

Statement: CS22.01

Cabinet – 5 October 2021

Re: Agenda item 22 - Quarterly Performance Progress Report (Q1 - 2021/22)

Statement submitted by: Councillor Gary Hopkins

On page 485 we find bpc541 where the target is to increase the % of household waste recycled from 45% to 50%.

The ambition itself is disappointing in that the figure of 50% was being nudged over 10 years ago and new opportunities should by now have taken us beyond that figure. I was struck before the election when the Mayor claimed to have made Bristol the Best core city for recycling. In fact, it has been for over 10 years but we are now in fact treading water as others improve.

The figures in this report show that our actual figure has slipped to 43%. What is alarming is the explanation given.

'Recycling continues to be negatively impacted as the overall volume of household waste has gone up exponentially over the last year due COVID related home working and therefore proportionately less is getting recycled as a % of the overall waste stream.'

What a load of nonsense!

More home working will increase the amount of total waste coming through domestic waste and of course because some of this will continue service will need to plan to cope. It is though the therefore that is wrong. Why would Bristolians choose to stop recycling? I would suggest that they are not and in fact and it is the service that is struggling.

If the service is struggling to cope for short term reasons please say so, so that we could have a little more confidence that the service will recover in the near future.

Perhaps scrutiny can look at the real performance and the plans for recovery.