

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**CABINET MEETING**
23RD OCTOBER 2008**Refuse and Recycling Collections**

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow
CORPORATE PLAN AIM	A Sustainable Environment
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Tracey Onslow
HEAD OF SERVICE	Andrew Dickens
CONTACT OFFICER	Andrew Dickens X2900
APPENDICES	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet on the changes Worcestershire County Council will be making to the way recyclable materials are collected and processed and to consider the implications for the method of collection within the District.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE** that:

- 2.1 They note the introduction of the Envirosort processing plant for recyclable materials which will be available from October 2009.
- 2.2 The Head of Property & Operational Services, in consultation with CMT, be asked to prepare a report on the options for collection of recyclable materials, post the introduction of co-mingled methods of processing.
- 2.3 That the options be considered by the Community Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.4 The Cabinet's aspiration to reintroduce weekly refuse and recycling collections across the District be included in the report to be made to Cabinet and Council.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Currently, recyclable materials are collected and processed at kerbside and delivered in a separated form to a bulking up centre at Hoobrook in Kidderminster. The separated recyclable materials are then collected by individual companies who transport them to their processing plants. The current system cannot be continued beyond 2009 as the current twin box and kerbside vehicle style of collection cannot be integrated into the Envirosort machinery.
- 3.2 The Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Hereford and Worcester has based its future collection of recyclable materials on a mixed basis which will allow residents to put a

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significantly wider range of recyclable materials in a single collection bin or box which are then sorted and processed at an Envirosort machine based in South Worcestershire.

- 3.3 The new processing plant will allow the collection of all the current recyclable materials, along with a full range of plastics including yoghurt pots, margarine tubs etc, drinks packs and heavy/corrugated card, all of which are currently excluded from the kerbside collection.
- 3.4 This new method of collection will allow the District Council to introduce a twin bin system which allows residents to place all residual waste in a wheelie bin as at present with a second wheelie bin being made available for the collection of recyclable materials.
- 3.5 This will require a substantial change to the Council's method of collection and type of vehicles used.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 There are two alternative methods of collection to be considered once the twin bin system is introduced.
- 4.2 The system currently being used by other authorities in Worcestershire is a fortnightly collection by a single freighter which collects residual waste on week 1 and mixed recyclable materials on week 2.
- 4.3 However, with the introduction of split-bodied refuse vehicles and the use of 120 litre bins for residual waste, it is also possible to consider the introduction of a weekly collection service for both residual waste and recyclable materials.
- 4.4 Both of these systems would require a redesign of the current collection rounds and further investigation into the payload capacities and therefore the number of properties that can be serviced under these collection methods.
- 4.5 It is necessary to have a significant lead time for any potential changes as currently refuse freighters are taking between 26 to 32 weeks to be constructed and delivered. There is also a current shortage of wheeled bins and as these methods will require at least 46,000 additional bins to be purchased and distributed, once again these will have to be sourced and ordered some 6 months before the introduction of the new service.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is provision in the capital programme for the replacement of the current 10 kerbside recycling vehicles, on a like for like basis. However, there is currently no provision for the purchase and distribution of additional wheelie bins, increased costs for additional collection vehicles or any extra freighters to cover either of the collection options.
- 5.2 Either of the collection systems will reduce the amount of visits per month for each of the 40,600 properties from which refuse and recycling are currently collected. The weekly collection of recyclable materials and fortnightly collection of waste requires 6 collections per month whereby the introduction of either system will reduce this to 4

collections a month. This will have environmental and cost saving benefits to the revenue budget.

- 5.3 Either system will require an amendment to the Capital Programme and the options will be included in a full report to Cabinet and Council.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Either of the collection methods under consideration meet the Council's corporate strategy aim of reducing waste being transferred to landfill and increasing the percentage of materials recycled.
- 6.2 There are no legal implications that would prevent the introduction of either options.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Significant research into the use of split bodied vehicles and the number of properties they can service will be required prior to final costings being available to Council. As the calculations can only be undertaken by theoretical modelling, it is intended to use consultants to minimise the risk of either under or over statement of round capacities, either of which would have a significant effect on the capital programme requirements.
- 7.2 The introduction of any new system that requires distribution of bins to in excess of 40,000 properties and the purchase of new operating vehicles carry substantial risks. There are risks in relation to supply and potential increase in costs, residents contaminating recyclable materials by using the wrong bins in the early days and the use of new split bodied vehicles also has an unknown maintenance and reliability element.
- 7.3 The full financial implications need to be factored into the Finance Strategy to ensure the medium term sustainability of the Council's overall budget position.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The introduction of the EnviroSort plant gives the opportunity to the Council to consider the reintroduction of weekly refuse collection. Albeit this will be more expensive in terms of capital costs and it is likely to lead to greater resident satisfaction with the service.
- 8.2 Either collection method will meet the Council's corporate strategy aims, however, should the Council wish to remain on a fortnightly collection, the ongoing concerns over the collection and disposal of residual waste in hot weather will remain an issue.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 CMT

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Draft Joint Municipal Waste Strategy for Hereford and Worcester

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