

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN REVIEW

Recycling

ORIGINAL POSITION - 1999/2000

Challenge

Recycling in Guildford has developed over a number of years and consisted primarily of a 'bring' scheme. Residents could take their material for recycling to a number of banks located at 45 sites borough wide. Each site consisted of a number of banks, which, collectively, would accept glass (brown, green or clear), newspaper and magazines, cardboard and mixed steel and aluminium cans. There were also a number of other facilities within the Borough provided by charitable organisations which collected textiles, and shoes while those at the Slyfield Civic Amenity Site accepted scrap metal, glass, paper, cardboard, cans, textiles, car batteries, garden waste, aluminium foil, engine oil and oil filters, hazardous chemicals and asbestos.

In addition a Mobile Recycling Service (MRS) visited on a weekly schedule, rural village locations in Worplesdon, Ockham and Effingham while a separate trial for paper recycling was also conducted in the Stoughton area of Guildford.

Green garden waste could be recycled through the sale of subsidised composters while a chipping service could be booked, for a modest charge, to convert 'woody' items such as branches or heavy hedge clippings into a mulch for the garden. A free Green Cone was available to residents to deal with their kitchen waste and other putrescible material. A Christmas tree recycling campaign was run in January with several locations advertised in the local press.

A limited amount of commercial recycling was carried out involving cardboard, white letter quality paper and drinks cans.

Consultation

The views of the Guildford Citizens Panel on recycling facilities were sought during the Summer 2000. The final report has now been published which showed a response rate of 75% and the satisfaction rates of the different aspects of recycling are as follows:

Aspects of household waste recycling	Very/fairly satisfied %
The location of the recycling services	80
Ease of access to recycling services	75
The range of items you can recycle at recycling centres	73
The provision of recycling facilities overall	65
The cleanliness of recycling centres	54
The frequency with which recycling bins are emptied at recycling centres	47

WHERE WE ARE NOW

On 5th June 2000 a 12 month trial of a kerbside collection of recyclables was introduced to 10,000 properties across the Borough. The kerbside collection accepts newspapers, magazines and mixed cans on a two week frequency using a 53 litre green box and a Will Engineering Kerbsider collection vehicle. The

vehicle can accommodate upto five separate compartments allowing a degree of flexibility in the type and quantity of material collected. A user postal survey was conducted in November 2000 six months after the start of the trial with the following results.

- 87% of respondents thought the service either excellent or good
- 95% participated in the scheme at different times
- 50% setting out their box on a regular frequency.

Residents were also asked which materials they would like to see included in the scheme. Glass was by far the most popular followed by cardboard, plastic and garden waste in that order. Aluminium foil, textiles, shoes and kitchen waste were all low priorities. Discussions are now underway with a private contractor to introduce a limited plastic recycling scheme at ten sites throughout the Borough, while investigations into the likelihood of collections for glass and cardboard are being pursued.

Comparison

As part of the comparison function Officers have attended two Beacon Council Open Days. The first held at St. Edmondsbury Borough Council at Bury St. Edmonds, Suffolk and the second at Project Integra at Fleet, Hampshire during September 2000 and October 2000 respectively. Members have also become actively involved when at their meeting on 2nd October 2000 the Policy and Review (Environment and Resources) Committee established a Recycling Working Group comprising of Members and Officers. The Committee also recognised that the involvement of representatives from outside organisations would be essential to the working of the Group and agreed that they should be invited to participate when appropriate. The Working Group subsequently agreed that it would be beneficial to undertake site visits to view the operation of other successful schemes, consequently visits were made to

- The London Borough of Sutton,
- The London Borough of Hounslow
- The Isle of Wight.

Officers also carried out an additional flying visit to Adur Borough Council to discuss specific operational matters associated with glass collection.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Compete

The Working Group has looked at both in-house and contracted out services and these options will be considered for future service provision. Officers have also been requested to investigate two separate methods of collection in preparation of extending the kerbside Borough wide.

- The Hounslow model based on stillage
- The Adur model based on a 'kerbsider' type vehicle

In addition the Group has agreed that the Council should investigate the development and promotion of community composting, together with home composting, in conjunction with voluntary organisations such as SCRAPP and the Guildford Environmental Forum.

The existing bring bank system is to be maintained and additional local recycling sites are to be provided where residents do not have easy access to either the kerbside collection or the existing 'igloo' type banks.