

Council seeks bright ideas over recycling

EVERY household in Cambridge is to be given a chance to have a say on how the city council can improve recycling levels.

The city council is under pressure from the Government to increase how much it recycles. It currently recycles about 24 per cent of the city's waste but a major new plan needs to be put in place to improve this.

Coun Iain Coleman, portfolio holder for recycling, says the council's absolute current capacity for recycling is around 26 per cent but the Government target for next year is 36 per cent. If the council fails to meet its targets it could be landed with a hefty fine.

Several ideas have been raised to encourage more recycling, including reducing the black bin household waste collections to once a fortnight to force people to put more waste in their green compost bins and kerbside recycling boxes. Another is to inspect people's bins and fine them if they are not recycling enough.

In September the council is going to deliver a questionnaire to every household in the city asking for residents' opinions so that it can choose the right scheme. The survey needs to be collated and analysed in time for the annual budget process, which starts in November. A cross-party working group of councillors is meeting on Monday to decide on the wording of the questionnaire before it is sent out.

Coun Coleman said: "We want to get the questionnaire out as soon as possible so that we can take what the public says on board.

"We want to gather as much information as we can about how people use their recycling facilities at the moment and what they think about the way forward - we want to know what people's priorities are.

"People in Cambridge support recycling, they see it as a great thing. When we introduced plastic bottle recycling that was very popular indeed.

"We will ask people quite a lot of detailed questions about how much they recycle and what they recycle and give them plenty of space to put forward their own comments."



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