

**COMMUNITY SERVICES & ENVIRONMENT
SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

**Agenda Item
No. 6**

10 October 2013

Recycling and Contamination

Ward(s) All

Portfolio: Cllr Arif - Environment

Executive Summary:

This report updates the Scrutiny Panel, as requested at the meeting on 28 March 2013, on the current levels of contamination following the campaign that commenced in November 2012 to reduce recycling contamination across the whole borough.

The report details :

- a) The tonnages of waste being sent to recycling;
- b) The tonnage of waste sent to landfill;
- c) The percentages of rejected recycling bins left on the street and material rejected as non recyclable by the council's contractor at the Materials Recovery Facility.

Reason for scrutiny:

To update on the issues around recycling contamination raised at the Panel's meeting on 28 March 2013.

Recommendation:

That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the report be noted.

Background papers:

Report to the Scrutiny Panel on 28 March 2013.

Resource and legal considerations:

Contamination levels, although reduced, continue to pose contractual concerns to the Council. Income levels are temporarily reduced and costs increased.

Citizen impact:

There is no impact to residents who use the service properly. Residents who continue to contaminate their recycling bins will risk not having their bin emptied.

Environmental impact:

Recycling is better for the environment than disposal and complies with the Waste Hierarchy. The Waste Hierarchy is a classification of waste management options in order of their environmental impact. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then other recovery such as energy recovery, and last of all disposal (for example landfill).

High levels of contamination reduce the recycling rate.

Performance management:

The Council's recycling rate will continue to decline if contamination is not tackled effectively. The recycling rate for 2012/13 has now been verified as being 40.4%, compared with an outturn for 2011/12 of 46.2%.

Equality Implications:

None

Consultation:

Feedback from residents via the Contact Centre and the Clean and Green Encouragement Team has been taken into account in deciding when a bin is contaminated. The Encouragement Team continues to work with collection crews and residents and priority is being given to specific areas where contamination of bins still remains relatively high.

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Report

- 1.1 The tonnages of residual waste and recycling from October 2012 to August 2013 are shown in figure 1 and can be seen in more detailed tabular form in **Appendix A** to this report.

