

29 November 2012**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND
ENVIRONMENT****EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY REPAINT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report is to advise the committee of the success of the Community RePaint Nottinghamshire scheme and to recommend the expansion of the scheme to two further Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

Information and Advice

2. Community RePaint is a non-for-profit organisation, established in 1993, that represents a network of over 65 paint reuse schemes across the country. Community RePaint Nottinghamshire, the name given to our local scheme, is run in partnership between Nottinghamshire County Council; Veolia Environmental Services (the council's waste contractor); and Community RePaint.
3. Community RePaint Nottinghamshire was introduced to two, of the fourteen HWRCs, in August 2010. Worksop HWRC, the only site directly run by Veolia, and Calverton HWRC that is run by a separate licensee, were chosen. The service allows residents to dispose of their unwanted liquid paint responsibly rather than placing it in their wheeled bin. Any unusable paint is sent for specialist treatment. However, the scheme is also successful in capturing reusable paint (by evaluating it against a set of Community RePaint criteria), and makes it available, free of charge, to registered community groups throughout the year and, occasionally, to members of the public. This has further environmental benefits as it means paint in a reusable condition is not needlessly sent for treatment and fewer additional resources are not used to manufacture new paint.

Summary of Progress

4. When Community RePaint Nottinghamshire launched in 2010, it began to recruit community groups via voluntary group networks and from the Community RePaint and Nottinghamshire County Council websites. Now more than 160 community groups are registered on the scheme and an increasing number are applying as a result of the positive recommendations of other groups.

5. Community RePaint Nottinghamshire has been successful in redistributing over 12,000 litres of reusable paint to community groups and charities etc since its launch in August 2010.
6. Many of the community groups make one-off collections for a specific project. However, larger organisations that use the paint to refurbish rental properties for vulnerable individuals, or who use the paint to train young people in decorating skills tend to make more regular collections of reusable paint. See Appendix 1 – A sample of community groups that have collected free paint
7. New paint costs approximately £4.10 per litre to buy (Source: GFK Total Paint 2010), so the 12,000 litres redistributed represents a saving of over £49,200 to community groups. This has meant that the groups have been able to refurbish their spaces without having to divert limited funds away from their core work of supporting disadvantaged individuals.
8. In 2011, a decision was made to open the scheme up to members of the public because the scheme was attracting excess paint. Three paint open days were trialled where individuals could arrange time slots on dedicated evenings to collect free reusable paint. These attracted over 40 residents and resulted in over 1,500 litres being redistributed, and consequently it was decided to continue and extend these into the following year.
9. In 2012, 10 public days were scheduled between April and October (7 at Calverton and 3 at Worksop) and resulted in redistributing over 2,500 litres of paint to over 100 individuals. In total, the repaint scheme has redistributed over 16,000 litres of reusable paint since it began.
10. Paint is relatively expensive to dispose of, costing approximately £1 per litre, so any reusable paint that is redistributed represents a saving in treatment costs. The 16,000 litres of redistributed paint to date represents a saving of £16,000.
11. Community RePaint Nottinghamshire has received positive feedback from its recipients and has also attracted positive publicity for Nottinghamshire County Council, Veolia and the community groups involved. However, the council has also received a number of requests to extend the scheme, so that it is available in more locations, and has received complaints about the perceived unfairness of only having the service at two out of the fourteen sites.
12. Therefore, the proposal is to replicate the current model at two further HWRCs in Newark and Beeston. This would improve the geographical coverage and would mean that more community groups would be able to benefit from receiving paint and a greater number of residents would be able to dispose of their unwanted liquid paint.
13. It is also proposed to relocate the existing Community RePaint scheme at Worksop to a nearby site at Warsop. This is because the scheme at Worksop HWRC has been less successful than Calverton HWRC; attracting fewer reusable donations. Consequently a significantly smaller number of community

groups have received paint. In addition, none of the three scheduled public events in Worksop took place as they failed to attract sufficient interest.

14. If the Worksop scheme were relocated to Warsop, it is anticipated that the volume of reusable paint captured and redistributed would be greater. Licensee run sites are paid by Veolia for running a Community RePaint scheme. At Calverton, this has proved to be an incentive for site staff to carefully evaluate the donations of paint received and to separate out any reusable tins. It has also contributed to site staff maintaining a paint store where types and colours are easy to find and where community groups are welcomed and encouraged to make repeat collections.
15. Relocating the scheme to Warsop HWRC would make the scheme accessible to a larger number of residents as Warsop is closer to a number of key urban areas including: Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield and Kirkby-in-Ashfield, whilst still being readily accessible from Worksop itself.

