

**LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES****CABINET****DATE:** Thursday 23 rd May 2013**REPORT OF:** STRATEGIC CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT,  
PLANNING, PARKS AND HIGHWAYS**TITLE OF  
DECISION** EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE RECYCLING TASK GROUP**WARDS:** All**KEY DECISION?: YES/NO****IF YES, IN FORWARD PLAN?: YES****For general release****1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

1.1 The Environment, Sustainability and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a Recycling Task Group in September 2012 to examine the Council's approach to recycling with a view to reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS****2.1**

- Cabinet notes the work of the Recycling Task Group in producing the final report (Appendix 2)
- Cabinet agrees the actions outlined in the table of responses (appendix 1)

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 The rising cost of Landfill means the Council now spends over £4m per annum on sending waste to landfill sites and other treatment. Landfill sites are reducing in number as sites are filled and the landfill tax escalator increases the cost for each tonne of waste by £8 per tonne per annum on top of the gate fees.
- 3.2 In September 2012, the Environment, Sustainability and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up a task group to examine the Council's approach to recycling with a view to reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. To ensure this piece of work was manageable and achievable the task group decided to focus on the following key areas (a) Communication, Promotion and Education, (b) Recycling Options for Flats and (c) Food Waste.
- 3.3 The table in Appendix 1 outlines the Executive response to the recommendations of the Recycling Task Group. This includes stating whether the recommendation has been accepted, the service lead, details of the reason for the response, the actions to be taken and an estimate of timescales for the actions.

#### **4 FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 A number of the recommendations would have an impact on resources if implemented. This may take the form of additional workload for existing staff or additional expenditure if external resource is required. There are already budgets in place for recycling and door stepping campaigns of £96,000 and these are anticipated to be able to accommodate the proposal set out in the response to the recommendations.

#### **5. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None relevant at the current time.

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None at the current time.

#### **7. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

- 7.1 The Recycling Task Group consulted a number of people either directly engaged in recycling and waste management together with consulting RSL Management and other group who could influence the enhancement of the recycling service.

#### **8. WIDER CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

<b>8.1 POLICY IMPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS</b>
There are a wide variety of policy considerations that have to be taken into account across this subject. There is a National Waste Strategy, the Mayor's Waste Strategy and the West London Waste Prevention Strategy. There are also regulatory and other considerations such as the Environmental Protection Act.
<b>8.2 RISK CONSIDERATIONS</b>
N/A
<b>8.3 EQUALITY IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS</b>
<p>The task group understands the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Dependent on the recommendations that are approved in the final report an initial Equality Impact Needs Assessment (EINA) may need to be undertaken for some/ all of them as an integral part of policy development prior to implementation.</p> <p>A particular challenge for the Council, in response to the task group's recommendations, will be to guarantee that any communication (strategy) is</p>

both targeted and general with the aim of ensuring everyone understands how to recycle.

#### **8.4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The environmental issues associated with waste and recycling are significant and there are a number of tiers of strategy/plan/legislation and regulation that the Council is required to comply with.

#### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Please refer to the task group's main report which includes a section on "Background Reading".

#### **11. APPENDICES**

There are two appendices to the report,

Appendix 1 – Executive Response to the recommendations of the Recycling Task Group

Appendix 2 – Recycling Task Group Report

#### **12. CONTACTS**

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