



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

11 November 2008

Report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Services

Visit to Schools to look at Derby City Council's Pilot Recycling Programme

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the Commission's meeting on 26 June 2008, Councillor Hird volunteered to go on a visit to some schools in the City to establish how well the pilot recycling programme was working and what problems the schools were experiencing with the project.
- 2.2 On 22 September Councillor Hird, Ellen Bird (Assistant Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer) and Jenny Allen (Waste Policy and Projects Officer) visited Alvaston Junior School and Chaddesden Park Primary School.
- 2.3 Both schools had been involved in the pilot project since November 2007.
- 2.4 The schools were selected for a visit as Alvaston Junior had given positive feedback about the pilot scheme and Chaddesden Park Primary had reported some problems with the scheme.

Alvaston Junior School

- 3.1 At Alvaston Junior School we met with the Head Teacher, Mrs Penglase and a year 5 pupil who was a representative on the School Council.
- 3.2 They reported that they had run the scheme in conjunction with the infant school (which was attached to the juniors).

- 3.3 Prior to the pilot recycling scheme starting, the school had not carried out any formal recycling policies although they had been involved in Blue Peter collections of cans. They also composted the school's garden waste.
- 3.4 The school recycled paper, cardboard and plastic bottles. They did not tend to recycle cans as the school did not encourage the children to drink fizzy drinks as part of the Healthy Schools Programme.
- 3.5 The Year 5 Pupil felt that the scheme was working well and that the children liked the opportunity to recycle at school as many of them were accustomed to doing this at home.
- 3.6 The scheme had been well publicised in the school through school assemblies.
- 3.7 Each class had a 'monitor' who was responsible for looking after the small blue recycling bins which were in every class room. These had been purchased by the school so that the Children could carry them and be responsible for ensuring they were taken to the large blue recycling bin at the correct time.
- 3.8 It was noted that the school cleaners and caretakers had welcomed the scheme.
- 3.9 It was felt that the biggest problems with the scheme were:
- **Storage** – keeping the paper and cardboard in small classrooms had created some problems but there was capacity to use some space in the corridors at the school.
 - **Collection** – The bins were collected currently as part of a domestic collection round. This meant the large blue bins had to be taken to the gate for collection. This increased congestion around the school gates at a busy time of the morning.
 - **Volume** – As the school consumed a high volume of cardboard and paper there was sometimes too much recyclable material to store and put in the bins. This was a problem especially at busy times like the start and end of term.
- 3.10 On the whole the school had found the Pilot Project to have been a positive experience and were keen for it to continue. The school was keen to adopt any initiatives to tackle climate change in the school.
- 3.11 The Year 5 Pupil said she would report the visit back to the School Council and would report any further thoughts from pupils about how the recycling project could be improved to Council Officers.

Chaddesdon Park Junior School

- 4.1 At Chaddesdon Park Junior School we met with Mrs McFarlen, a teacher who ran the school's Eco-Club and Mrs Mills who worked as a class room assistant and was a school governor. She had an interest in promoting recycling in the school.
- 4.2 The school had become involved in the pilot project as children from the 'Eco-Club' had written to the Council asking if it would be possible to extend the paper recycling they were already doing to cardboard, plastics and cans, as they did at home.
- 4.3 The school also had a composting scheme and a 'butterfly corner' as well as eco friendly technology like monitor sensor lights. They were part of the Eco-schools programme and were working towards their 'green award'. They had an 'Eco-Code' which was on display in each classroom. (see appendix 2)
- 4.4 The school had adopted a similar approach to Alvaston Junior School in that each classroom had small collection bins which were looked after by two monitors per class.
- 4.5 They had had some problems with the scheme in the following areas:
- **Bin Collection Failure** – the school had had a problem with getting the bins emptied for 3 weeks which had resulted in some recyclable materials being put in the black bins.
 - **Time of collection** – the plastic and glass collection was very early and the school had some problems with ensuring the bins were out in time as they could not be left out overnight due to vandalism and fire risks.
 - **Sorting the material** – getting young children to follow the rules about separating rubbish had proved a challenge but the school had special assemblies to teach them about how to do this properly.
 - **Volume** – the school reported that they sometimes had too much paper to recycle resulting in excess paper sometimes being put into the brown bins.
 - **Time** – it was reported that it could be time consuming to remove staples and tape from the cardboard for recycling and that if the project was to be rolled out to other schools this issue should be highlighted to them.
- 4.6 The school had embraced the recycling project despite the problems they had encountered with it – even the School Kitchen now washed

and recycled all the tin cans they used. They hoped the scheme would continue and that it would be rolled out to other schools.

For more information contact:	Ellen Bird 01332 255599 e-mail ellen.bird@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Implications Appendix 2 – Chaddesden Park Junior School's Eco-code

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. Effective scrutiny is to the benefit of all Derby people.

Corporate Priorities

5. This report links with Council's priority for 2008-11 to:
 - Leading derby towards a better environment.