

Commentary on the BVPI's - Performance against Top and Bottom Quartile 2005/6

I propose to address those indicators in the medium and bottom quartile in Environment section but will highlight some notable successes.

1. BVPI 82aii – the desire to increase the tonnage of waste (albeit recycled) is contrary to waste minimisation and we should be doing all that we can to reduce both residual and recycle (it all costs money to handle). So I have to reject this BVPI as plainly stupid!
2. BVPI 82bi and bii (waste composted) - I continue to have a fundamental problem with these indicators that run contrary to our published policy and the apparent governments adherence to waste hierarchy and minimisation. There is no account taken of the huge amount of home composting done. The most recent WRAP survey in the Vale and Oxfordshire shows that a very significant percentage of people surveyed said they composted at home. 62% in the Vale and 40% in Oxfordshire. Until government appreciates how much home composting contributes I shall resist any attempt to drive these numbers up. I will of course respond to the very positive uptake by residents with the brown wheelie bin scheme and expect that when the new scheme to redirect the green sack garden waste away from landfill is introduced in 2007 we shall see the numbers increase.
3. The Vale should congratulate itself on its top performance with BVPI84a, household waste collected per head of population and at the same time the BVPI 86 – Cost of Waste collected. I have drawn some comparisons with our partner districts in the rest of Oxfordshire in the Table below:

Authority	Household Waste collected kp per head	Collection charge per household 2005/06
SODC	396	£50.96
Cherwell	440	£56.94
WODC	443	£53.05
VOWH	352	£45.90

4. BVPI 166 – Environmental Health Check list – the Executive has taken action to ensure that significant improvement will be achieved during 06/07. Ref the comments in Agenda item 12 on page 18. Cllr Richard Farrell may also address this in his report.
5. BVPI 218b – removal of abandoned vehicles. I shall give a verbal report on this at the meeting.

Tony de Vere 28th February 2007