

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 28th October 2010

SUBJECT: Development of a Zoned Waste and Recycling Collection System

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: J G Black - Operational Services Director

CONTACT OFFICERS: Andrew Walker – Assistant Director – 0151 288 6159
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EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To seek approval to change the existing collection arrangements for residual & recyclable waste via the introduction of a zoned waste collection service from January 2011.

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 be introduced across the Borough from January 2011, generating substantial savings. Such a decision requires Cabinet approval as it affects all wards.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Cabinet approves the implementation of a new zoned system of waste and recycling collection.

KEY DECISION: Yes

FORWARD PLAN: Yes

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 resulted in the creation of four extended days of work for each individual crew based in a specific area, and on a specific route within 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 sometimes 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.

Zoning Details

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 savings. 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 spring/summer 2011.
10. The Sefton Plus 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 potential missed collection (placing the bin out on the incorrect day) as all bins in a zone would be placed outside properties on a specified day. It will also assist the Contact Centre who will automatically know which zone is being collected from on a particular day, irrespective of historic crewing arrangements.

Implementing the Zoned Collection System

11. Subject to Cabinet approval, it is envisaged that the zoned collection system would 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. Residents will be informed by letter in November 2010 regarding the extension of current arrangements until January 2011. The letter will also contain details of Christmas and New Year collection arrangements, and also give notice of proposed changes in the New Year. In early January, once all of the festivities are ended, new calendars will be distributed to inform households/residents of future collection arrangements from January 2011 onwards. Residents will specifically be advised to check the collection day from January onwards as their day of collection may change from that period onwards, everyone will be reminded to place wheelie-bins out for collection by 6.30am as collection times may vary.
13. The distribution of new calendars will be accompanied by a range of additional methods of informing residents of the forthcoming changes. Press

releases, media articles, posters, leaflets, information cards, and briefing packs for Members, Contact Centres, One Stop Shops, Libraries, Leisure Centres, etc, will all be utilized to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible.

14. 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 will continue to be informed/consulted if and when zoning proposals are agreed.
15. 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.
16. Staff will 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 will be ready to operate a zoned collection system from the New Year, subject to Cabinet approval.
17. 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 meeting on October 28th 2010.