1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To determine the future provision of the 5 remaining neighbourhood recycling centres (commonly referred to as bring banks).

1.2 To provide the Committee with a review of the bring bank sites over the past twelve months.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Following the committee report on 10th September 2018, Members are requested to:

i. Note the information and findings from the review of the 5 remaining bring bank sites over the previous twelve months.

ii. Approve the removal of the remaining 5 bring bank sites from the District.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Before the introduction of a kerbside recycling scheme, bring bank sites provided residents with a local method to dispose of their recyclable waste responsibly. Residents are also able to dispose of this waste at a number of household recycling centres.

3.2 A review of kerbside collections in 2013 identified a need to improve the waste collection service for our residents, especially the way in which residents dispose of their recyclable waste. Following this review, ECDC introduced wheeled bins for their recyclable waste. The introduction of these bins meant that residents were able to dispose of the waste they would have previously taken to bring banks reducing their usage.

3.3 In April 2018, an additional blue bin scheme was introduced for a one off cost of £25 per bin to accommodate residents who had an excess of recycling waste. This in turn reduced the usage of the bring banks further.
3.4 Both initiatives have resulted in our recycling rate improving consistently over the past six years and continues to provide our residents with an efficient and cost effective alternative to taking excess recyclables to a neighbourhood recycling centre. The recycling rate has improved by 0.5% in the past twelve months, equivalent to an increase in 86 tonnes of recyclable material collected.

3.5 In September 2018, Committee approved the removal of 30 of the lowest performing bring bank sites. This was assessed against the quality of recyclates and contamination levels. This left 5 of the highest performing sites; Tesco’s-Ely, Waitrose- Ely, Soham, Chippenham and Cheveley.

3.6 Members also tasked officers to carry out on-going performance reviews of the remaining sites over a 12 month period, the results of which are detailed later in the report.

3.7 A total of 26 large 1100L mixed dry recyclable banks across the 5 sites are currently provided. This service accepts the same materials as the kerbside collection. This breaks down as follows:

- Tesco’s, Ely – 7 bring banks
- Waitrose, Ely – 5 bring banks
- Fountain Lane, Soham – 6 bring banks
- Village Hall, Chippenham – 4 bring banks
- Recreation Ground, Cheveley – 4 bring banks

3.8 At present ECSS pays Chippenham and Cheveley Parish Councils to host bring banks on their land at a total cost of £990 per year. These are historic payments and therefore were continued during the 12 month review period.

4.0 ARGUMENTS

4.1 Although there are no direct financial implications to ECDC for providing the bring bank service, as the Council is the only shareholder of East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS) there will be implications which would impact on future waste provision for our residents e.g. upgrading litter bins or purchasing additional waste equipment.

4.2 Over the previous 12 months ECSS has monitored the bring banks sites for levels of recycling, incidents of fly-tipping and contamination or vandalism to the banks. Crews have reported that residents have broken the locks to get into the bins to enable them to put in full black sacks or contaminated materials (please see Appendix A).
If ECSS were to continue to be responsible for the collection and management of the bring bank sites an initial investment of £26,000 would have to be made. This investment would be towards more robust bins with tougher locking mechanisms, at £1000 per unit, to reduce the risk of contamination due to residents breaking the locks to dispose of non-target material.

Crews have been investigating the contents of black sacks placed inside the bins or alongside them, to ascertain levels of contamination and recycling.

Whilst the majority of items being placed within the black sacks are usually good quality recyclates, this action could pose a serious health and safety risk to our staff who could be exposed to dangerous waste materials. Black sacks are classed as contamination which will affect our recycling rates and recycling credits.

Higher contamination rates across the sites affects the Council’s ability to receive recycling credits (which is money paid from the County Council dependant on the quality and of recycling). Under the recyclable waste contract ECDC has with Amey, if the Districts’ contamination rate exceeds 7% a fine will be applied (the rate of which isn’t a standard rate as it is calculated against the quality of the recycling that month).

Appendix B shows the breakdown of costs associated with the bring banks across the District. Over the previous 12 months the total cost to provide this service by ECSS was £35,556.59.

During the next 12 months we estimate that this will increase to £61,556.69 (which takes into account the one off cost of purchasing new bins with more robust locking mechanisms).

Moving forward, we estimate that the annual costs to ECSS will continue to be in the region of £36,000 which takes into account inflation and similar contamination levels. It is impossible to accurately forecast the figures as we are unable to determine the levels of contamination and crew intervention to remove any fly-tipping incidents from the 5 bring bank locations. This is on top of the costs associated with providing the household waste collections and is an additional burden on existing budgets which will affect future waste provisions provided to the residents of the district.

Fly-tipping continues to be a serious problem across the sites. The Environmental Health Team has been investigating these and has issued warnings and Fixed Penalty Notices for fly-tipping at Tesco’s Ely and Soham as follows: 5 Investigations leading to two Fixed Penalty Notices and one warning.

ECSS is contacted on a regular on-going basis by Tesco’s store manager regarding fly-tipping incidents. In addition, there have been a number of fly-
tipping incidents reported from other sites by the public via the CRM system -
12 x for Soham, Fountain Lane and 2 x for Tesco’s.

