the bring bank service maintains the quality of materials.

13. There is a possibility however that if banks are removed not all materials from those banks would find their way into the blue bin. This is particularly relevant for paper as any loss of material could have a significant impact on the income from the blue bin service given the high value of paper being achieved through the new blue bin paper contract. Retaining the paper banks and proceeding with in-house servicing would prevent any loss of paper and can be achieved at no additional cost, as this has already been budgeted for.
14. It is also recognised that across South Cambridgeshire of the 51 sites with glass banks, 10 of these are located on licensed premises. The bring bank service is provided for household waste only and anecdotal evidence suggests glass banks are being used for commercial waste. Cambridgeshire County Council, as waste disposal authority, has expressed their concern regarding the payment of recycling credits for material, which they believe, derives from commercial premises. If commercial waste is being placed into bring banks this essentially means that residents are subsidising businesses for the disposal of their commercial waste. Migrating glass from the banks to the blue bin may therefore result in a loss of material, although it is not possible to quantify the effect of this at this time.
15. It is proposed to consult with parish councils and/or site owners before any changes to specific sites are made. Where they would like to retain particular banks, which otherwise would be removed, it is proposed that that they cover all associated operating costs.

Options

16. The Portfolio Holder has the option to:
 - (a) Do nothing
 - (b) Migrate materials from the bring banks to the blue bin service where this can be done cost effectively and at minimum risk allowing the bring banks to focus on materials that cannot be collected through the blue bin service by:
 - (i) Removing glass and can banks and replacing them with free of charge banks wherever possible to recycle a wider range of materials that cannot be collected through the blue bin such as textiles, shoes, books, CDs/DVDs and toys, thereby maximising recycling opportunities for residents and income to the council
 - (ii) Retaining paper banks to be serviced by Environment Operations at no additional cost

Implications

17. The Do Nothing option a) will continue to duplicate the collection of materials through the banks, material that can be collected more cost effectively through the blue bin service. The concerns of CCC over glass banks being used for commercial waste will not be addressed and there will be reduced opportunity to expand the range of materials collected at bring sites
18. Option b) to migrate material from the banks to the blue bin service, will enable materials to be recycled more cost effectively. By freeing up bank space it will also expand the range of materials for recycling that cannot be collected through the blue bin service at minimum cost.

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| 19. | Financial | Option b) will save contractor costs for the banks service |
| | Legal | None identified at this time |
| | Staffing | None identified at this time |
| | Risk Management | Achieved through regular performance and financial monitoring |
| | Equality and Diversity | None identified at this time |
| | Equality Impact Assessment completed | Yes Partial EQIA has identified negative impact for Race. A full impact assessment will be undertaken |
| | Climate Change | Rationalisation of the banks service will reduce vehicle movements so reducing CO2 emissions |

Consultations

20. It is proposed to consult with parish councils and/or site owners before any changes to specific sites are made.

Effect on Strategic Aims

21. Option b) will extend the range of materials that can be recycled through the banks service, contributing to the efficient and effective delivery of the council's recycling service, so contributing to the achievement of the council's Strategic Aims.

Conclusions / Summary

22. Usage of the banks service has been in decline as residents have made increasing use of the council's kerbside recycling service. There is significant variation in the degree of site usage with some sites collecting very little recycling material. There is a lack of space at existing sites for the recycling of new materials that cannot be recycled through the blue bin service.
23. The introduction of the blue bin service and the results of the RECAP joint tender project presents an opportunity to rationalise the banks service, migrating materials to the blue bin at no additional cost, saving contractor costs, installing new banks for additional materials that cannot be collected at kerbside, thereby extending recycling opportunities for residents.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

None

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