

7 October 2021		ITEM: 8
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Processing Household Waste		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Marcelle Puttergill - Performance and Support Manager		
Accountable Assistant Director: Daren Spring – Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers – Director for Public Realm		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This report outlines the details of treatment for each of the streams of household waste collected by Thurrock Council. Additionally the report seeks to address concerns regarding the end destinations of Thurrock Council's waste and dispels any issues that it may be inadvertently disposed of inappropriately.

The briefing has been developed in response to a request from the Cleaner and Greener Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2021.

1. Recommendation(s)

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to:

1.1 Note the contents of the report.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Thurrock Council provides three kerbside waste collections for households. The three currently collected are:

- Residual Waste, in a green or grey wheeled bin
- Mixed Dry Recycling in a blue wheeled bin
- Composting (mingled garden and food waste) in a brown wheeled bin

2.2 Each of the streams are collected separately, from each household on the same day. The waste collected is tipped at a transfer station in west Thurrock prior to being transported to different processing plants.

2.3 In management of all waste, the Service applies the principles of the waste hierarchy seeking to:

- Reduce
- Re-use
- Recycle
- Recover
- Disposal

2.4 The diagram below provides a summary of the treatment route for each of the household waste streams:



- 2.5 Residual household waste from the Grey or Green bins is bulked and transferred to Allington, an Energy Recovery site in Kent. The waste is incinerated under special conditions that limit and control emissions to generate power that is fed into the National Grid, this supplies power and heat to homes across Kent.
- 2.6 The co-mingled dry recycling materials are delivered to a materials recycling facility where the individual materials are mechanically separated. The sorted materials are then bulked and sold on to processors to be recycled as source materials.
- 2.7 The garden and food waste is composted at high temperatures for a period of time before being spread in fields in piles for its final decomposition. The end material is used as a soil improver or natural fertiliser on agricultural land. The processing does not take sufficient time for the compostable food bags to degrade. For this reason the service advises that they should not be used for the disposal of food waste.
- 2.8 Our Contractor uses the Proximity Principle for the recycled materials that they process, and where possible materials are reprocessed in the UK and Europe. Where local markets do not exist materials will be sent further afield, to reputable re-processors that have long standing relationships with our contractor. Materials are tracked using a combination of weighbridge tickets and shipping notes to ensure that there is compliance with our Duty of Care obligations.
- 2.9 The waste taken to the HWRC by the public, is separately collected and stored. Last year, over 85% of this was reused or recycled. With items such as bicycles, textiles and hardcore, all reused. Waste electronic items, batteries and fridges, are all recycled into their component parts. We avoid landfill by using a mixture of energy from waste and sending bulky items to a recycling facility where items can be stripped into their component parts and then recycled. This includes items such as mattresses.
- 2.10 All waste disposal contracts are closely monitored to ensure that no waste is processed or disposed of outside of agreed practises. This includes scrutiny to ensure that no waste collected by Thurrock Council is disposed of in landfills in other countries.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The changes planned to the Waste Service in September 2022, specifically the introduction of the separate food waste collections, will require the procurement of disposal and processing contracts that will meet the changing make-up of the waste being collected. The procurement (in line with Council policy) will be commercially focused, but will also ensure that any processors working with Council Waste will comply with the principles of the Waste Hierarchy as well as the Proximity principle.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 The report has been developed in response to a request from the Cleaner and Greener Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2021.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 Not Applicable

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 Not Applicable

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Senior Management Accountant

There are no financial implications arising from this report

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Courage Emovon**
Principal Lawyer / Manager
Contracts / Procurement Team

There are no legal implications arising from this report

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Team Manager, Community Development and
Equalities

There are no diversity implications arising from this report.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder or Impact on Looked After Children

Not Applicable

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

Not Applicable

9. Appendices to the report

None

Report Author:

Marcelle Puttergill

Performance and Support Manager

Public Realm