RESIDENTS across South Lanarkshire are being urged to be more vigilant with items they put for recycling in their blue bins.

Contamination of the blue paper and card bins has increased recently and is costing the council thousands of pounds in penalties as well as a loss of potential income from recycled material.

In April alone the cost was almost £60,000 – money that would otherwise be available to spend on services for local people.

The most common types of contamination found in recycling bins are black bag waste (for example bags of rubbish that should go in the green/black bin), nappies, food waste, glass, electrical items, textiles and shoes.

Refuse collection crews have been checking recycling bins and are now only emptying those that appear to contain the correct material. Bins which are not collected will have their lids left open and will be collected within 24 hours but this material will not be recycled.

During June and July stickers will be put on residents’ blue paper and card bins to remind them what can and can’t go in them.

From July (in the East Kilbride, Rutherford and Cambuslang areas) onwards, a yellow tag will be placed on any resident’s bin that can’t be collected because the wrong items have been presented for recycling. If your bin has been tagged it won’t be collected until the next non-recyclable waste collection.

Leader of South Lanarkshire Council John Ross said: “The continued contamination of blue bins is costing the council money and we are absolutely determined to improve the quality of our paper and card recycling.

For more details go to bit.ly/SLCBlueBin

April 2018

Material collected from blue bins totalled: **801 tonnes**

More than half (439 tonnes) was rejected and sent to landfill because of contamination

Cost to council taxpayers **£58,180**

“**We appreciate that there may be some residents who are unsure as to what exactly should and shouldn’t be going in the blue bin.**

“**This is why we are trying to raise awareness and the first step in doing so is the stickers which will let people know this information.**

“**They can of course also go on to our website where all the information is available.**

“Following on from this we will ‘tag’ any bin which has contaminated waste and it will not be picked up by our recycling teams. We would ask people to put the bin out the following week when it will be picked up alongside their general refuse.

“I know most people are very vigilant and determined to recycle as much material as they can and we thank them for doing so.

“We just want to make sure people who perhaps aren’t as aware have the information they need to recycle correctly.”

There are some flats in South Lanarkshire which, because of space and/or access restrictions, still make use of mixed recycling blue bins. Those residents only can still present your blue bin every two weeks (rather than every four weeks) you can recycle more than paper and card in your blue bin. To check what should go in your mixed recycling blue bin go to the bin directories page at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/recyclinginfobluffs
ANOTHER four new schools have opened in South Lanarkshire over the past few weeks as part of the council’s school investment programme.

The £850 million Primary Schools Modernisation Programme was launched in 2004 with the ambitious target of replacing or modernising each and every one of the council’s estate of primary schools.

Councillor Katy Loudon, Chair of South Lanarkshire Council’s Education Resources Committee said: “I’ve had the pleasure of visiting these new schools to see the fantastic learning and teaching environments they provide. It’s incredible that we are almost at the completion of the schools modernisation project and there are only another four schools until the target is realised.

“So far 126 new schools have been built throughout the area and children have been reaping the benefits of first class learning facilities.”

Councillor Katy Loudon, Chair of South Lanarkshire Council’s Education Resources Committee

“I have no doubt that the remainder of the schools will be built to the same high standard and we will be the first council in Scotland to have totally transformed its education estate. No mean feat in anyone’s eyes and something I am extremely proud to have been a part of.”

St Patrick’s Primary School and Nursery class in Strathaven opened to pupils on Monday 14 May. The school had been decanted during the build period and were delighted to get back to their own site to a much improved building.

The £11 million school was designed and built by South Lanarkshire Council’s Building Services, part of Housing and Technical Resources. It has seven classrooms, a nursery class, general purpose/ICT open area, dining hall, assembly/gym hall and externally has a 3G multi use games area and a fantastic climbing wall.

Attached is a community wing which replaces Strathaven library and the town’s Ballgreen Hall.

Head Teacher Pamela Bradley said: “The building has surpassed any expectations we had. It’s phenomenal, offering us a variety of flexible space and large bright and airy classrooms. The children have settled in well and it’s a real pleasure to teach in. The feedback from all staff has been extremely positive and I know great things are going to happen in our new home.”

