

CABINET

12 December 2007

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 27  
NOVEMBER 2007

REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report sets out the relevant minute extract from the meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel minutes of 27 November 2007 regarding recommendations on the Review of the Alternative Bin Collection Scheme (Report CAB1561 elsewhere on this agenda refers).

RECOMMENDATION:

To consider and determine the matters set out in the minute extract below.

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1. **WASTE RECYCLING – REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE BIN COLLECTION (ABC) SCHEME – FUTURE PROPOSALS**  
[\(Report CAB1561 refers\)](#)

The Panel noted successful implementation of the ABC Scheme across the District and that the Council had the lowest levels of contaminants in its mixed dry recyclables in Hampshire. This reflected well on the initiatives undertaken to educate the public on recycling and the Panel noted that much of this good work had been undertaken by the Recycling Advisors. However, as a consequence of a corporate decision, these posts were scheduled to be deleted at the end of the current financial year.

The Panel also discussed a problem caused by the design of the garden waste bags which, after emptying, were liable to be occasionally blown away and lost in windy conditions. The Head of Environment explained that the bags' manufacturers were considering adding a rubber lining to the bags to prevent this and that this would also prolong the life of the bags.

Members noted and agreed with the concerns set out in the Report regarding the proposed collection of bins within the curtilage of properties, when notified that the householder/s were away on holiday. The Panel agreed that this raised concerns about handling of personal information and managing the associated security and liability risks.

The Panel considered each of the options proposed to extend the ABC scheme, as set out in Appendix 4, and agreed with premise that the options contained within Group 1 should be considered as the first priority.

With regard to Option 2 (the provision of street recycling bins) the Panel were cautious as this was predicted to generate no noticeable increase in the recycling rate, although recognising that it could increase the profile of recycling in Winchester.

With regard to Option 3 (the fortnightly kerbside collection of glass and textiles) several Members voiced concerns about this proposal due to noise, unsightliness and health and safety issues. The Panel therefore concluded that further information was required before this option could be moved forward.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Collin commented on Option 4 (the weekly collection of food waste). In summary, he congratulated the Portfolio Holder and officers for the success of the Scheme in general, but recommended that a more proactive approach should be taken by the Council to introduce the collection of food waste. He suggested that, as this option presented the greatest potential to increase recycling rates, it merited a detailed appraisal by officers.

Following debate, the Panel agreed that the collection of food waste was a good aspiration for the Council to achieve at some future date, but noted the concerns of Councillor Pearson that, currently, such a service would be uneconomic. Councillor Pearson stated that there were significant costs in establishing this service including the provision of kitchen caddies, specialist freighters to transport the waste to Dorset, which was the nearest recycling centre, and that there were doubts regarding the usefulness of the recycled end-product.

RESOLVED:

1. That the officers and Portfolio Holder for Environment be congratulated for the successful implementation of the ABC Scheme throughout the District, which had resulted in significantly improved recycling levels without major adverse effects upon the community.
2. That Cabinet be recommended to give priority to the Options in Group 1 (Appendix 4 of the Report refers) to further increase recycling levels, and be advised that the Panel considers that Option 2 should be cautiously approved, whilst Options 3 and 4 require further investigation.