

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

02 March 2015

Report of the Director of Street Scene and Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 KENT RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP - END DESTINATION OF MATERIALS REPORT

Summary

The Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) has recently published its annual report for 2013/14 giving details of where waste and recycle collected by Kent authorities ends up.

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 waste and recycling go?”

1.1.2 A previous 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 its annual report for 2013/14 which sets out what happened to material collected for recycling, composting, energy recovery or landfill disposal 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 went 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:

- Just under 700,000 tonnes of household waste were collected
- 84% of Kent's waste was dealt with via 10 companies
- 88% of Kent's waste stayed in the UK
- 76% of Kent's waste was treated in Kent
- 82% of Kent's waste was turned into a resource with only 18% going to landfill

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

- Just over 51,400 tonnes of household waste were collected
- only 1% of our waste was sent abroad (includes textile reuse in third world countries)
- 85% of our waste was dealt with in Kent
- 89% of our waste was turned into a resource with only 11% going to landfill

1.2.4 The 2013/14 report was presented to the KRP Members Board in December 2014 and it is the intention of the KRP to repeat this exercise each year. It is also intended to publicise this report through the KRP, with a direct link via our own website.

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 our waste and recycled material is sent 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. Once endorsed, details will be publicised through the KRP with links via the Council's website.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7 Recommendations

CABINET IS RECOMMENDED TO NOTE AND ENDORSE the approach outlined in this report to continue to be open about our waste and recycling material end destination and publicise information through the Kent Resource Partnership.

The Director of Street Scene & Leisure confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Dennis Gardner

Nil

Robert Styles
Director of Street Scene & Leisure