

# ITEM 10 – APPENDIX E

## WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 8 JULY 2014

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 17 JUNE 2014

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**Title:**

**RECYCLING IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Donal O’Neill]**

**[Wards Affected: All]**

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**Summary and purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to look at the Council’s current recycling performance in detail two years after the implementation of a commingled recycled system, identifying the present and future challenges associated with improving on current performance, and then setting out a range of initiatives which are either in progress or could be pursued to further increase recycling levels and reduce residual waste. The Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report at its meeting on 17 June 2014 and its observations are set out below.

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**How this report relates to the Council’s Corporate Priorities:**

This report relates to the Council’s **Environment** priority by setting out proposals to further improve the performance of the recycling service, with the aim of achieving the Corporate Plan target of 60% recycling by 2015. It also relates to the Council’s **Value for Money** priority, as much of the recyclable material in the waste stream now carries a positive value and will therefore generate additional income if captured for recycling rather than disposed of via landfill or incineration.

**Financial Implications:**

The financial implications are detailed in the Action Plan.

**Legal Implications:**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

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**Background**

1. In April 2012 Waverley Borough Council replaced its ‘kerbside sort’ recycling service with a commingled recycling system. This, alongside a programme of bring site rationalisation and the introduction of weekly food waste collections across the borough resulted in Waverley’s recycling rate increasing by around 15- 20% to between 55-60%, and put the Council among the top performers in the county (and in the upper quartile nationally).
2. Following this initial surge however, the rate has now stabilised at around 50%, which is some way short of the Corporate Plan target to achieve a

recycling rate of 60% by 2015. The Recycling Improvement Action Plan at Annexe 1 looks at the Council's current recycling performance in detail, identifies the present and future challenges associated with improving on current performance, and then sets out a range of initiatives which are either in progress or could be pursued to further increase recycling levels and reduce residual waste.

### **Observations from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

3. The Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report at its meeting on 17 June and general observations from the meeting are noted below.
- The Committee felt that this was a good opportunity to review the bring site closures which took place in 2012.
  - The Committee felt that there was a need to do more to encourage supermarkets to minimise packaging and provide packaging in a recyclable form (particularly plastics) as well as to ask for better and more easily-understood labelling about what was and wasn't recyclable to help members of the public.
  - There was confusion about what plastic could and couldn't be recycled and there needed to be a clearer message about this to residents; the Committee asked for more information on the web about why something was and wasn't recyclable and information about the symbols.
  - The Committee asked that the recycling film of the MRF operation (currently available on the website) be advertised more widely, possibly to include leisure centres and schools.
  - There was some concern about increasing the kerbside service to include textiles and Waste Electrical items, and whether this would require more bins outside properties and more vehicles on the road. It was noted that, if proposals to introduce this service are approved, textiles and waste electricals would be collected from bags and not bins.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that

1. the Recycling Improvement Action Plan at Annexe 1 be adopted; and
2. officers be asked to provide a report on progress against the Action Plan to the January 2015 meeting of Executive.

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### **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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