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Date: *21 September 2009*

NOTIFICATION OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION(S)

On 21 September 2009, Cllr E J Heron, the Environment Portfolio Holder, made the following decision(s). Any member of the Council, who is not a Portfolio Holder, who considers that this decision should be reviewed should give notice to the Monitoring Officer (Grainne O'Rourke) (in writing or by e-mail) to be received **ON OR BY 28 SEPTEMBER 2009**.

Details of the documents the Portfolio Holder considered are attached.

DECISION:

To switch to collecting mixed colour glass at the bottle banks instead of colour separated glass.

REASON(S):

Mixed colour glass collections are more efficient allowing a number of operational changes to be made, as set out in the supporting report.

ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

To remain with colour separated glass collections.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED:

None

For Further Information Please Contact:

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PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION – ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

MIXED GLASS COLLECTION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 New Forest District Council collects glass bottles and jars from more than 100 public recycling centres plus about 80 trade customers. Glass is collected as three separate colours - clear, green and brown. Most of the glass collected by the Council is delivered to the Recresco glass reprocessing depot at Southampton Docks. Because of changes to the reprocessing arrangements at Recresco it is now possible for the Council to collect mixed glass.
- 1.2 Recresco are now better equipped to deal with mixed glass. The mixed glass is mechanically sorted at Southampton Docks into the three constituent colours – clear, green and brown and is delivered to glass manufacturers in the UK and Ireland to be made into new bottles and jars.

2. MIXED GLASS COLLECTION

- 2.1 The collection of mixed glass was considered by the Environment Review Panel on 10 September 2009 (minute ref.25). The recommendation of the Environment Review Panel was that the Environment Portfolio Holder be advised that, following a critical evaluation of the costs and benefits of changing to a mixed colour glass collection service, the Panel has concluded that there are financial and environmental benefits to be gained from such a change. Accordingly, the Panel would advocate the introduction of mixed colour glass collection, as soon as possible, together with the consequent amendments to collection arrangements.
- 2.2 The collection of mixed glass will have a number of advantages. It will be more straightforward for the public to be able to put all their clear, green and brown glass into one recycling container. The Council will be able to make efficiency savings by collecting all colours of glass together with reductions in vehicle mileage and fuel costs. It will be possible to provide additional local sites for glass recycling in urban areas because it will only be necessary to have one mixed glass container at each site, instead of three – one for clear glass, one for green glass and one for brown glass.
- 2.3 By delivering mixed glass to the reprocessing site, the Council will receive approximately £5 per tonne less from Recresco. Amendments to collection routes, however, mean that all the glass collected by the Council would be able to be taken to Recresco and attract an income, whereas as present, glass collected in the west of the District is taken to Hurn, with no financial return. In addition, it is anticipated that the revised arrangements will mean that glass which is currently collected by an external contractor will be able to be brought in house. It is therefore anticipated that the efficiency savings made by switching to mixed glass collections and the greater tonnages that will be taken to Recresco will more than compensate for the reduction in income per tonne. Long term improvements in the market for recycled glass mean that there is a secure outlet for mixed glass and that all the mixed glass collected by the Council will be colour sorted and used to make new glass containers.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

3.1 The alternative to collection of mixed glass would be to continue to collect glass in three separate colours. The Council would then miss the opportunity to make efficiency savings and achieve environmental benefits by switching to mixed glass collection.

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

4.1 None.

5. DECISION

5.1 That New Forest District Council switch to the collection of mixed glass for recycling.

Signed: CLLR E J HERON
Councillor Edward Heron
Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Date: 21st September '09

Date on which notice given for this decision – 21st September 2009

Last date for call in – 28th September 2009