The new £5.4 million Tinto Primary School in Symington was also designed and built by South Lanarkshire Council’s Building Services team. The impressive new structure consists of five classrooms and a combined gym and dining hall, general purpose area and a flexible open area and library.

SETTLING IN: Olivia Tweedie at the new Tinto Primary School

PROUD: Isla Holman is delighted with the library at Building Services, part of Housing and Technical Resources. It has seven classrooms, a nursery class, general purpose/ICT open area, dining hall, assembly/gym hall and externally has a 3G multi use games area and a fantastic climbing wall.

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It's all GO for the Primary Schools Modernisation Programme

PROUD: Isla Holman is delighted with the library at the new Crawford Primary School

HAPPY: Councillor Loudon with some senior pupils jumping for joy at the new Tinto Primary School (above). Ellie Taylor and Rhiannon Burns in the new Crawford building (above top) and Jason Fox outside the new St Patrick's Primary School in Strathaven

Head Teacher Alex Stark said: "We have involved the children in all aspects of the new school - they helped to pick the colours and furniture and wall decorations and they also designed our new house shields so they really have taken a sense of ownership of the new school already.

"Their reaction on day one was one of wonder and awe and they’ve settled in and are learning well in the new classes."

Following a decant the pupils and staff of Crawford Primary School were delighted to move in to the new and improved £3.2 million Crawford Primary School. Head Teacher Hazel Orr said: “We are glad to be back in the heart of our community and are just in love with our new school. Every pupil has designed a piece of art made from the slate roof of the old building so they will all go down in history as being the first pupils to be taught in this wonderful building. We have already welcomed our P1s for next year and cannot wait for them to start their educational journeys in this inspirational building.”

The refurbished £5.3 million Hallside Primary School in Cambuslang opened to pupils on Thursday 7 June to the great delight of the school community. Head Teacher Gillian Russell said: “We already feel right at home in our new school and I know that we will go from strength in our new building.”

The remaining schools to be completed as part of the programme included Underbank Primary School in Crossford, which is due to open before the end of the year. Walston Primary School in Biggar and the Early Learning Unit in Hamilton will open during summer 2019.
WHAT A YEAR!

THE PROVOST may stand outside the day-to-day politics of local government but it is almost certainly one of the busiest appointments to be taken up by an elected member.

Community life in South Lanarkshire does not run to office hours and as a result neither do the duties of the Provost. The briefest of glances at the office diary proves official engagements do not conform to a Monday to Friday, 9-5 working week.

Provost Ian McAllan was still a newly elected councillor serving his first term in office when he accepted the honour of being chosen as Provost in May 2017, he said: “I knew of the important civic role the Provost plays but I have to admit this year has been a bit of an eye-opener as to just how much work it entails, however I have thoroughly enjoyed undertaking all my official duties and I am deeply honoured to continue serving the people of South Lanarkshire as Provost.

“The duties of a Provost are nothing if not varied and I can find myself going from a deeply serious and moving civic ceremony and the next appointment might be a Diamond Wedding Anniversary or 100th birthday celebration. However, I will say that as Provost it is an honour and a privilege to attend them all.”

“The duties of a Provost are nothing if not varied...it is an honour and a privilege to attend all the events.”

Representing, as it does, the civic face of South Lanarkshire performing his duties requires Provost McAllan to maintain a degree of dignity and grace. However, he has also brought a very personal touch and, when appropriate, a sense of fun to the role.

During the 2017 Hamilton Christmas Light Switch on Provost McAllan joined Irish pop act B*witched on the stage as they led the crowd in a sing-along in the countdown to the big switch on.

For his official Christmas card rather than a formally posed official portrait the Provost chose a more relaxed picture taken at Cathkin Community Nursery’s Nativity show.

Prior to becoming a councillor, Provost McAllan had a career as a police officer serving in a variety of roles across the West of Scotland. He lives with his wife in Biggar and has three daughters.

Provost McAllan is also supported by Depute Provost Collette Stevenson.

Anyone wishing to have their celebration or event attended by the Provost should contact the Provost’s office directly by phone on 01698 454910 or email: ian.mclean@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

You can follow the Provost on Twitter @SLCProvost.