

Report to Safer Cleaner Greener Standing



Date of meeting: 10 July 2012

Subject: Progress on introduction of recycling in flats

SCRUTINY

Officer contact for further information: Qasim (kim) Durrani



Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

To note the progress made on recycling of waste in flat blocks.

Report:

1. There are a total of 420 blocks of flats in the district consisting of 7,854 individual flats. All residents of the flats are able to take part in the dry recycling services offered by the Council by presenting their recycling in clear sacks. In order to provide a comprehensive collection service, the Council has implemented a programme of 'bespoke' waste and recycling facilities in flats. This involves surveying a block of flats for suitability of placing communal containers for collection and reaching an agreement with managing agents.
2. Out of the total of 420 blocks of flats, 302 have already benefited from the installation of individual recycling services. Currently, wheelie bins are on order for 7 blocks and final agreements are being signed with the managing agents of a further 30 blocks of flats, following which containers will be installed. Once these containers are installed the number of blocks of flats that have communal containers for recycling will rise to 339.
3. This will leave 81 blocks of flats with no communal recycling facilities. Out of these, 22 blocks are deemed unsuitable for installation of waste and recycling facilities, due to lack of storage space. Work on the remaining 59 blocks is being progressed and is at various stages of development.
4. Operationally some blocks of flats have high contamination levels. This is caused by some residents not using the containers correctly or the managing agents failing to take responsibility for the waste arrangements. This creates difficulties as the recycling crews are unable to empty the contaminated bins. This then requires the attendance of a refuse crew to collect the contaminated recycling, to take to landfill. This can create delays in collection especially if the refuse crew can not attend before the scheduled fortnightly collection of refuse.
5. Publicity campaigns are being undertaken to raise resident awareness in the correct use of containers. Officers will also investigate the use of enforcement powers if the contamination continues to cause difficulties.