

Report on	Brown Bin Food Waste Scheme Project/Funding update
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the success of the Re-launch of the brown bin scheme and to seek approval for expenditure of funding on a second phase of Food Waste Communications.
2.0	Background
2.1	At the Committee meeting in May members were updated on the successful Re-launch of the Councils organic waste kerbside collection scheme in order to focus on the diversion of food waste from black bins to brown bins so as to comply with the new requirements of the Food Waste (NI) Regulations thereby improving our recycling rate and saving money.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Over the past six months new "Recycling to the Max" Information Packs, including a free roll of kitchen caddy liners, leaflet and new bin labels, have been delivered to all of the households in the district (approximately 54,000 No.) which was a significant undertaking. A total of £65,000 funding was obtained from DAERA to assist with this initiative/project.
3.2	<p>The distribution of the Recycling Information Packs was supported by an intensive communications campaign throughout the period which included the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of new Food Waste livery on refuse vehicles (see appendix 1) • Photo-calls with Chair and associated features in local press/radio • Updates on Council website, social media and Bin-Ovation App • Feature in Insight Council magazine
3.3	The campaign generated a great deal of interest/queries from the general public and requests for the provision of brown bins and/or kitchen caddies from householders who had never previously received one. As a result approximately 800 No. additional brown bins and 1100 No. kitchen caddies were provided, free of charge, to householders over the six month period (charges for the purchase of brown bins were re-introduced at the start of October). As a result the Council is now fully compliant with its legal obligations under the Food Waste (NI) Regulations 2005 which require a container for food waste collection to be made available to each household in its district.

3.4	<p>Figures for the April to June quarter, when compared to the same quarter last year, have confirmed that the campaign is working very well, showing a 6.7% increase in the amount of compostable material collected from brown bins with a corresponding decrease in the amount of residual waste collected in black bins (as per breakdown shown in below table)</p> <table><tr><td></td><td><i>April to June 2016</i></td><td><i>April to June 2017</i></td><td><i>Variance (%)</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Black bin tonnage</i></td><td><i>6868</i></td><td><i>6410</i></td><td><i>-458 tonnes (- 6.7%)</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Brown bin tonnage</i></td><td><i>3780</i></td><td><i>4035</i></td><td><i>+ 55 tonnes (+6.7%)</i></td></tr></table>		<i>April to June 2016</i>	<i>April to June 2017</i>	<i>Variance (%)</i>	<i>Black bin tonnage</i>	<i>6868</i>	<i>6410</i>	<i>-458 tonnes (- 6.7%)</i>	<i>Brown bin tonnage</i>	<i>3780</i>	<i>4035</i>	<i>+ 55 tonnes (+6.7%)</i>
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3.5	<p>A further increase in the amount of food waste collected is expected to be reported for the last (July to September) quarter given the fact that not all Recycling Information Packs and additional brown bins/caddies had been distributed by the end of June.</p>												
3.6	<p>However in order to sustain this performance and help drive further improvements it is proposed to undertake a second phase of Food Waste Communications before the end of the year. This will involve the application of another “No Food Waste” sticker to the lids of black bins throughout the district reminding householders to use their brown bins for food waste all the year round (sample of reminder sticker included at appendix two).</p>												
3.7	<p>In order to assist with this second phase of communications a funding application (to purchase the necessary stickers) was submitted on 20th September to DAERA, via WRAP Local Authority Support, and I am pleased to report that a Letter of Offer for £5,300 was received one month later on 20th October (copy included at appendix three).</p>												
4.0	Other Considerations												
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>This latest letter of offer brings the total amount of funding secured by Environmental Services for waste management projects in Mid Ulster district to approximately £320k. The cost of providing the additional brown bin and caddies will be more than offset by savings in residual waste treatment compared to processing of brown bin material.</p> <p>Human: A significant amount of officer time has been involved in the Re-launch campaign</p>												
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Each householder in the district is now being offered the same level of service in relation to refuse and recycling i.e. a fortnightly collection of black, blue and brown bins.</p>												
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>The Council is now fully complaint with its legal obligations under the Food Waste (NI) Regulations 2005 which require a container for food waste collection to be made available to each household in its district.</p>												
5.0	Recommendation(s)												

	Members are asked to note the contents of this report and to endorse the second phase of Food Waste Communications and acceptance/expenditure of related funding as outlined.
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6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Photograph of new Food Waste livery on refuse collection vehicle
6.2	Proposed No Food Waste sticker
6.3	WRAP/DAERA Project Funding Agreement