
Subject:	RECYCLING AND WASTE PERFORMANCE
Meeting and Date:	Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Monday 11th November 2019
Report of:	Mandy Pile, Waste Services Manager
Classification:	Unrestricted

Purpose of the report:	To provide an overview of the Council's recycling and waste performance, including comparative information against other authorities in Kent and nationally. The overview explains what materials are currently recycled at the kerbside and identifies what is currently being done and the future plans to increase the recycling rate.
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Recommendation:	N/A
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1. Summary

It is now more than 10 years since the East Kent Districts (Dover DC, Thanet DC, Canterbury CC and Folkestone & Hythe DC) formed a partnership with Kent County Council with the aim of delivering a consistent collection scheme across the East Kent districts which not only delivered savings but streamlined the four diverse recycling and waste collection methods that existed at that time.

In 2011 an enhanced recycling and waste collection scheme was introduced across the Dover district which allowed residents to recycle a wide range of materials at the kerbside, for the household waste that could not be recycled a fortnightly collection of residual waste was implemented. The new scheme has seen recycling rates rise from 31.9% in 2010/11 to 47% in 2018/9 and the kilograms of waste produced per household per annum generated fall from 532.19kgs/ph/pa to 354.4kgs/ph/pa.

2. Background and Introduction

2.1 The Council's Recycling and Waste contract was awarded to Veolia UK in 2010 and it runs from 16th January 2011 until 15th January 2021.

2.2 As part of the contract award an enhanced recycling scheme was provided to all residents across the district, this was rolled out from September 2011 until April 2012.

2.3 During the roll out period residents were delivered a 240ltr blue lidded wheeled bin, to allow for a fortnightly collection of recycling; in the blue bin you can recycle.

- Food and drinks cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic pots, tubs and trays (from the kitchen or bathroom)
- Beverage cartons i.e. Tetrapak
- Kitchen foil and metal food trays
- Empty aerosol cans

- 2.4 Residents who were unable to store a wheeled bin were issued with a blue box to enable them to recycle the same materials.
- 2.5 The black box already used in the district was repurposed for paper and cardboard recycling at the kerbside. The box is also collected fortnightly at the same time as the blue lidded wheeled bin (or blue box).
- 2.6 Due to the enhanced recycling collection the waste that could not be recycled at the kerbside was reduced considerably and was therefore moved to a fortnightly collection, with waste collected in a 180ltr wheeled bin; purple sacks are provided to residents who were unable to store a wheeled bin in their garden.
- 2.7 To ensure that food waste was not left to rot and start to smell for two weeks in the wheeled bin, a weekly collection for food waste was launched at the same time. A 23ltr food waste bin was delivered to all residents, along with a smaller kitchen caddy and a supply of compostable food waste bags to encourage residents to recycle their food waste.
- 2.8 Leading up to and during the roll out of the new scheme, workshops, waste clinics and road shows were held across the district to promote the enhanced recycling scheme and changes to waste collection.

3. Recycling Rates

- 3.1 The Kent Resource Partnership Annual Report 2018/ 2019 was released in October 2019, it provides recycling rates for the Kent Authorities for the past six years. The table below has been taken from the report and shows the recycling rates across Kent for the past 6 years, Dover District Council has the 5th highest recycling rate in Kent for 2018/19 and has consistently exceeded England's recycling rate since 2016.

