

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee: 8 April 2009

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**Subject: Fortnightly Collection of Dry Recyclate Pilot Scheme**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to report on the outcome of the 6 month fortnightly collection pilot scheme for dry recyclate (blue bin) which commenced in August 2008, and identify options for delivering an increased frequency of recyclate collections across the Council area and identify how effective our recycling programme is in terms of real impact.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** As part of the 2008/09 budget process the Council identified a sum of £70k to support a pilot scheme aimed at increasing recycling. A fortnightly collection pilot scheme for approximately 12,000 households commenced in August 2008. One collection route in the Vale of Leven area (Renton, Alexandria, Tullichewan, Balloch) and one collection route in the Clydebank area (Whitcrook, Linnvale, Drumry, Central Area and part of Dalmuir) were involved in the pilot scheme.
- 2.2** During the pilot scheme, the presentation levels (blue bins placed at the kerbside for emptying) indicated that households within the pilot areas were keen to participate in the increased collection frequency. Presentation levels of up to 80% were noted during the pilot scheme
- 2.3** The recyclate capture rates (the recyclable material within the bins) did not however increase significantly when compared to the same period, in the same areas, in the previous year. The pilot scheme ended in February 2009 and with the data available a cost/ benefit analysis will be carried out to establish the benefits accrued.
- 2.4** The current economic conditions have resulted in the markets for recycling materials being placed in a state of flux. The value of recyclate and the volumes required are difficult to forecast in the coming year.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** The materials collected for recycling by West Dunbartonshire are predominantly sold as raw materials for re-processing into recycled paper, metal and compost products. There are some white goods and furniture that are repaired and re-used. There are no products collected for recycling landfilled.

All of the data associated with the management and movement of waste in West Dunbartonshire including waste weights, waste types and destinations, is audited by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

The audit reports produced quarterly by SEPA confirm respectively the tonnages of waste that was recycled, composted and landfilled.

- 3.2** The Scottish Government has set the following recycling targets in its Zero Waste Policy;

40% by 2010

50% by 2013

60% by 2020

70% by 2025

West Dunbartonshire Council recycled 32.4% of its waste in 2007/08 and it is projected that a slightly improved recycling performance will be reported in the year to 31 March 2009

- 3.3.** The Scottish Government commissioned report entitled - An Analysis of Scottish Recycling Schemes, published in 2008 by Remade, concluded that the factors influencing high recovery rates for dry recycle kerbside collections are;

- collection frequency
- collection capacity
- the range of materials collected
- the collection frequency of residual waste

- 3.4** The findings of this study indicate that while West Dunbartonshire Council has put in place the infrastructure, and service provision, to facilitate recycling, it could do more to optimise the diversion of waste from landfill by considering the factors influencing high recovery.

- 3.5** The findings of the pilot scheme, which maintained residual waste collection on a weekly frequency, demonstrated that while residents were keen to participate, they did not recycle significant additional quantities of recyclable waste. This could be because the participating households continued to receive weekly collections of residual waste.

**3.6** On developing a solution to improving recycling rates, officers have engaged with Members to give an overview of options available to improve current performance at member briefing sessions. A copy of this presentation is included as Appendix 1.

**3.7** In order to allow Members the opportunity to consider and challenge the options available to improve recycling rates, a facilitated briefing session is planned for August 2009 to allow an informed discussion and debate to take place on the future waste management options for West Dunbartonshire Council

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** There are no personnel issues at this time.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** The Scottish Government has developed a Zero Waste Fund to expedite progress towards meeting Landfill Allowance obligations (details contained in Appendix 1), which would be suitable for a range of initiatives which divert waste from landfill. The Council will be allocated approximately £375k in year 2009/10 and possibly a similar figure in 2010/11 based on a formula agreed with CoSLA to implement waste diversion schemes.

**5.2** It should be noted that the Council could be financially penalised for failing to meet its Landfill Allowance obligations

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** Failure to increase recycling performance is regarded as a contributory risk to meeting the Councils Landfill Allowance Scheme obligations and its Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government.

#### **7. Conclusions**

**7.1** The pilot scheme for blue bin collections clearly demonstrated that householders within West Dunbartonshire are keen to participate in recycling activities.

**7.2** This pilot also demonstrated that little benefit was derived in additional waste being diverted from landfill while weekly residual waste collection was offered.

**7.3** Officers facilitated two briefing sessions to discuss and offer advice and options to Members on the way forward.

**7.4** To allow time to consider potential options available to Members, the presentation (appendix 1) should be considered as the basis for discussion at a facilitated briefing during August 2009.

## **8. Recommendations**

### **8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:**

**(i) note that the blue bin fortnightly collection pilot scheme generated good participation levels but failed to significantly increase recycling rates.**

**(ii) note that materials collected for recycling are predominantly reprocessed. These figures are audited by SEPA.**

**(iii) agree that the Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development organising a facilitated Members' briefing in August 2009 to debate a way forward to increase recycling levels in West Dunbartonshire.**

**(iv) note that a report will be brought to a future meeting for consideration of policy proposals to meet waste management targets.**

**Elaine Melrose**

**Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development**

**Date: 10 March 2009**

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<b>Persons to Contact:</b>	Angus Bodie - Manager of Roads, Waste and Transport, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, telephone: 01389 737598, e-mail: <a href="mailto:angus.bodie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk">angus.bodie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk</a>
	Rodney Thornton - Section Head, Waste and Transport, Richmond Street, Clydebank, telephone: 01389 738731, e-mail: <a href="mailto:rodney.thornton@west-dunbarton.gov.uk">rodney.thornton@west-dunbarton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 - Waste Management Challenges for West Dunbartonshire Council
<b>Background papers:</b>	Recyclate Recovery - Remade Report 2008, An Analysis of Scottish Recycling Schemes - 2006/2007
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All wards