

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member - Environmental

DATE: 29th September 2010

SUBJECT: **DEVELOPMENT OF A ZONED WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION SYSTEM**

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

REPORT OF: J G Black–
Operational Services Director

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**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To advise the Cabinet Member - Environmental of the potential for changes to existing collection arrangements for residual & recyclable waste.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

In order to make more efficient use of resources it is proposed that a new zoned system of waste and recycling collection could be introduced across the Borough, generating substantial savings. Such a decision would require Cabinet approval as it would affect all wards. Further development work is needed, therefore approval to continue with this process is sought from the Cabinet Member – Environmental.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- i) That the Cabinet Member - Environmental approves the further development and implementation of a new zoned system of waste and recycling collection.
- ii) That the Cabinet Member – Environmental agrees to a further detailed report on the potential efficiencies generated through the introduction of a zoned system of waste and recycling collection being presented to Cabinet to seek approval for its implementation with effect from January 2011.

KEY DECISION: Yes - if report forwarded to Cabinet

FORWARD PLAN: Yes - if report forward to Cabinet

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 2011

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Maintain current collection arrangements. However, in light of evidence available from similar collection services nationwide, coupled with the ongoing development of new route optimisation software within the industry, the current collection methods operated within Sefton are no longer considered to deliver the most efficient use of resources in relation to waste and recycling services.

IMPLICATIONS:**Budget/Policy Framework:****Financial:**

An efficiency saving will be achieved as a result of implementing a zoned collection system due to the reduction in the number of vehicles and staff needed to service the collection requirements.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure			
Funded by:			
Sefton Capital Resources			
Specific Capital Resources			
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>			
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure		-120k	-120k
Funded by:			
Sefton funded Resources			
Funded from External Resources			

Legal: None

Risk Assessment: None

Asset Management: None

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Staff and Trade Unions
Fd No.:501 – The Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy has been Consulted and his comments have been incorporated within this report

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		✓	
5	Environmental Sustainability	✓		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People		✓	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

None

Background

1. In 2006 the Council agreed to a major change in the delivery of waste collection services, from the previous plastic refuse sack collection system to a wheelie-bin collection service. Grey (residual) and green (garden waste) wheelie-bins are now collected and emptied on an alternating weekly basis.
2. A route optimisation exercise was carried out, prior to phased implementation of the new alternating collection rounds. This created four days of work for each individual crew based in a specific area of the borough. Due to the scale of change, the alternating wheelie-bin collection service was introduced on a phased basis throughout the Borough between June 2007 and October 2008.
3. Having now operated the Alternating Weekly Collection system for some two years, the Cleansing Management Team has identified a number of issues and potential amendments to the service, which if implemented could generate substantial savings.
4. We currently operate an individual collection round in Sefton, whereby the same vehicle and crew collect from the same addresses, and the same vehicles are used to alternate between residual and garden/green waste on a bi-weekly basis. This system has proven to be somewhat restrictive, as it does not provide sufficient flexibility to respond adequately to service issues including breakdowns, restricted access, fluctuating tonnages (amount of residual and/or garden waste presented) and any changes to the number of properties to be serviced by each individual team.
5. Within the waste and recycling collection industry over the past few years, a great deal of work has been undertaken in developing alternative collection methods, including zoned collection services. It is believed that the introduction of a zoned collection system in Sefton would assist the Operational Services Department in addressing the above issues. Furthermore, the introduction of a zoned system would result in a reduction in the amount of staff/vehicles required, resulting in significant and ongoing savings of £120k per year.

Brief outline of Zoning

6. Using the latest software packages available, and using historical data obtained from the current alternating collection service, such as weighbridge records and tracking information, a number of 'collection zones' have been identified within Sefton. These zones bring a number of vehicles together in an area to undertake collections, be they residual or green waste, resulting in a more efficient collection process.
7. The Borough would be divided into 8 zones, 4 in the north and 4 in the south, and all collections within a zone will be undertaken on the same (specified) day. For example, all northern crews could be deployed into the Formby area

to carry out collections on an alternating basis every Tuesday, or all southern crews could be deployed in Maghull on an alternating basis every Thursday.

8. This approach would allow a smaller number of vehicles and staff to be used overall to provide the alternating collection service, freeing up resource for the Council for efficiency. In addition, most vehicles would only ever collect residual or green waste, thereby dramatically reducing the weekly washing requirement for vehicles moving from residual to green collection.
9. Recycling collections (paper, glass, cans, food) would continue to be collected on the same specified day to maintain current best practice. However, a zonal system would also allow the service provider to benefit from a reduced vehicle requirement, as per the residual and green waste service. This should therefore reduce the cost of the service to the Council when tenders are invited for the provision of this service in the future.
10. The Contact Centre would also benefit by being able to clearly identify to customers that a particular zone would be collected on a specified day. This will help the customer in terms of missed collection (placing the bin out on the incorrect day), and the Contact Centre who will automatically know which zone the crew would be operating in on that particular day.

Implementing the Zoned Collection System

11. Subject to Cabinet Member and Cabinet approval, it is envisaged that the zoned collection system could commence immediately after Christmas & New Year collection period, when alternating grey/green collection patterns are due to resume. This is the most appropriate opportunity to implement any change of collection day, as the current collection calendars expire in December 2010.
12. New calendars would be distributed to inform households/residents of collection arrangements from January 2011 onwards. These will be issued prior to Christmas 2010 together with details of collection arrangements over the Christmas and New Year period. Residents would specifically be advised to check the collection day from January onwards as their day of collection may change from that period onwards. Everyone would be reminded to place wheelie-bins out for collection by 6.30am as collection times may vary.
13. The trade unions have been fully consulted and accept the need for such a change. Refuse and collection staff have been advised of the potential to change collection methods and would continue to be informed/consulted if and when zoning proposals are agreed/progressed.
14. Whilst there is a considerable amount of work required behind the scenes to prepare for the implementation of a zoned collection system, the core policies for the current wheelie-bin and green box/caddy collection services will remain as they are now.

15. Subject to the Cabinet Member – Environmental agreeing to forward a report to Cabinet to recommend the introduction of zonal collection arrangements, a detailed report would be presented to Cabinet in October. This issue has already been identified as a key decision for the Council, if the decision is taken to proceed with the development of such a scheme, and therefore, an entry has been submitted to Forward Plan accordingly.
16. A further report would be presented to the Cabinet Member – Environmental in November to advise on progress of this initiative, and to seek approval of the proposed communication process.
17. Staff would undergo practical training in various areas to improve familiarity, and to ensure they are fully aware of the new collection zones / areas, so that they may be ready to operate if it is agreed that a zoned collection system be introduced.
18. Subject to approval, Members would be advised of how to obtain service information, and more generally where the zone boundaries are, prior to implementation.
19. Due to the bulky and large scale nature of the zoning information, further detailed information regarding zoning software, and the proposed zonal maps, will be presented by officers at the Cabinet Member – Environmental meeting on September 29th 2010.