

Cabinet

8 February 2017

Written Questions from Councillors (Agenda Item No 6)

The following written questions have been submitted by Councillor Ient in respect of Report No 26/17 (Waste and Recycling Review Update: A New Recycling Collection Service), which he wishes to ask of the Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling, Councillor Franklin:

Question 1;

The report indicates some of the long-awaited changes to improve the disastrously low recycling rate within the Lewes District Council area. The one in this report refers to the adoption of co-mingling recycling collections however it does not mention when the new service will be introduced. *Could the Lead Member please advise of the programme including target dates for the introduction of co-mingling?*

Question 2:

The move to co-mingling is, as I have said, an improvement and will help avoid the plethora of bags that a resident has to leave outside their house. However no mention is made of any improvement to the range of material that a householder can recycle. There have been previous reports but I think it's appropriate that with these proposed changes we see some benefits by increasing the range of recycled items. *Could the Lead Member please provide members and the public with a schedule showing what new items will be included in the recycling list?*

Question 3:

In connection with the adoption of co-mingling the report mentions the provision of recycling containers including 240 L Wheelie bins and lidded bins and later on in the report there is a mention of the possibility of introducing gull proof sacks and clear recycling bags. Thankfully we have moved, in most cases, away from black plastic bags which were often ripped apart by vermin and gulls before the refuse collection team arrived in the area. Therefore I'm particularly concerned to read in the report mention of clear plastic bags. This is a retrograde step. 240 L bins for mixed recycling items are very suitable for householders who have the room to store them but that does not apply to every householder. Other than the 240 L bin, it is unclear from the report exactly what the range of new bins and recycling containers will be. *Please could the lead member review what other successful councils in coastal regions have done in providing a coordinated set of bins and vermin/gull proof heavy duty, 'heavy lidded bags' and bring back to the committee a firm proposal for their introduction in the Lewes District?*