
Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 12th September 2013

Subject: Future Arrangements for Refuse and Recycling Collections

Report of: Director of Street Scene

Wards Affected: All

Is this a Key Decision? Yes

Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To obtain approval to amend the Refuse & Recycling Collection Service in order to make provision for the collection of plastic and card, whilst also deferring the introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste.

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet agree to amend the Refuse & Recycling Collection Service, for an initial two year period, and to defer the proposed introduction of a charge for green waste collections.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

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

Reasons for the Recommendation:

The Council is faced with a number of changes to funding programmes, contractual and operational issues, and legislative amendments, relating to the collection and disposal of refuse and recyclable materials over the next two years.

In order to meet these requirements, amendments must be made to the existing service.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There will be additional revenue costs arising from the introduction of plastic and card collection and for Monday/Saturday green waste collections. These costs can be contained within existing revenue budgets in conjunction with the utilisation of one-off resources from the recycling reserve and grant income.

More specifically, future revenue budgets currently include a total of £1million for plastic and card recycling in 2014/15 (£600,000) and 2015/16 (£400,000 in the MTFP) and also a savings requirement of £1million based on a proposal to charge for green waste collections. The availability of one-off reserves/grant provides a further resource of approximately £1million.

The containment of the proposals in this report within existing budgets means that the savings associated with the green waste charging proposals can be achieved without the need to introduce a charge for the time being.

(B) Capital Costs

There is a requirement for capital expenditure in order to procure suitable containers to collect the proposed additional recyclable materials. It is envisaged that this expenditure will be funded via prudential borrowing, with the cost of this borrowing for the trial period to which this report refers being contained within the available revenue. The longer term costs associated with this procurement will be identified and accounted for within the proposed additional report to be produced which will make recommendations for the ongoing operation of the Refuse & Recycling service post 2016. The existing vehicle fleet will be utilised on additional days to provide the proposed enhanced services.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal

Under the requirements of the EU Waste Framework Directive (November 2008), and latterly The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012, the Council is required to introduce a system to collect paper, metal, plastic and glass by January 2015. The current missing component of this collection schedule in Sefton is plastic. The implementation of the proposals contained in this report will allow Sefton Council to meet the requirements of this legislation in advance of the 1st January 2015 deadline.

The Council also has contractual relationship with an external organisation, Palm Recycling, for the collection of paper, glass, tin, textiles and food waste, for the period to August 2016.

Human Resources

There will be a requirement to employ additional staff, on a fixed term basis, to undertake the additional garden waste collections on a Saturday and Monday.

Equality

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | No Equality Implication | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | Equality Implications identified and mitigated | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | Equality Implication identified and risk remains | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Impact on Service Delivery:

If this proposal is agreed, there will be no impact on current service delivery, other than some potential changes to collection days for certain waste streams.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance has been consulted and comments have been incorporated into this report (FD 2522/13).

The Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD1827/13) has been consulted and comments have been incorporated into this report.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

Not at this stage.

Implementation Date for the Decision

After five-working days following publication of this decision, subject to "call-in".

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Background Papers:

None

BACKGROUND

1. The Council currently delivers a Refuse & Recycling Collection Service to some 125,000 properties across the Borough. An Alternating Weekly Collection (AWC) service utilises grey and green wheelie bins to collect non recyclable and garden waste. An external company collects a range of recyclable materials. There are some 14,000 properties at which the AWC service is not considered to be suitable, and therefore a sack collection service is provided at these premises.
2. The Council is required to introduce a system to collect plastic and card by 2015. Current arrangements provide a weekly collection service for glass, tin, textiles, paper and food waste. The collection of plastic and card has been introduced to a limited number of properties in the Borough following a recent successful bid for government funding to provide this service to households which still have a sack collection service. This enhanced service is being delivered with great success by the Council's in-house service.
3. The Council pays for the disposal of all waste generated via a levy payment to the Merseyside Waste & Recycling Authority (MWRA). All Merseyside authorities make similar payments to MWRA, based upon a formula linked to population and tonnages generated. This mechanism is currently being reviewed and it is expected that there may be some change to these arrangements over the next 18 months.
4. As part of the 2013/14 budget setting process to save £1m, it was agreed in principle to charge for the garden waste collection service.
5. Following consultation about the level of fee to be applied, it was agreed that all alternative options would be explored prior to any decisions about when charging for green waste collections would be introduced.

PROPOSED NEW SERVICES

6. It is proposed to introduce a number of changes to existing services, which will be reviewed on an ongoing basis from 2014 to 2016.
7. As part of the proposed new scheme, residents who currently receive an AWC service will receive a new blue wheelie bin which can be used for plastics and cardboard recycling. This will be collected on the same day but on alternative weeks to the grey non-recyclable household waste bin.
8. To facilitate this new grey/blue alternating weekly collection service, the collection arrangements for the green garden waste bin collection will be amended and these bins will be collected on Saturdays and Mondays. Based on data collected since the introduction of the service, it is also proposed to provide this service from 1st February to 30th November each year, as during December and January each year collection costs rise dramatically due to the huge drop in garden waste presented for collection.
9. There will be no changes to the current weekly recycling collection service (via the green box, blue bag, pink bag and food caddy) which is for the collection of glass, cans, paper, textiles and food.

10. The Council's existing vehicle fleet will be utilised on the proposed additional collection days. Additional staff will be required to operate the Saturday and Monday green collection service.

IMPACT ON FUTURE SERVICE PROVISION

11. By changing the format of the core Alternate Weekly Collection (AWC) service to include the collection of cardboard and plastics for recycling, and changing the days on which green waste is collected, the requirement for additional funding is deferred.

12. The Council will still have to fund the cost of the new Saturday/Monday green waste collection service, but as this is less than the funding identified to pay for plastic and cardboard collections, charging for green waste can also be deferred.

13. By utilising existing resources and funding streams, all of the proposals contained within this report can be delivered over the next two years without the requirement for additional revenue support. During this period the future funding arrangements for the MWRA levy is likely to be agreed, and any impact arising from the amendments to the existing AWC service, and the changes to the garden waste collection service, can be fully assessed. A further report will therefore be produced making recommendations for the ongoing operation of the Refuse & Recycling service post 2016, whilst also detailing any financial implications arising from this amended service accordingly.