

**Urgent item brought forward by the Chair in order that the Committee can consider the matter and pass on any comments to The Executive in accordance with agreed timescales**

**London Borough of Sutton**

**Sutton South, Cheam & Belmont Local Committee – 17 September 2009**

**Report of the Executive Head of Street Scene Services**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD RECYCLING CENTRES – PROPOSED CHANGES TO SERVICES OFFERED**

<b>Ward Location:</b>	Belmont Cheam	<b>Author(s) and Contact Phone Number(s):</b> Matt Clubb, Head of Waste Management & Fleet Services
<b>Area Served:</b>	Belmont Cheam South Sutton South	<b>Executive Councillor:</b> Councillor Colin Hall, Executive Member for the Environment.

**Key Decision Report**

**Summary**

Purpose of report:

To receive comments from the local committee on the proposed changes to the services provided at the Neighbourhood Recycling Centres (NRC's). These comments and proposals to inform a report to The Executive on the proposed changes to the NRC's borough-wide.

**Recommendations**

I recommend the Local Committee:

1. To note the proposals at 5.1 and refer to Executive Committee for implementation.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 In the London Borough of Sutton there are 31 Neighbourhood Recycling Centres (NRC's) that are for public use. At these sites a range of waste can be recycled including paper, glass, plastic bottles, cans and textiles. Five of the sites currently have the facilities to deposit tetra-paks. A map of the locations and the materials recycled can be found at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 In June 2008 changes to waste collection services were introduced, one of the changes was to introduce a borough-wide kerbside collection of glass. As part of the analysis of the impact of these changes there was the commitment to review the use of the NRC's in light of the increased kerbside collections available to residents.
- 1.3 In addition to these changes a kerbside textile collection was introduced in July 2009 which sees us working in partnership with D &

M Recycling. This service provides residents with a kerbside collection service as and when they require it.

- 1.4 Since the introduction of additional kerbside collection services in June 2008, there has been a reduction in the tonnages deposited at the NRC's sites. The most significant reduction as expected has been in the amount of glass received at the sites, this has reduced by (47%) in 2008/9 compared to 2007/8.

## 2. **Consultation**

- 2.1 In order to carry out the review of the existing NRC's a project was established in order obtain information from the following sources.

### **Local Committees**

- 2.2 Officers visited all Local Committees during February in order to gain views from those members and residents attending. During these workshops a series of questions were asked regarding the usage of the sites, the numbers of sites and why people used them.

### **The users of NRC's**

- 2.3 In October 2008 and May 2009 Officers carried out surveys on the users of the NRC's. These surveys included questions regarding frequency of visits, what improvements could be made and why people use them.

Residents living in the vicinity of NRC sites

- 2.4 As the sites are classed "neighbourhood sites" a survey covering residents closest to the specific sites was conducted in April & May 2009. Officers visited residents from adjacent roads of 16 of the NRC's to capture the public opinion and perception of the NRC in their area. Again the questions above were used and out of the 5,881 visits made, 3,959 residents gave us their views on the services provided at the NRC.

## 3. **Consultation Findings**

- 3.1 The borough-wide results of the consultation are summarised below;

### **Local Committees**

- 3.2 That users would like to see additional material collected on the sites to that offered by the kerbside collection services, materials suggested were batteries, tetra-paks and foil. However, a majority of those surveyed receive kerbside collections of recyclables and therefore did not use the sites.

### **The users of NRC's**

- 3.3 Although 92% of the residents surveyed have recycling facilities at home, 39% were in favour of retaining their local NRC. These include flats above shops, as they do not have a suitable location for their own kerbside recycling facility. During the surveys, users where asked their postcode and less than 1% of the residents surveyed on site admitted to not living in the borough. Comments received endorsed those received at Local Committee regarding the desire for banks for materials not collected at the kerbside.

### **Residents in the vicinity of NRC sites**

90% of the residents surveyed had recycling facilities at home. The reasons given for them using the sites and not wanting them removed was due to use of glass banks (for those without kerbside collections) and textile banks. Whilst an overall 39% wanted to retain the sites, there were individual sites where there would be minimal impact on those in the vicinity, if sites were removed (in some case as little as 10% wanting them retained). Other comments received were regard to the increasing of materials at the sites, improving the maintenance of the sites and in some cases some residents were unaware of their existence.

#### **4. Local Findings**

- 4.1 Belmont and Cheam currently have a total of 8 NRC sites (The Quadrant on the border of two ward councils). Two of these sites are in close proximity of each other and offer the same materials. A summary of the findings can be found at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 79% of the residents surveyed were in favour of keeping their local NRC; however, 96% of residents who took part do have recycling facilities at home as shown in Appendix 3. Residents agreed that they tended use their local site during peak periods for excess recycling.
- 4.3 As was consistent throughout the borough there was the desire to expand the different types of materials that could be recycled at the NRC's. It was felt that the NRC's duplicated the services provided by the kerbside collections and that it would be of benefit to possibly recycle more materials at the NRC's.

#### **5. Proposed Changes**

- 5.1 As a result of the findings and the suggestions that there should be more services provided at the sites. It is proposed that all although 2 of the sites should be removed, these sites only provide a paper and glass recycling scheme that is part of our borough wide kerbside collection service. We are proposing to expand facilities at 5 of the NRC sites with one site seeing the provisions unchanged. The changes are as follows and shown on Appendix 2.

Overton Park, Overton Road - Site to include provision to recycle textiles

Hulverston Close, Brighton Road - Site to include provision to recycle textiles

Kingsway Road Car Park – Site to include provision to recycle batteries

Cheam Library Car Park – Site to include provision to recycle foil

The Quadrant, Brighton Road – Site to include provision to recycle batteries

Area opposite Belmont Public House, Brighton Road – Provisions unchanged

Scout HQ, Malden Road – Site Removed

Community Hall, Downs Road – Site Removed

- 5.2 In order to improve the data collected regarding the tonnage delivered to the sites we propose investigate the use of chips in the bins at the NRC's to record the actual tonnage deposited. This will enable us to record tonnages efficiently and more accurately, providing improved data to ensure all future developments of the sites are explored.

**6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Changes met within existing estimates

**7. Influence of the Council's Core Values**

- 7.1 This report supports the Council's Core Values of providing cost effective services that both meet the community's need in a changing environment, and encourage residents to take pride in their environment

**8. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 8.1 There is no direct impact on equalities as a result of this item

**9. One Planet Living**

- 9.1 Increased recycling levels and diversion of waste away from landfill are key issues that support One Planet Living principles and the draft Sustainability Action Plan

**10. Background Papers**

Held with Head of Waste Management & Fleet Services

## Appendix 3

## Neighbourhood Survey April &amp; May 2009

Ward Location: Cheam &amp; South Sutton

Name of Site	Total Visited	Total No Surveyed	In Favour of Site	% In favour of Site	Home Recyclers	% Home Recyclers	Suggested Change to Site
Opp Belmont P.H., Brighton Road	309	278	229	82%	264	95%	Provision Unchanged
Overton Park, Overton Road, Sutton	278	228	200	88%	228	100%	Expand to include textiles
Cheam Library Car Park, Cheam	100	107	55	51%	102	95%	Expand to include foil
The Quadrant, Brighton Road	n/a						Expand to include batteries
Kingsway Road Car Park	n/a						Expand to include batteries
Hulverston Close, Brighton Road	n/a						Expand to include textiles
Scout HQ, Malden Road	n/a						Remove
Community Hall, Downs Road	n/a						Remove
<b>Total</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>97%</b>	
<b>Cheam Library</b>		36	31	86%	31	86%	Expand to include foil
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>96%</b>	

