

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

3 March 2014

Report of the Director of Street Scene & Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 WHERE DOES OUR RECYCLING GO?

Summary

The Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) has recently published information relating to where waste and recycle collected by Kent authorities ends up. The report 'KRP Materials End Destination 2012/13' is attached at [Annex 1].

1.1 Background

1.1.1 A common question raised by members of the public participating in household recycling schemes provided by local authorities is "Where does our recycling go?"

1.1.2 A recent YouGov survey commissioned by the Resource Association has shown that the public has a real interest in what happens to recycling. 73% of respondents said they had no idea what happened to recycled material; 68% said more information should be provided; and 32% say they would be much more likely to recycle if more information was available. In response to this information local authorities and private waste management companies have signed up to a voluntary charter (the 'End Destination of Recycling Charter'), which commits them to improve the availability of information and reporting of what happens to material presented for recycling. The KRP has signed up to the Charter on behalf of all Kent Councils.

1.2 The Approach in Kent

1.2.1 The KRP has produced a report which sets out what happens to material collected for recycling and all other waste material collected from Kent households. The report provides a Kent overview and then a breakdown for each Council. A summary showing where waste from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's area goes is at **[Annex 1]**, and a full copy of the report is available to Members on request.

1.2.2 From a Kent-wide perspective it is interesting to note:

- 81% of Kent tonnage is dealt with via 10 companies

- 90% of Kent tonnage stays in the UK
- 70% of Kent tonnage is treated in Kent
- Waste generation fell by 3% in 2012/13

1.2.3 From a TMBC perspective, it is interesting to note:

- only 0.6% of our waste is treated abroad
- 82% of our waste is dealt with in Kent
- We turn into a resource nearly 90% of material we collect.

1.2.4 The document, which was received in January 2014, will be published on the Council's website where it will assist in answering enquiries from the public. It is the intention of the KRP to repeat this exercise each year.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 None.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 The report is prepared by KRP Officers and consequently there are no direct costs borne by this Council.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 The failure to be open about where recycled material is destined could compromise efforts to encourage recycling by residents. The report's openness provides simple information which informs residents on what we do with recycling and waste we collect.

Background papers:

contact: Phil Beddoes

Nil

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