



Leicester  
City Council

Press Office

## News release

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### City Mayor to take orange bag success citywide

PLANS to extend the successful trial of a new kerbside recycling scheme in Leicester will be launched by the city mayor and his cabinet at its first public meeting on Monday, June 20.

The six-month trial was started in September 2010 and saw orange bags replace green boxes in parts of Belgrave, Braunstone Park, Rowley Fields, Evington and Eyres Monsell.

The orange bags replaced the green boxes and allowed people to collect a wider range of waste including mixed plastics, tins and cans and cardboard.

Bags were still collected weekly, on the same day as wheelie bin collections to save any confusion. People were also allowed to put out as many orange bags as they wished as the new scheme did away with the need for roadside sorting.

Monitoring of the project showed that the amount of recycling collected each week more than doubled from 8.2 tonnes to an average of 18.8 tonnes per week. The amount of binned refuse collected in the trial areas fell by 15.3 per cent from an average of 98 to 83 tonnes per week.

This saw the kerbside recycling rate for the trial areas increase by 10.8 per cent from 7.8 per cent to 18.6 per cent%.

The trial also showed that households that had not previously recycled had started to use the orange bags during the trial and participation rates in the trial areas rose from an average of 63 per cent to 83 per cent, with participation in some areas increasing by 30 per cent.

Cllr Sarah Russell, assistant city mayor at Leicester City Council, said: "The results of the orange bag trial show that extending this across the city will bring real benefits.

"Rolling the new scheme out to the whole of Leicester could increase the city's overall recycling and composting rate from 40 per cent to closer to 50 per cent.

"The new arrangements have been really popular with residents who clearly want to recycle more of their household waste without any additional fuss. It's the simplicity of the new scheme that's help it prove so successful."

[more]

The final decision about whether to extend the orange bag scheme or maintain the existing green box scheme will be announced at the next meeting of cabinet on at Monday, July 4, with the aim of introducing a new scheme across the city in October 2011.

**[ends]**

**For further information please contact Jon Evans, press officer on 0116 252 7926.**

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