

## **NORTH DEVON COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL: 15 JANUARY 2025**

### **REPORT BY LEAD MEMBER FOR WASTE AND RECYCLING**

#### **Operational Services**

During the summer period there were minimal issues with Waste and Recycling collections. Comparing complaints in summer 2023 of 133 complaints to summer 2024 where there were only 47 complaints this was now down by 15.6 complaints per month. The actual quantity of collections taking place were 79,000 per week, 342,332 per month and 4,108,000 per year. The complaints ratio is 0.005%

In 2024 there have been 10 additional staff recruited across the board. Please note this has been filling vacant posts or replacing posts that were previously agency staff. So there hasn't been an increase in costs, we have just strengthened the permanent, full staff.

New Bartec Tablets have been issued with better maps and visibility. The new refuse and recycling vehicles on site have reduced vehicle downtime in the workshop.

#### **Building & Infrastructure improvements.**

All building/construction work has now been completed on schedule, including installation of the new weighbridge, staff office and fire suppression system. The last phase of the project is the delivery and installation of the new baler and bailing system. This will take place through January, with testing and commissioning in February.

#### **Recycling Rates.**

The big challenges for us now will be increasing our recycling rates, and decarbonising our waste and recycling fleet. Mark and his team have been working on their reports with a view to make recommendations to the committee in January or February 2025. Obviously, there will be a consult and discussion prior to tabling the reports.

I would also like to welcome Kit Ayers (Trainee Graduate Manager) who has started her placement in Waste and Recycling with Mark Kentell, and has been tasked with exploring recommendations to increase North Devon's recycling rate which is currently at ~45-6%. This is still in the research stage but the aim is to create a report and recommendations around what is the best way forward for our recycling service; increasing participation in recycling, reducing residual waste by encouraging responsible resource management, and in turn, reducing our carbon emissions. I look forward to talking through her findings in the future.

#### **Devon County Council HWRC.**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the recycling centre at Seven Brethren run by Devon County Council, has accepted upholstered domestic seating waste. Space has been

made for this by removing where the plastic packaging and plastic container recycling use to be, and even though this is on the website a lot of customers especially over the Christmas period ended up putting their plastic recycling into the general rubbish container as this service was no longer provided. The Seven Brethren site has always accepted upholstered materials, since December they have had to split it out from other non-upholstered materials (EA requirement). So the site has had to lose one of the other bins (plastic) to make space for this.

**Summary.**

There has been a great deal of investment this year in the Waste and Recycling process, and I look forward to the completion of the building and infrastructure improvements at Brynsworthy. I will be able to report back and review the improvements at a later date, and then I shall turn my attention to other services such as street sweeping and Trade Waste.

Councillor Julie Hunt  
Lead Member for Waste and Recycling