Analysis

16. The implementation of an additional Community Repaint scheme would incur set up costs of approximately £8,000 per site. This covers the costs of an appropriately bunded paint store with shelving and ventilation, containers for the public to drop off paint donations, as well as signage and installation. However, the savings in treatment costs by redistributing reusable paint can cover these initial set up costs over a period of approximately two years.
17. There are no additional staffing costs to consider in the day to day running of the scheme. The extra time that staff spend in sorting paint donations and accompanying community groups is covered by Veolia through a sub-contract arrangement with the individual site licensees. Appointments for community groups to collect reusable paint would be handled through the waste management team, whilst booking time slots for the public open days would be handled by the Nottinghamshire County Council Customer Service Centre in a similar way to the asbestos booking service. There are also no additional planning requirements
18. Community RePaint schemes can only be located on larger HWRCs because space is required to locate a paint store, a sorting area and additional drop off containers. As the north and centre of the county already have adequate Community RePaint coverage, it seems sensible to select larger sites in other areas in order to improve the geographical spread of the service. On that basis, Beeston HWRC, in the south, and Newark HWRC, in the east, have been identified as the most appropriate sites.

Other Options Considered

19. To improve the accessibility for residents to dispose of unwanted paint, the option of locating a drop-off only point at further sites instead of the full reuse service was considered. However, the reuse element has social and environmental benefits as well as financial benefits in terms of treatment costs

saved and so it was decided to replicate the existing model. Furthermore, with the drop-off option, the reusable paint would still need to be transported, to the HWRCs with a full reuse paint scheme, which would be complicated and costly since oil based paint is classified as a hazardous waste.

Reasons for Recommendations

20. Community RePaint Nottinghamshire has been very successful since its introduction in 2010. It has made possible the reuse of a significant volume of paint and as such has had both environmental and financial benefits. It has also had social benefits in that it has supported the work of a wide range of community groups and voluntary organisations in the county.
21. However, as Community RePaint Nottinghamshire currently operates from only two sites, it is preventing a significant number of residents and groups from accessing the scheme.
22. Relocating the poorly performing scheme at Worksop to the nearby HWRC at Warsop is likely to increase the volume of reusable paint captured and redistributed. The distance that some groups and individuals would have to travel to access the service would increase, but this has been kept to a minimum.

Statutory and Policy Implications

23. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

24. The cost of setting up an additional scheme would be in the region of £8,000 per site. These capital costs can be met from existing HWRC capital maintenance budgets held by the Waste and Energy group. There would be no additional staffing costs.
25. When reusable paint is captured by the site staff and redistributed to community groups, it means that it does not have to be sent for specialist treatment, costing approximately £1 per litre. Redistributing paint creates savings that can result in the service becoming cost neutral. It is anticipated that this could be achieved in approximately 2 years from scheme launch based on the volume of paint redistributed from the two initial sites.
26. The cost of relocating the paint store, drop off containers and signage to Warsop has not yet been calculated. However, it will be significantly less than the cost of an additional scheme, and again can be met from the existing HWRC capital maintenance budgets held by the Waste and Energy group

Implications for Service Users

27. The expansion of the scheme to two further sites will benefit service users who wish to dispose of their liquid paint but are not located near to either Calverton or Worksop HWRC. Newark and Beeston are both located in urban areas. The improved geographical spread would also benefit community groups and individuals hoping to access the service.
28. Nottinghamshire County Council receive regular comments and complaints regarding the perceived unfairness of having the service at only two sites so the expansion would go some way to addressing this dissatisfaction.
29. Some residents and community groups based in the north of the county would be slightly disadvantaged by the relocation of the Worksop scheme as Warsop HWRC is approximately 10 miles away. However, it is anticipated that many more residents and community groups could benefit from the relocation. This is because a 10 mile radius around the Warsop site takes in the urban centres of Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Worksop and the towns of Rainworth, Ollerton and Bilsthorpe. A number of these are in areas of deprivation where individuals may benefit from access to free reusable paint. Also a number of community groups operate in these areas and could represent potential outlets for the reusable paint.

Recommendation

30. That the Committee approve the extension of Community RePaint Nottinghamshire to Newark and Beeston HWRCs and the relocation of the existing scheme from Worksop HWRC to Warsop HWRC.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments

31. The Environment and Sustainability Committee has authority to approve the recommendation set out in this report (NAB 7.11.12)

Financial Comments

32. The contents of this report are duly noted; the financial implications are brought out within the report (DJK 07.11.12).

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Divisions

All