

Report of Director of Environment and Housing

Report to West (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 29 January 2013

Subject: Alternate Weekly Collections Update

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Almost 170,000 households in Leeds City Council now receive the new bin service (Alternate Weekly Collections), including approximately 21,000 properties in the Outer West area. This includes approximately 1000 households that went live with Phase One in April 2013, and 20,000 households that went live with Phase Two in November 2013 in the area.
2. Early indications of the latest roll-out of the new bin service (AWC) are promising, showing a decrease in the amount of general waste and an increase in the amount of recycling collected when compared to tonnages collected in the same period of the previous year. It should be noted that these are very early indications, and a more accurate picture of the success of the new bin service will be attained over the next few weeks following the bedding in of the service and the Christmas period.
3. Plans for future roll outs to remaining suitable properties in the city are currently being devised to meet the council's targets for the 2014/15 financial year.

Recommendations

4. Members are to note the contents of this report.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide members of the West (Outer) Area Committee with an update of the introduction of Alternate Weekly Collections (AWC) in the area

2 Background information

- 2.1 As approved by the Council's Executive Board, Alternate Weekly Collections are to be implemented in phases to suitable properties in Leeds to help support the achievement of the Waste Strategy objectives and targets. Alternate Weekly Collections seek to achieve the following benefits:

- To make it easier for residents to recycle more
- To help the city to reach the targets outlined in the council's Waste Strategy of recycling 55% of household waste by 2016 and to exceed 60% recycling in the long term.
- To reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites to achieve targeted savings of £2.5m per annum on completion of the AWC roll-out to 80% of properties in the city.
- To reduce CO2 and harmful gases which contribute to global warming

- 2.2 The first phase has now been introduced to 56,000 households in the South of the city, with a marked success in increasing recycling rates and reducing general waste to go to landfill. Maintaining this improvement on a City wide basis, as per the strategy, anticipates that the service will result in the Council reaching its target of a £2.5m annual saving.

- 2.3 The second phase was introduced to 113,000 properties on 18 November 2013 in the West, North West and North East parts of the city as well as Middleton Park. The subsequent roll out programme aims to deliver alternate weekly collections to suitable properties representing 80% of the city by 2014/15.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The West (Outer) Area Committee has had properties included in both Phase One and Phase Two of the roll-out. Phase One included just over 1000 properties in the Farnley and Wortley ward (in the Low Moor Side area). As previously reported, properties in the Phase One area have continued to see an increase in recycling tonnages and a decrease in residual tonnages when comparing to the same period prior to the new bin service going live.
- 3.2 Phase Two included almost 20,000 properties from the Outer West Area, most in the Calverly and Farsley and Pudsey wards with a small number of properties (38) in the Farnley and Wortley ward. Only 4% and 8% of properties in the Calverly and Farsley and Pudsey wards respectively were not included to receive the new bin service at this time. These properties consist of households collected on 'non-frontline' routes (including the Farms route and Hard-to-access routes) as well as

properties excluded as a result of insufficient capacity for additional bins (e.g. multi-occupancy properties).

- 3.3 Very early indications of the impact of Phase Two of the new bin service on recycling are promising, with the first 4 weeks of the service going live showing a decrease in general waste and an increase in recycling when comparing to tonnages collected in the same period of the previous year. It should be noted that these are very early indications, and a more accurate picture of the success of the new bin service will be attained over the coming weeks following the bedding in of the service and the Christmas period.
- 3.4 Plans for future roll outs to the remaining suitable properties in the city are currently being devised to meet the council's targets for the 2014/15 financial year. For the Outer North West Area, the majority of properties that have not yet received the new bin service fall on the inner city routes in the Farnley and Wortley ward. As in keeping with the approach used for delivering Phase One and Phase Two, once the plans are finalised affected ward members will be briefed and affected residents communicated to through a combination of Waste and Recycling Advisor activities, press releases, website updates, social media and direct mailing.
- 3.5 Christmas collections, between the 22nd of December to the 5th of January, have been reported to have performed well on the Alternate Weekly Collection routes in the area.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.2 The Alternate Weekly Collections project team have liaised closely with local ward members throughout the design and implementation of Phase One and Phase Two.
- 4.3 A series of member briefings were held for all those Councillors whose wards fell into the Phase Two area. These briefings and regular highlight reports report on the progress made and key tasks ahead. Importantly, they also provide an early opportunity for Councillors to help shape the design of the new service in their wards.
- 4.4 One of the keys to the successful approach adopted for Phase One was the involvement of collection crews during the planning stages. This was replicated for Phase Two. A series of workshops were held with crews working within the Phase Two area so that they could be fully involved in the design of their new alternate weekly refuse and recycling collection routes.
- 4.5 The service has also worked closely with the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board during the evaluation of Phase One, with key recommendations being included as part of the planning for Phase Two. These include consideration for potential adverse weather conditions, continuation of the implementation of the 'no side waste' policy, carrying out a greater number of roadshows for the public to provide information concerning AWC and including Christmas collection

arrangements within the household information pack mailed to residents. The final report and recommendations of that board were reported in October 2013 to Executive Board.

4.6 As a result of consultation with ward members, waste collection crews and locality operations, roadshow locations and a number of 'hot spot' areas within the Phase Two area were identified. Waste and Recycling Advisors were targeted to these areas to provide residents advice on managing their waste and increasing their recycling. Within the Outer West Area, this included areas already receiving a fortnightly recycling collection but weekly residual collection as well as areas that have higher levels of recycling contamination and/or low recycling presentation.

4.7 Waste and Recycling Advisors are continuing to work closely with the waste collection crews after the new bin service was implemented to identify areas with high levels of side waste and/or recycling contamination and are continuing to engage with residents in these areas. The advisors are also visiting residents in both the Phase one and Phase Two areas to advise on specific queries.

4.8 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.9 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed to cover the city wide roll out of AWC. Processes are in place to enable groups identified in the EIA to participate without disadvantage.

4.10 Examples include applying the assisted collection policy to the new bin service area and targeting Waste and Recycling Advisors to deliver door step communications.

4.11 Council policies and City Priorities

4.12 Alternate Weekly Collections are a key contributor to achieving the Waste Strategy targets as follows:

- To recycle 55% of household waste by 2016.
- To exceed 60% recycling in the longer-term.
- To recover value from 90% of all household waste by 2020.

4.13 Resources and value for money

4.14 Through observed trends of Phase One and now Phase Two, there is increasing confidence that the full roll out of AWC to suitable properties representing 80% of the city will generate savings of £2.5m per annum

4.15 However, the service will need to continue to monitor this position closely over the following weeks.

4.16 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.17 No specific issues.

4.18 Risk Management

4.19 Risks and issues were identified in the planning and delivery of Phase One and Phase Two and managed through existing project and programme arrangements.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Early indications of the effect AWC has had on increasing recycling tonnages and meeting financial targets are promising. However, this will continue to be monitored to achieve a more accurate picture.

5.2 As the monitoring continues, plans for future roll outs to remaining suitable properties in the city are currently being devised to meet the council's targets for the 2014/15 financial year. Once finalised the plans, including affected areas and timescales, will be communicated to affected members. Affected residents will subsequently be communicated to through a combination of Waste and Recycling Advisor activities, press releases, website updates, social media and direct mailing.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are to note the contents of the report.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.