JOINT WASTE COMMITTEE

TRIAL & POTENTIAL PERMANENT SERVICE ENHANCEMENT OF MIXED RIGID PLASTICS AT BRING SITES IN CHELTENHAM

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Cabinet Lead CBC

Accountable Officer Scott Williams
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Purpose of Report

To provide details of an opportunity to run a trial over a 12 week period of mixed rigid plastic recycling at a number of larger bring sites in Cheltenham, with the potential to introduce a permanent service enhancement if the results of the trial are favourable and support the business case.

Recommendation(s)

That the Joint Waste Committee;

Make the recommendation to Cheltenham Borough Council to complete a trial of mixed rigid plastic recycling at a number of the larger bring sites in Cheltenham.

Make the recommendation to Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) to implement permanent mixed rigid plastic recycling at strategic bring sites if the results of the trial are supported by the business case.

Reason for Recommendation(s)

To test the viability of the business case for mixed rigid plastic recycling in Cheltenham at the larger bring sites and the potential to introduce as a permanent service enhancement, which should increase recycling performance for both CBC, JWC and the GWP.

Financial Implications

There is an estimated reduction of £5,563 in material income and £1,031 in recycling credits as a result of not continuing to collect plastic bottles separately.

There is an estimated reduction of £174 in material income and £508 in recycling credits by permanently closing the smaller bring sites.

The total estimated reduction in income is £7,276.

If the results of the trial are positive and the permanent service enhancement is introduced, it is anticipated that these reductions in income will be largely mitigated by the increase in all materials being collected at the larger bring sites, as a result of the permanent implementation of mixed rigid plastic recycling.

In which case, it would therefore be proposed to offset any reduction in income from within the current CBC waste management revenue budget.
Key Risks

The following risks are associated with the recommendation(s) within this report;

Due to the volatility of the current market failure to secure an outlet for mixed rigid plastics on permanent introduction of the service enhancement may result in CBC having to suspend the service and/or stockpile/landfill the material. However, this risk is mitigated by CBC having a contract in place with Printwaste for it to accept the material and source the necessary re-processors.

Failure to promote the trial and potential permanent service enhancement properly may result in low participation, which may affect the business case for permanent bring site mixed rigid plastic recycling. This risk should be mitigated by the Joint Waste Team (JWT) working with the Council communications team project managing a specific communications programme to support both the trial and the potential permanent launch of this service enhancement.

Failure to properly understand the likely yield of plastics being collected at the bring sites may result in Ubico not being able to cope with demand, which may lead to increased waiting times for bank emptying and associated complaints being received by the Council. The risk should be mitigated by the JWT supporting CBC and Ubico in re-assessing the business case once the results of the trial have been analysed.

Appendices

Attached at Appendix A is the business case for mixed rigid plastic bring site recycling in Cheltenham which has been prepared by Ubico.

Conclusion

A large proportion of residents in Cheltenham are keen to see the opportunity to recycle mixed rigid plastics within their area and have made this clear to the Council and its Members.

Whilst the implementation of permanent mixed rigid plastic recycling bring sites does carry its own risks both financially and reputationally, it is anticipated that these can be mitigated by careful assessment of the business case following the trial and through a tailored communications and promotion campaign for both the trial and potential permanent introduction of this service enhancement.