



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



News Service

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FROM KITCHEN SCRAPS TO NAPPIES, COUNCIL AIMS TO GET IT RIGHT

East Devon to get ‘first class’ recycling and waste service

EAST Devon District Council has taken the next step towards providing a comprehensive recycling and waste collection service for every household in the area. The latest proposals are for a ‘first class’ service that should meet everyone’s needs, including those who had concerns about fortnightly waste collections.

Wednesday’s meeting of EDDC’s Executive Board made a number of recommendations to the full council which meets on 18 July. These include:

- Weekly collections of kitchen waste
- Weekly collections of a wider range of recycling materials
- Fortnightly collections of other household waste

If agreed by full council later this month, the proposals will mean that the long-awaited pilot scheme will start in the autumn and will incorporate all of the features mentioned above. If these work out well in the pilot scheme, they will be rolled out across the rest of the district in the next 2-3 years.

These measures will help EDDC to improve its record on recycling and meet tough Government and EU targets which, if not met, can lead to punitive fines.

Good news

Councillor David Cox, the Council’s new Portfolio Holder with responsibility for StreetScene – the service that handles waste collections – said he was pleased that the recent delay in launching the pilot scheme to the east of the district has given members a chance to improve the scope of the service.

He said: “This is really good news for householders in East Devon. What we are now proposing should tackle everyone’s concerns, especially those who were unhappy about alternate weekly collections of residual waste.

“By collecting kitchen waste separately on a weekly basis, we take the potentially smelly items out of the equation. That means that householders can concentrate on sifting their other waste into two components – recyclables and other items. We want people to recycle as much as possible – both for the sake of the environment and to help us meet our targets.

“The latest proposals actually match quite closely the original waste strategy drawn up by the Council in 2004 and I’m pleased we are moving towards a first class service of this kind. In doing so, we have one eye not only on the current recycling targets but on even more stretching targets that we expect to see in coming years”.

The exact cost of the additional measures will not be known for some time but they are expected to have a significant impact on the Council’s finances.

Mr Cox added: “We appreciate that the improved service is likely to cost significantly more year-on-year as it is rolled out, but that is what people are saying they want”.

Partners

EDDC is working through the logistics of the latest proposals with partners in waste collection (SITA) and disposal (Devon County Council). The shape and timing of the roll-out will depend to some extent on how quickly these two partners can deal with additional rounds and extra processing of waste materials.

Mr Cox concluded: “Of course there is another major partner in this operation and that is the householders themselves. We would like to thank them for their patience as we have tackled the complex task of designing the right scheme for East Devon. And we want to ask for their support in making the new scheme work as smoothly as possible, so we can all benefit.

“People can assist us by separating their waste into the right bins and for example young families can help by either using Terry nappies or by wrapping disposables in plastic bags to minimise smells. Whether it’s bottles, peelings or nappies, let’s work together to stop Devon going to waste”.

Ends

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