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Report

Subject : Waste & Recycling Service
Report to : Cabinet
Date : Wednesday 10th October 2007
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1. Purpose of Report

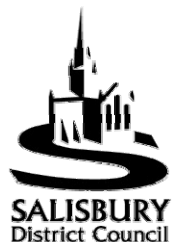
1.1 To report the findings of the further work undertaken by officers on Option 2, a continuing weekly collection of household waste with alternate week collection of recyclables both using wheeled bins, and in particular the financial aspects as requested by Cabinet at their meeting on 5th September 2007.

2. Financial Considerations:

- 2.1 A challenging financial review of the additional costs associated with continuing weekly collections of residual waste using wheeled bins, has been undertaken between officers in Financial Services and Environmental Services.
- 2.2 The revised figures include a change of accounting policy - namely ending the internal leasing of vehicles, which members would have available for other priorities if they decided to retain the original proposal of a full AWC programme. This saves £240,000 in a full year. Funding of refuse vehicles will need to be met from capital in the future, and provision will need to be made at this time.
- 2.3 The revised additional costs are estimated at £500,000 for a full year. This equates to six new vehicles (excluding internal leasing costs of £120,000), 6 drivers and 12 loaders.
- 2.4 Additionally, by reducing the budget for buying sacks for those properties where having a wheeled bin is not appropriate, an additional £50,000 has been saved. This again could be used for other priorities if members wished if this option is not pursued.
- 2.5 This would leave £450,000 of additional expenditure required for a full year. If an October 2008 start date is agreed by members, these budget requirements can be reduced as a one-off in the first year. Expenditure of £200,000 for 2008/09 and an additional £250,000 for 2009/10 will need to be built into the MTFs, which will increase the pressures in other areas to make savings.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



3. Further Consideration – Bin Size

- 3.1. The use of 120 litre bins was quoted in the original Option 2. Further investigation has revealed that using these smaller bins alongside the standard 180 litre bins results in operational difficulties. Bin-lifts are automated and only function with optimum speed and safety when collected bins of a standard height. Additional time required to adjust the height of the lift for each small bin will reduce the daily capacity of the round and would result in additional resources being required.
- 3.2. 180 litre bins are compatible with those used by Kennet and North Wilts District Councils and are consistent with the principles and objectives of the Joint Municipal waste Management Strategy for Wiltshire. Use of 180 litre bins would therefore contribute towards future-proofing the service.
- 3.3. Variety of bin size would lead to an ongoing servicing requirements as changes in circumstances in each house would lead to changes in required bin-size e.g. family moving into a dwelling previously occupied by an individual resident.
- 3.4. Consistency with bin size will minimise storage requirements and simplify stock management.
- 3.5. Parts for 180 litre bins have already been procured by the bin manufacturer in accordance with the original order.

4. Further Consideration – Performance

- 4.1. There is a serious risk that the council will not achieve the Government's recycling target by 2010 whilst maintaining a weekly collection service.
- 4.2. The roll-out, in November 2007, of the Black Box kerbside recycling scheme will increase recycling performance by an estimated 2-3% per annum.
- 4.3. The separate collection of plastic bottles and cardboard will increase recycling performance by an estimated 1-2% per annum.
- 4.4. Using a 180 litre bin with a no-side-waste policy will provide a capacity constraint to a significant number of households and lead to increased recycling without an overall increase in the current weight of waste arisings.
- 4.5. The overall weight of waste landfilled will reduce if the current policy of collecting one free bag of garden waste per week per household is stopped and the proposed, chargeable garden waste collection service introduced throughout the district. This will increase recycling performance by an estimated 3% per annum.
- 4.6. It is therefore estimated that an overall recycling performance of 31% is achievable.

5. Further Consideration – Garden Waste

- 5.1. The cessation of the free garden waste collections in rural areas will reduce the tonnage of household waste going to landfill.
- 5.2. The chargeable collection service for mixed garden waste and cardboard in urban areas using paper sacks is proving successful but changes to the composting process and high levels of contamination means that the mixed collections will have to be phased out by April 2008.
- 5.3. Introducing the proposed chargeable service throughout the district using wheeled bins will deliver compostable materials that will meet the processing requirements and provide an equitable solution for all households.

- 5.4. Results from Kennet DC clearly indicate that, within its first year, such a service proved cost-neutral with 5,000 customers and yielded 3,300 tonnes of compostable material, 7% of all waste arisings.
- 5.5. Subject to Cabinet approval, an early roll-out of the chargeable garden waste service prior to October 2008 would result in immediate improvements to recycling performance, would remove the need for mixed collections as in 5.2, and would free up officer capacity at the time of the proposed wholesale change in October 2008.

