

Council, 29 July 2021

Motion - Roll-Out of Recycling

Councillor Essex will move the motion. Councillor Torra will second.

This motion asks the Council to:

Note that:

- The current household recycling scheme was introduced in 2012 and the roll-out to the borough's flats and communal properties started in September 2013, to ensure the right solution for each communal bin area. This was expected to take a couple of years.
- The progress of providing the service to these remaining properties has slowed, and several promised completion dates have been missed. The number of properties outstanding was still 10,000 in 2018.
- These households pay the same Council Tax as everyone else, even though other properties in the same bands benefit from the full recycling service.
- Collecting more recycling means that Reigate and Banstead Borough Council is able to recycle more and less waste needs to be disposed of by Surrey County Council. This saves money compared to landfill or incineration, which both cost more than £100 per tonne.

Note that:

- The roll-out of the recycling service has been on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic but it has recently restarted.
- The options being proposed for remaining properties do not work for all of the remaining properties. For example:
 1. The residents of Oaklands Park (Earlswood) have requested smaller bins as they cannot accommodate the 2 full-size wheelie-bins, which is the standard offer of Reigate and Banstead in the small areas by their doors.
 2. Some bin stores are too small and require investment and support for the changeover. In some cases owners have agreed to apply and pay for planning permission to access the new service - but in other cases no progress has been made.
- Currently the Council provides larger recycling and rubbish wheelie bins to residents for a charge, but not smaller ones when this is

requested. Smaller bins and resealable bags are alternatives used in other councils.

Resolve to accelerate and complete the recycling roll out to all properties by:

- Ensuring the recycling department has sufficient resources to accelerate and complete the roll-out, including to lead in drafting proposals to expand communal bin stores in collaboration with owners and waive the associated planning fees.
- Ensure sufficient capital funds to support bin store improvements and find creative solutions to enable collection from all households.
- Collaborate with Surrey Environmental Partnership as appropriate to aid the delivery of the above.