4.12 This fly-tipping has led to additional resource being deployed from ECSS and has subsequently resulted in the team being redirected from planned street cleansing schedules to remove the fly-tipping. This in turn has a negative effect across the entire district. The Environmental Health Officer has also provided additional resource time to help stop contamination and fly-tipping.

4.13 Second blue recycling bins are available to all residents who already exceed the capacity of their first wheeled bin for a fixed one-off charge of £25. Approximately 1,012 additional wheeled bins have been delivered from 1st April 2018 to date.

4.14 Across East Cambridgeshire, and within our neighbouring authorities, residents have access to main household recycling centres (HWC) for larger amounts of recyclable waste and other recycling sites. A mapping exercise has been conducted to determine the distance of the household recycling centres from the existing bring bank sites.

Ely – Witchford HRC – 2.5 Miles – All Materials
Ely – Sainsbury’s – 1 mile – All Materials
Soham – Witchford HRC – 7.5 Miles – All Materials
Soham – Ely Sainsbury’s – 6.5 Miles – All Materials
Chippenham – Tesco Newmarket – 4.5 Miles (Paper & Glass only)
Chippenham – Witchford HRC – 12.5 Miles – All Materials
Cheveley – Tesco Newmarket – 4.4 Miles (Paper & Glass only)
Cheveley – Milton HRC – 16 Miles – All Materials

5.0 OPTIONS

5.1 The Council has contacted all of the parish and town councils where the 5 sites are located to ensure that they are fully engaged with as part of this review. Each one has been asked to confirm that they are still happy that this service continues, whether there have been any fly-tipping or contamination issues on the sites that they are aware of, or, should ECDC decide to continue to offer this service, whether they would be prepared to make a financial contribution?:

- Cheveley Parish has stated that they would be happy for all of the bring banks to be removed as they appear to contribute to fly-tipping and littering. The site is a health hazard. They further explained that the space would be better utilised for car parking. As all households have a blue bin, the bring banks are not essential.
- Chippenham Parish Council stated that they will not pay a fee to retain the bring banks. They are well used by the community and that the money paid by ECDC helps to maintain the surface of the carpark which the banks are stored on.
- Soham Town Council has said that the bring banks are popular with residents and commented that they have had fly-tipping incidents,
however with the CCTV and better enforcement from ECDC this will help. They said that any decision on charging Soham Town Council to empty the bring banks would be a District Council decision.

- Ely Town Council stated that they would like the bring banks to continue within Ely, however they would not be prepared to make a financial contribution to keep them. They also explained that as the banks are sited at Tesco’s and Waitrose they are unsure whether there have been fly-tipping incidents and the level of usage.

5.2 Members are asked to consider 2 options;

**Option 1**- Status quo. This would continue to cost ECSS approximately £36,000 per year moving forward and an immediate one off cost of £26,000 to purchase new more robust bins.

Although new bins will reduce the opportunity for residents to contaminate banks with black sacks, it does increase the risk that residents will fly tip their waste in other areas of the district.

Data has evidenced that usage of the bring banks across the 5 sites is low. The household kerbside service currently collects an average of 607.64 tonnes of dry recycling per month compared to 14.8 tonnes collected per month from bring banks (the 14.8 tonnes is the weighbridge tonnage figure prior to contamination levels being taken into account).

**Option 2**- Remove all of the 5 remaining bring bank sites across the District.

ECDC provides its residents with an efficient, high performing and well used commingled kerbside recycling service. This service is engineered to have minimal impact on the user allowing them to dispose of a wide variety of materials in one receptacle and is collected from their property on a fortnightly basis.

Where residents have an excess of recyclates material they can either take them to a household recycling centre (HRC), within the District or other local recycling sites or purchase an additional blue bin at a one off cost of £25.00.

The Waste Service will work with Prominent PR to highlight this provision so residents understand the options available to them.
6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The 5 remaining bring banks continue to be of concern due to the high levels of contamination and number of fly-tipping incidents that occur in their vicinity. In addition, the bring bank service is costing ECSS over £35,559 per year.

6.2 26 new bins must be purchased to help stop vandalism from residents at a one off cost of £26,000 making a total estimated cost to ECSS for the next 12 months £61,556.59. This puts an additional strain on current resources and would hinder future aspirations of East Cambs District Council, its residents and ECSS, in areas such as the purchase of new dog bins or litter bins and the purchase of new waste vehicles.

6.4 Residents are provided with an efficient, high performing blue bin recycling service that captures all waste that would be disposed of at a bring bank. Should they wish to purchase an additional bin to support a higher level of recycling, these can be provided at a one off cost of £25.

6.5 The additional resource to remove fly-tipping is currently taking away resource from ECSS which is having an impact on the efficiency and performance of their street cleansing service.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 There are no direct financial implications to ECDC, however there are indirect financial implications as ECDC is the only shareholder of ECSS.

7.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) is not required at this point.

8.0 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix A- Photos showing examples of contamination across the five bring bank sites.

8.2 Appendix B- Breakdown of costs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Background Documents</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Officer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood Recycling Centre Provision, Regulatory Services, 10th September 2018</td>
<td>Room 207 (Location: i.e. The Grange,) Ely</td>
<td>(Name) Darren Hughes (Position) Development Officer (01353) 616298 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Darren.Hughes@eastcambs.gov.uk">Darren.Hughes@eastcambs.gov.uk</a></td>
</tr>
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