Council	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Ashford Borough Council	41.92%	55.32%	53.1%	55.18%	56.6%	53.4%
Canterbury City Council	48.5%	48.4%	43.2%	44.4%	43.5%	46.3%
Dartford Borough Council	26.6%	27.6%	25.6%	25.2%	25.2%	25.9%
Dover District Council	44.2%	42.4%	41.7%	44.7%	47.3%	47.0%
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	44.6%	47.6%	44%	42.5%	45.3%	48.0%
Gravesham Borough Council	24.5%	34.2%	35%	34.5%	40.7%	42.2%
Maidstone Borough Council	46.6%	49.1%	47.8%	49.9%	51.1%	51.4%
Sevenoaks Borough Council	32.8%	33.4%	31.9%	38.3%	38.1%	37.5%
Swale Borough Council	34.2%	40.3%	36.9%	41.6%	41.2%	42.7%
Thanet District Council	30.3%	33.9%	31.6%	33.8%	34.9%	36.3%
Tonbridge and Maling Borough Council	43.1%	42.4%	41.5%	42.5%	41.7%	41.9%
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	46.3%	46.7%	45.6%	49.1%	48.4%	47.8%
Kent Resource Partnership Totals	43.6%	45.6%	44.1%	46.3%	46.7%	47.2%
England's Recycling Rate (excl iba)	44.2%	44.8%	43.9%	44.2%	44.4%	45.2%

3.2 Recycling rates are calculated in line with the guidance provided when this was reported as a national indicator NI192; the national indicator was discontinued in 2012 but we have continued to report this locally (WAS011).

3.3 The recycling calculation is calculated to include all household waste defined under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the then Controlled Waste Regulations 1990 (the Controlled Waste Regulations were updated in 2012, this did not alter how the calculation is made). For clarity the calculation is made as follows:

$X/Y \times 100$ where:

X = Tonnage of household waste collected for reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion i.e. food waste collected at the kerbside, garden waste collected at the kerbside, the contents of the blue wheeled bin and black box collected at the kerbside, some elements of the waste collected by mechanical sweepers, paper collected from the paper banks in our car parks, clothes collected from clothing banks in our car parks, some elements of community litter pick events that are sorted by the groups to be recycled, recycling picked up by the manual street cleansing operatives using a barrow and fridges and freezers collected during our bulky waste collections.

Y = Total tonnage of household waste collected, this includes all the above, plus all household waste collected at the kerbside from the refuse bin or purple sacks, all litter collected from the litter bin emptying rounds, all litter collected through community clean up events, blossom and leaf fall, clinical waste and needles collected directly from residents and through Pharmacies, all mechanical sweeping arisings, all litter manually litter picked by Veolia and waste collected through the bulky waste collection service. Fly tipped waste tonnage is excluded from the calculation; all waste collected at the Household Waste Recycling Centres (the tip) is also excluded.

3.4 Good performance is typified by a higher percentage.

4. Household Waste

4.1 The Kent Resource Partnership Annual Report 2018/ 2019 reports on the amount of residual household waste (waste that is not recycled) per household that is produced per authority across Kent, this is calculated in kilograms per household per annum of waste generated. The table below has been taken from the KRP annual report and shows the amount of waste generated per household in Kent for the past 6 years, Dover District Council has the lowest household waste per household in Kent for 2018/19.

Council	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Ashford Borough Council	441.4	350.6	370.4	354.3	327.2	359.5
Canterbury City Council	433.6	425.0	465.2	460.1	470.5	443.9
Dartford Borough Council	626	598.6	618.5	634.3	619.2	605.4
Dover District Council	364.6	373.7	394.4	374.8	343.6	354.4
Folkestone & Hythe District Council	442.7	415.4	414.0	422.1	400.2	373.6
Gravesham Borough Council	567.4	497.7	483.9	512.2	431.7	432.2
Maidstone Borough Council	443.4	434.2	441.5	420.7	403.6	403.3

Sevenoaks Borough Council	589.5	596.3	596.1	567.4	558.9	553.2
Swale Borough Council	519.5	481.3	520.0	498.6	490.3	489.9
Thanet District Council	473.1	468.9	483.9	475.7	452.5	437.7
Tonbridge and Maling Borough Council	553.8	556.7	569.0	563.1	548.3	548.6
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	526.9	515.8	523.2	479.2	471.2	456.2
Kent Resource Partnership Totals	580.0	567.3	584.5	567.0	540.9	535.3

4.2 Household waste per household per annum is calculated in line with the guidance provided when this was reported as a national indicator NI191, the nation indicator was discontinued in 2012 but we have continued to report this indicator locally (WAS012).

