

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2017

RIGHT STUFF, RIGHT BIN CAMPAIGN – FOR INFORMATION

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The current Kerbside Recycling Service (KRS) was introduced in 2014. All households are provided with a grey 240 litre mixed recycling bin and a 140 litre purple general waste bin, collected on alternate weeks. In addition, residents in towns and villages can make use of a 23 litre brown food waste caddy (collected weekly), and the majority of residents have access to the chargeable garden waste service (240 litre green bins collected fortnightly).
- 1.2 In any recycling collection there will be a level of contamination i.e. unwanted materials. The percentage of contamination permitted in the dry mixed recycling (DMR) collected in Angus is currently 5%, above which level the council pays extra disposal charges. When the KRS was introduced the level of contamination was around 4% however it is now 6%, a rise that can be attributed to technical changes in the way the materials collected are classified and sampled, and also because more of the wrong items are being put in recycling bins.
- 1.3 The waste from a representative sample of 250 purple bins was analysed in March 2017. Analysis of this waste found that approximately 33% of the contents of the purple bin consisted of food waste and approximately 20% was comprised of materials that could have been recycled in the grey bin.
- 1.4 There has been no wide-scale campaign to promote recycling since the KRS was introduced. Given the rising cost of general waste disposal and the additional costs of paying for DMR contamination, it is now time to remind Angus residents and businesses alike that they need to recycle as much as they can and make use of the food waste service (where provided) i.e. they need to put the Right stuff in the Right bin.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE SCHEME

- 2.1 The main thrust of the campaign will be placing stickers on grey and purple bins in January/February 2018 to show what materials are/are not accepted. Handbills will be left in residents' purple bins prior to this to let them know when their bins will be stickered and why.
- 2.2 A range of supporting activities will be carried out such as the provision of information stands at supermarkets and council buildings around the time when stickers are placed on bins. Social media will be used as fully as possible including a range of short films of various participants putting the Right stuff into the Right bins e.g. local primary school or community groups, or waste operatives checking/tagging bins. The campaign will be advertised on the sides of refuse collection and food waste vehicles, and the council website. Additional activities will be undertaken as opportunities arise, on an ongoing basis.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The costs for disposal of general waste are significantly higher than those for food waste and DMR; there are also costs associated with DMR contamination charges. It is considered that the cost of the campaign will be off-set by the resulting reduction in waste disposal costs.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 There is a need for the council to ensure that residents get the Right stuff in the Right bin in order to reach government targets and to reduce waste disposal costs. It is considered that the Right stuff, Right bin campaign will meet these objectives and retain Angus Council's position as one of the top recycling authorities in Scotland.