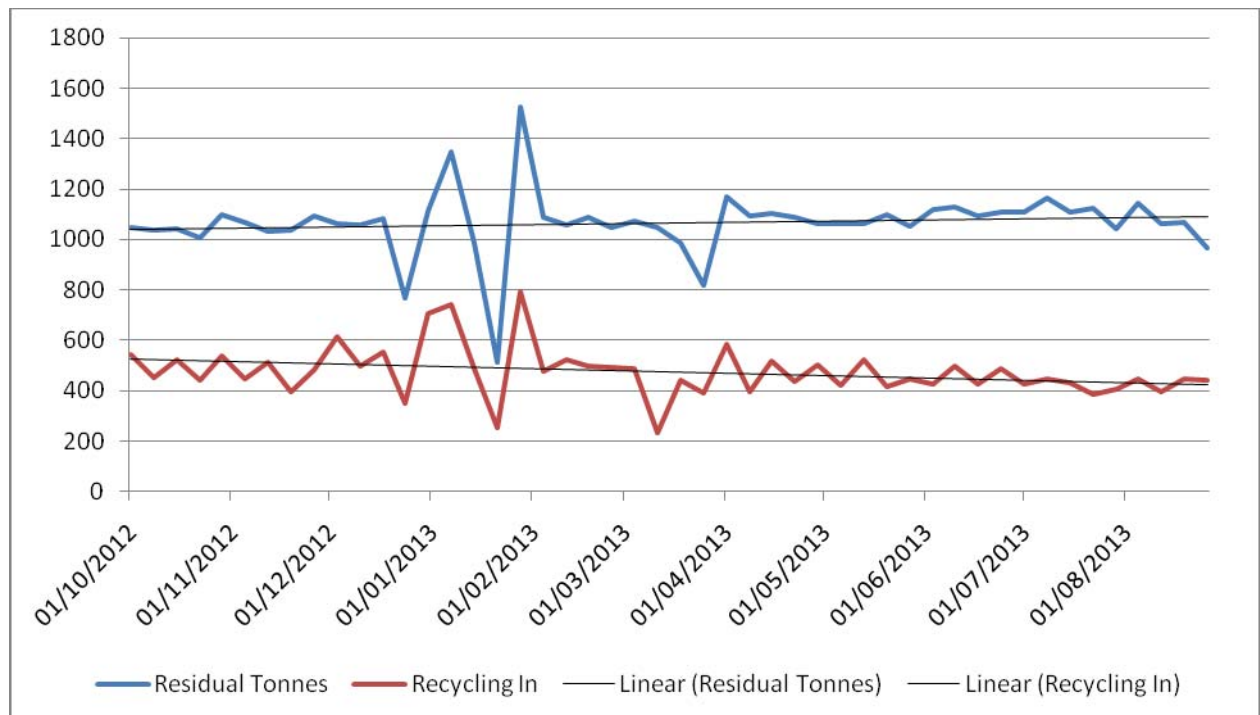


Figure 1

- 1.2 It can be seen that, in the longer term, residual waste tonnages have increased while recycling tonnages have decreased. This indicates the transition of unwanted material no longer being put in recycling bins but correctly disposed of in the grey bins.
- 1.3 There were expected variations over the Christmas period and when collections were disrupted due to severe winter weather.
- 1.4 The number of green bins left on the street due to contamination, and the contamination rate identified by Casepak at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) since October 2012, are shown in figures 2 and 3 and can be seen in more detailed tabular form in **Appendix A** to this report.

