

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 24 November 2011**

### **Item 6**

#### **PI 8**

Communal recycling - new green bins. A review was due to be carried out in September/October 2011 to consider the effectiveness of the new bin (locked lids and narrow slits). Has the review been carried out and what were the findings?

#### **Response from the Head of Environmental Services (23 November 2011)**

The communal recycling figures are incorporated into the waste and recycling statistics. Around one third of the properties in Watford are flats or multi occupancy accommodations, with over 300 communal recycling sites across the town. The locked lids with narrow slits were placed at locations with known contamination problems and have been successful in preventing any contamination of the communal green waste bins. However it had also proved to make recycling of green waste and cardboard more difficult for some residents. Given this a review has taken place and at some locations, where there are good waste management arrangements, then alternatives to the locked lid can be provided. We are also currently piloting larger slits in the green bin lids, still with locked lids, to see if this makes recycling of green waste easier but also keeps contamination levels down.

#### **PI 9**

Town Centre Recycling bins. In July you had said that the impact on recycling performance of these bins was negligible and there was still an issue with contamination. Have the Town Centre problems been resolved and will you be placing more bins outside other shops across the town?

#### **Response from the Head of Environmental Services (23 November 2011)**

The on-street recycling bins provide an opportunity for members of the public to continue with good recycling behaviour whilst out and about but their impact on the recycling rate is so small as to be negligible. There are some problems with contamination of these recycling bins which unfortunately means that the content of those bins is not recycled. We are piloting a couple of on-street recycling bins at an out of town centre location and will assess how this goes before deciding on any further roll-out of the on street recycling facilities.