

Question from Councillor Elliott to the chairman of the resources committee

At full council on the 22 of July 2014, the Partnership and Performance committee of 8 July item 5 resolved that the “ resources committee be asked to consider the extension of the brown bin collection service by one month,and to consider any alternative ways to increase recycling “. I was pleased to hear the chairman of resources wished to aim for a 60% recycling from our current 35%.

Can I ask when does the chairman expect resources to consider this and also ask that the committee consider the recent report of the House of Commons environmental committee and the government’s response. That in addition to separating recyclables as planned at the Trafalgar House facility to meet the 2015 government target to also collect food waste separately so it does not go to landfill. This has the added advantage if the food waste is collected weekly, like in Northampton and Daventry; it reduces the risk of smell in the black bins in the summer.

The resources committee may also wish to consider that the council’s 35% recycling rate puts us nationally in the bottom percentile for recycling, just above bottom 10, and we are the worst in the county. South Northants, an authority not noted for excessive expenditure, has a 56% recycling rate. I hope the council will acknowledge the seriousness of its problem and will bid for the governments measly £5m recycling fund.

Cllr Richard Elliott
27/11/14