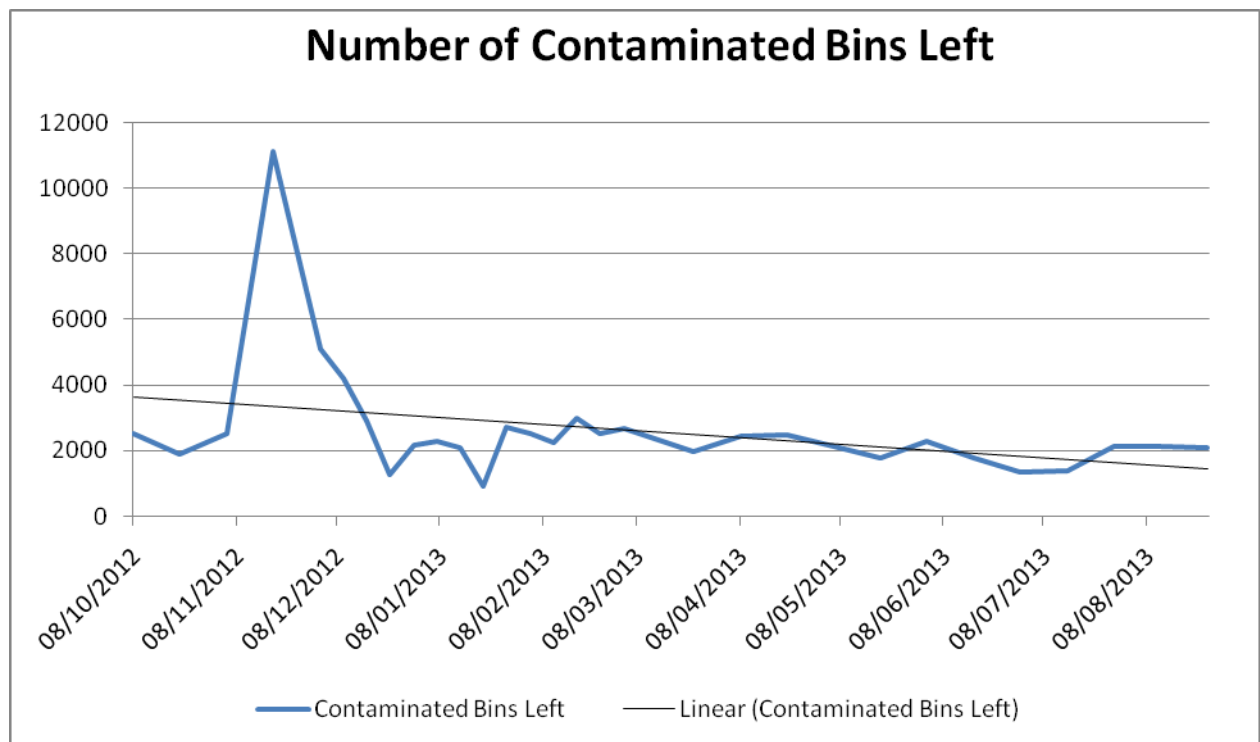


Figure 2

- 1.5 It can be seen from figure 2 that, when we became more stringent with our criteria for not collecting bins containing contaminated materials last November, there was a two to three month period when the number of uncollected bins increased. However, this returned to the historic level of around 2,000 bins each week and now appears to be remaining constant.

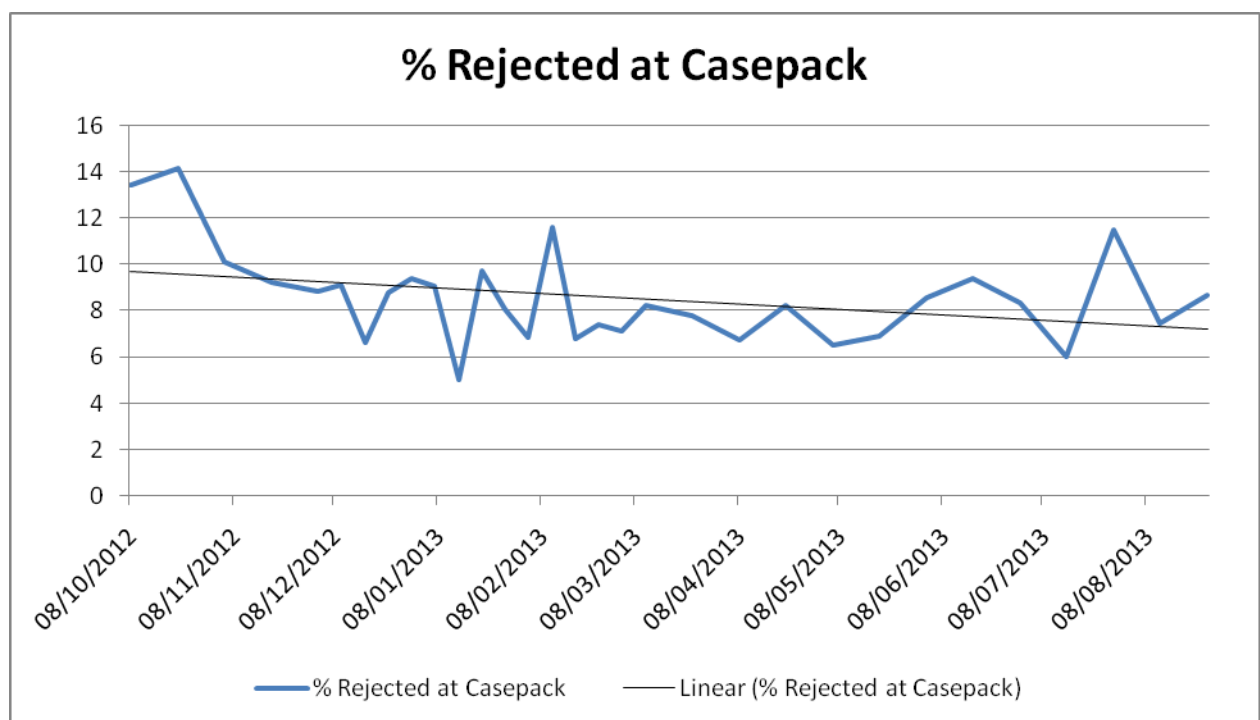


Figure 3

- 2.3 It can be seen from figure 3 that, since we became more stringent with our criteria for not collecting bins containing contaminated materials, the percentage rejection rate at the MRF has dropped significantly from over 14% to around 7-9%. This has now stabilised at this figure. Although this is still high and needs to improve further, it is a big improvement. The Clean and Green Education Team is continuing to work in the areas of major concern, to reduce the number of unemptied bins.