6. The Way Forward

- 6.1. The key aspects of the proposed service are therefore as follows :
 - 6.1.1. Weekly collection of landfill waste using 180 litre bin, October 2008.
 - 6.1.2. Fortnightly collection of plastic bottles and cardboard using 180 litre bin, October 2008.
 - 6.1.3. Extension of fortnightly Black Box kerbside recycling scheme across the whole district, November 2007.
 - 6.1.4. Introduction of chargeable, fortnightly Garden Waste collection service across the whole district, April 2008.
 - 6.1.5. Continued use of sacks for properties unsuitable for wheeled bins.
 - 6.1.6. Volume of landfill waste restricted by no-side-waste, closed lid policy for wheeled bin properties and the issue of finite quantity of labels sack properties.
- 6.2. Once the general policy has been approved, a variety of minor policy decisions and interpretations will be required as progress is made towards implementing the new scheme. All aspects must have full member support and backing to ensure the success of any new scheme.
- 6.3. Officers are minded that currently, no member-approval mechanism exists outside of Cabinet.
- 6.4. In order to facilitate the successful launch of new arrangements and allow for timely decision making on incidental matters, it is suggested that the Improving Waste Management Board is reconvened. Membership of that Board could include the Portfolioholder for Environment, Portfolioholder for Resources, other members from across the political parties, and approved external partners e.g. Agenda 21 representative, Communications Officer etc.

7. Recommendation(s):

- 7.1. Members are recommended to:
- 7.2. approve the way forward as in 6.1 above.
- 7.3. instruct officers to agree membership and new terms of reference for the Improving Waste Management Board.

Background Papers

- **Appendix 1 – Supporting Information**

8. Implications:

- **Financial:** Contained in report
- **Legal:** None
- **Human Rights:** None
- **Personnel:** None
- **Community Safety:** None.
- **Environmental:** Improved recycling performance and reduction in quantity of waste landfilled.
- **ICT:** None.
- **Council's Core Values:** Excellent service, environmentally conscientious, communicating with public, willing partner.
- **Wards Affected:** All

Supporting Information

The Case For Introduction of Wheeled Bins

1. SDC is one of the few collection authorities in England collecting waste in plastic sacks. The collection process is quick and efficient however it presents various difficulties both now and for the future.
2. Sack collection systems prevent local authorities exercising any control over the volume and content of waste being sent for landfill.
3. Wheeled bins are of a fixed capacity and therefore provide local authorities with a means of controlling the quantity of waste collected from each household should it wish, or be required, to do so.
4. Sacks are prone to splitting and vulnerable to vermin, domestic pets, insects etc.
5. Wheeled bins provide a hygienic and secure means of storing waste and recyclable materials.
6. HSE investigations over the past two years have determined that the waste management industry now tops the list for accidents and injuries, many caused by handling and lifting sacks and dustbins.
7. Wheeled bins eliminate the risk of stick or laceration injuries and significantly reduce the risk of strain injuries, to both collection staff and the public alike. They provide an easily manageable means of storing and moving waste to the collection point for the significant majority of householders.
8. The majority of local authorities provide their residents with a means of containing their waste. SDC is often criticised for not providing householders with sacks or bins.

Arrangements for Sack Properties

1. Properties not suitable for wheeled bins will remain on a sack collection system.
2. The removal of the budget to provide those sacks for the householder will necessitate alternative arrangements if the quantity of waste for landfill is to be controlled and recycling to be encouraged.
3. Issuing a finite quantity of domestic waste labels, to be stuck on each sack for collection, by post to each property will ensure those properties have a comparable capacity for waste to those with wheeled bins.
4. The sack service will remain vulnerable to the vagueries of householder's choice of refuse sacks in that flimsy, over-sized sacks could be used causing the associated difficulties.
5. A consistent and firm policy to optimise the number of properties provided with bins will assist in keeping the costs of sack collections to a minimum as well as enhance the operational effectiveness of the rounds.

Interim Steps Prior to October 2008

1. November 07 – roll-out of Black Boxes across the rural parts of the district. As paper will be recycled in the boxes, the existing mixed paper and cardboard collection service in rural areas will change to a cardboard only collection service. If operationally viable, the cardboard-only collections will take place on the same day as the Black Boxes to ensure simplicity for the householder i.e. providing a single, "recycling" collection day.
2. April 08 – collections of mixed garden waste and cardboard collections from urban areas must cease.
3. April 08 – chargeable garden waste collection service to be implemented in two phases, commencing with urban areas and progressing into rural areas as per customer take-up.
4. April 08 – existing mixed garden waste and cardboard collection round will change to a cardboard only collection round.
5. October 08 – roll-out of main twin-bin scheme.
6. October 08 – rural and urban cardboard collection rounds cease.