

Report on	Proposed Kerbside Recycling Trial Project
Date of Meeting	9 th March 2021
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 seek approval to undertake a kerbside refuse/recycling trial based on an increased capacity for recyclables alongside a reduced capacity for residual waste.
2.0	Background
2.1	In 2019/20 Mid Ulster District Council achieved a household waste recycling rate of 58.8% (the highest rate of all eleven Councils in N Ireland) alongside a household landfill rate of 3.7% (the lowest rate of all local Councils) placing the Council at the top of the league for waste management performance for the fifth year running.
2.2	<p>However, the Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 which came into effect on 18th December 2020 set the following revised targets for recycling and landfill reduction in relation to municipal waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <i>by 2025, the preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste shall be increased to at least 55% by weight;</i> (ii) <i>by 2030, the preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste shall be increased to at least 60% by weight;</i> (iii) <i>by 2035, the preparing for re-use and the recycling of municipal waste shall be increased to at least 65% by weight; and</i> (iv) <i>by 2035 measures the amount of municipal waste landfilled shall be reduced to 10% or less of the total amount of municipal waste generated</i>
2.3	Whilst we have already exceeded (from a household waste perspective) the 55% target set for 2025 and it is hoped to achieve the 60% target set for 2030 in 2022 further work will be required to achieve the longer term target of 65% set for 2035. It should be noted these revised targets are based on municipal waste which includes commercial waste similar in nature i.e. not just waste from households.
3.0	Main Report

3.1	<p>Two documents relevant to the proposal outlined in this paper were presented to the Environment Committee meeting in September 2020 namely:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Response to DAERA consultation on Future Recycling and Separate Collection of Waste of a Household Nature in Northern Ireland and; (ii) Revised Waste Collection Service Policy for Mid Ulster District Council
3.2	<p>With regard to (i) above proposal 6 of the consultation stated that <i>“All Councils in Northern Ireland should be required to restrict capacity for residual waste from households to help divert more materials into the recycling waste streams”</i>.</p> <p>Our response to the consultation agreed with the option that Councils should be required to restrict residual waste capacity, but on the condition of also enhancing the recycling collections (it was noted that enhancements to recycling collections could be made by either increasing the range of materials collected, increasing the frequency of the recycling collections, or increasing the available recycling container capacity). Whilst we are waiting on DAERA to publish a summary of the consultation responses and their views on same it is likely that this proposal will feature prominently in some form in future waste management policy for N Ireland.</p>
3.3	<p>In relation to (ii) above section 7.2.4 of our new Waste Collection Policy states that <i>“The Council reserves the right to decrease of residual waste capacity and/or increase recyclable waste capacity for householders as is necessary to meet future legislative waste management targets”</i>.</p>
3.4	<p>It is therefore proposed to undertake a kerbside refuse/recycling trial based on an increased capacity for recyclables alongside a reduced capacity for residual waste to test the effectiveness of such service provision for potential roll out in the future.</p>
3.5	<p>Due to cost and logistics the proposed trial will be relatively small scale in nature to include approximately 500 households making up almost half of an urban route. The alternative refuse/recycling service provision to be trialled would be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The provision of a smaller 180 litre black bin for residual waste to replace the larger 240 litre container (which will be removed from the householder) to be emptied on the existing fortnightly collection cycle and (ii) The provision of a second 240 litre blue bin for mixed recyclable waste (in addition to the existing 240 litre container) to be emptied on the existing fortnightly collection cycle on alternate weeks to the black bin. <p>Therefore, overall waste storage capacity would increase by 180 litres per fortnight.</p>
3.6	<p>The route selected will be based in Magherafelt town for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) no future route optimisation/changes are planned in this area (ii) this area has responded well to recycling initiatives in the past (iii) some good background data exists on waste compositional analysis

3.7	The timing of the trial will be dependent on a return to normality following the current pandemic as this is currently impacting on waste generation at home.
4.0	Other considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>The cost of providing the additional wheeled bins (approximately £27k) will be met through the Recycling Fund annual payment (£30k) provided under the terms and conditions of our residual waste treatment contract with Regen Waste, Newry.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the trial, if successful, will lead to an overall reduction in waste processing costs i.e. the extra costs of processing the additional recyclable waste will be more than offset by a reduction in the tonnage of residual waste processed.</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>The additional resources required i.e. time taken to empty second blue bins will be monitored as part of the trial and fed back into the overall cost/benefit analysis.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>From a health and safety perspective a route where blue bins are presently on their own will be selected to reduce any potential issues with collection points.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>The alternative kerbside service provision will be trialled to approx. 500 households</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>It will be necessary to select an urban route for the reasons outlined at section 3.6</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is therefore recommended that approval is granted to undertake a kerbside refuse/recycling trial based on an increased capacity for recyclables alongside a reduced capacity for residual waste to approximately 500 households in Magherafelt.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	None