APPENDIX A

Tonnages of Residual Waste and Recycling

- 1.1 The tonnages of residual waste and recycling from October 2012 to August 2013 are detailed in the table below.

Week commencing	Residual Waste material (tonnes)	Recyclable material (tonnes)
01/10/2012	1046.07	543.36
08/10/2012	1037.73	451.08
15/10/2012	1038.72	524.44
22/10/2012	1004.58	443.38
29/10/2012	1096.19	538.68
05/11/2012	1064.17	446.44
12/11/2012	1029.55	513.08
19/11/2012	1038.2	395.12
26/11/2012	1092.43	484.38
03/12/2012	1061.21	617.4
10/12/2012	1056.5	496.28
17/12/2012	1079.55	555.98
24/12/2012	767.83	346.8
31/12/2012	1111.49	707.12
07/01/2013	1348.05	741.64
14/01/2013	985.17	485.38
21/01/2013	510.58	250.06
28/01/2013	1525.27	795.44
04/02/2013	1086.51	475.64
11/02/2013	1057.51	522.72
18/02/2013	1086.57	500.12
25/02/2013	1046.73	491.58
04/03/2013	1073.99	485.86
11/03/2013	1044.10	230.96
18/03/2013	982.54	440.70
25/03/2013	817.44	389.96
01/04/2013	1168.99	584.64
08/04/2013	1093.88	396.62
15/04/2013	1102.23	519.02
22/04/2013	1087.17	435.48
29/04/2013	1063.09	502.38
06/05/2013	1060.30	420.44
13/05/2013	1063.58	522.48
20/05/2013	1094.62	416.50
27/05/2013	1050.75	447.24
03/06/2013	1115.64	424.12
10/06/2013	1128.94	499.84
17/06/2013	1093.51	423.76
24/06/2013	1106.48	488.40
01/07/2013	1106.16	424.42

08/07/2013	1162.54	447.12
15/07/2013	1109.02	432.84
22/07/2013	1124.34	382.46
29/07/2013	1042.26	406.14
05/08/2013	1142.25	448.24
12/08/2013	1060.97	396.70
19/08/2013	1068.32	444.12
26/08/2013	963.36	443.90

- 1.3 The number, and percentages, of green bins left on the street due to contamination and the contamination rate identified by Casepak at the MRF since October 2012 are detailed in the table below.

Collection Date	Contaminated Bins Left	% Contaminated Bins Left	% Rejected at Casepack
08/10/2012	2534	2.52	13.4
22/10/2012	1902	1.89	14.14
05/11/2012	2555	2.54	10.09
19/11/2012	11131	11.08	9.2
03/12/2012	5112	5.09	8.82
10/12/2012	4220	4.2	9.11
17/12/2012	2927	2.91	6.64
24/12/2012	1299	2.19	8.79
31/12/2012	2203	2.71	9.41
07/01/2013	2320	2.31	9.03
14/01/2013	2117	2.11	5.02
21/01/2013	935	0.93	9.72
28/01/2013	2724	2.71	8.04
04/02/2013	2524	2.51	6.86
11/02/2013	2261	2.25	11.58
18/02/2013	2990	2.98	6.81
25/02/2013	2522	2.51	7.39
04/03/2013	2692	2.68	7.13
11/03/2013	2455	2.44	8.24
25/03/2013	1972	1.96	7.79
08/04/2013	2452	2.44	6.74
22/04/2013	2487	2.48	8.24
06/05/2013	2145	2.14	6.5
20/05/2013	1813	1.80	6.9
03/06/2013	2316	2.31	8.58
17/06/2013	1784	1.78	9.37
01/07/2013	1358	1.35	8.31
15/07/2013	1388	1.38	5.99
29/07/2013	2155	2.15	11.49
12/08/2013	2162	2.15	7.47
26/08/2013	2117	2.11	8.65