4.3 For clarity the calculation is made as follows:

$$(X/Y) * 1000$$

X = Total tonnage of household waste collected by the authority, minus the tonnage of household waste collected by the authority for reuse, recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion.

Y = Number of households (as given by the dwelling stock figures from the Council Tax base).

4.4 Good performance is typified by a lower figure per household.

5. Trend Analysis

5.1 Since the recycling service was enhanced in 2011 material (items that have been recycled) trend data has been kept, to align with previous charts the table below shows the type of material, collected in tonnes, from 2013/14.

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Paper and Card	4374.83	4371.54	4631.28	4228.19	3883.6	3668.19
Container Mix	4315.79	4371.54	4885.1	5507.37	5515.84	5675.82
Food Waste	3337.42	3155.16	2958.27	2917.68	3618.38	3805.61

5.2 During 2017 we worked on increasing the levels of food waste that were collected through the kerbside scheme. We carried out a dedicated campaign offering free food bins and liners to residents who were not taking part in the food waste recycling scheme, this resulted in an increase in residents using the scheme and an increase in the tonnage collected at the kerbside.

5.3 Since the campaign in 2017, we have been promoting the food waste scheme through drop in clinics, coffee mornings, school talks and community group talks, these continue throughout the year, food waste recycling amongst other topics is promoted and free food waste liners given out.

5.4 Throughout the period that we have been promoting food waste we have also seen an increase in the amount of recycling collected in the blue lidded wheeled bin.

5.5 What is not clear is why the amount of paper and cardboard collected has dropped, the waste industry professionals would suggest that residents have moved away from their usual daily newspaper or magazine to online newspapers and articles.

6. Contamination -Non Target Materials

6.1 The quality of materials collected is important to ensure that recycling can be recycled, since 2014 we have been monitoring the amount of contamination (non-targeted recycling) within our material streams.

6.2 Whilst garden waste, food waste and paper and cardboard have negligible amounts of contamination the materials collected in the blue lidded wheeled bin have contamination in them

6.3 The table below shows the levels of contamination in the blue lidded wheeled bin since 2014.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019(to date)
Contamination Rate	24%	13%	12%	12%	12%	9%

6.4 The amount of materials incorrectly placed in the blue lidded wheeled bin has remained low however since the decrease in 2015/16 it has remained at around 12%. During the Spring of 2019 officers in the waste team concentrated on the levels of contamination in bins.

6.5 Working together with Veolia, officers visited streets ahead of collections to identify wheeled bins where there were high levels of contamination. Interestingly of all the bins visited there was no indication that residents were purposely putting the wrong items in their bins for recycling i.e. placing black bags of waste in them. The visits showed that incorrect items included plastic toys, crisp packets, vegetable or fruit bags and plastic pet food pouches.

6.6 Throughout the visit's officers spoke with residents on the doorstep, left leaflets advising what should be placed in each wheeled bin or container, placed stickers on recycling bins and visited retrospectively where they were not able to speak with a resident on the first visit.

6.7 The work carried out is reflected in the reduced contamination levels so far this year (2019 (to date)).

6.8 In the New Year we are starting work with housing associations, housing management companies, letting agents and East Kent Housing with a view to reviewing recycling in communal areas where non targeted material is an issue, or where no recycling facilities exist because they had been previously removed due to poor quality of recycling.

7. Communication

7.1 Dover District Council continues to work in partnership with the Kent Resource Partnership where an annual plan of communications is carried out at a local level, a copy of the annual plan is provided in the appendices for reference.

7.2 Annual collection calendars are issued to residents in November / December each year, this serves as a reminder of collection days and what can be recycled in the recycling bin.

8. **Appendices**

Kent Resource Partnership Annual Report 2018 – 2019

KRP Annual communications plan

9. **Background Papers**

None

Contact Officer:

Mandy Pile, Waste Services Manager

01304 872242

mandy.pile@dover.gov.uk