



## Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee

### Briefing Paper

Report of: Chairman of Domestic Waste Collection &  
Recycling Review Panel  
Date: Thursday, 10th September 2009  
Open

## Domestic Waste Collection & Recycling Review Panel

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 This briefing paper details the recommendations of the Domestic Waste Collection & Recycling Review Panel, following its review into the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and the future method of domestic waste and recycling service.

### 2. Background

2.1 The review panel was established at the Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009, following a report to Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008. At that meeting the following recommendations included:

- To note the introduction of the Envirosort processing plant for recyclable materials which would be available from October 2009.
- 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.
- That the options be considered by the Community Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 In addition, the Council's Financial Strategy approved on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009 included a saving of £300,000 from 2010/11 onwards in relation to a "Review of Waste/Recycling Service in line with the County Waste management Strategy".

2.2 A review panel consisting the following Members was formed:

Councillor J Baker (Chairman)  
Councillor A J Buckley  
Councillor Mrs H E Dyke  
Councillor Mrs P V Hayward  
Councillor M B Kelly  
Councillor H Martin  
Councillor Mrs F M Oborski  
Councillor J Phillips  
Councillor J R Thomas

2.3 The terms of reference for the review were:

- a. To consider the County Council Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
- b. To investigate and consider the potential methods of future collection method for waste and recycling following the opportunity of collection of co-mingled recycling with the provision of the Envirosort facility, with the view of achieving cost reductions of £300k as required within the Financial Strategy 2009/12.
- c. To recommend which options should be implemented at Wyre Forest District Council.

2.4 The panel met five times between 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

### **3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 The Worcestershire County Council Waste Management Strategy was a joint strategy for Worcestershire and Herefordshire authorities. The 2004 strategy was due to be reviewed.
- 3.2 More emphasis had been put on waste minimalisation rather than recycling.
- 3.3 The New National Waste Strategy for England stated that waste should be seen as a resource. This resource could be used or be sold on to manufacturers.
- 3.4 The new strategy waste strategy is less descriptive in terms of how waste should be collected. Each district can now determine which system best suited them. It could potentially be a 2 bin system.
- 3.5 The Council had approximately 10 kerbside vehicles at present which were purchased at least six years ago. As these vehicles are in line for replacement shortly, it was important to note this was one of the reasons why a new collection system needed to be considered now.
- 3.6 With a new co-mingle system, yoghurt pots, cardboard etc. could be collected. However, the system could not cope with carrier bags and plastic sheeting as the machines cannot automatically recognise them.
- 3.7 At present, the Council's recycling percentage stood at approximately 29%. Two years ago Wyre Forest District Council was the best in the County but was now bottom. Targets were increased every year and by 2015 the Council's target would be 45%. The Council would need to improve in order to achieve its target.
- 3.8 95% of the Wyre Forest area was covered by wheelie bins. The other 5% relied on a sack collection for which the Council provided the sacks. Unfortunately these sacks were not bio-degradable. This was something that the Council needed to consider.

- 3.9 It was believed that the Envirosort system would be able to recycle a wider range of materials, in particular heavier cardboard and more types of plastics.
- 3.10 The use of the "shredder man" from Worcestershire County Council could be an option to reintroduce. This would be an option for Members to raise with the County Council at the Panel's meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009.
- 3.11 Worcestershire County Council, via Government funding, offered households a subsidised composting service in the form of compost bins. However, unfortunately this did not contribute towards recycling targets.

#### **4. Consultees**

- 4.1 Director of Resources
- 4.2 Environmental Services Manager

#### **5. Recommendations from the Domestic Waste Collection & Recycling Review Panel to Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee**

To consider putting the following recommendations forward to Cabinet for approval following the review of the Domestic Waste Collection & Recycling Review Panel.

- 5.1 The Council works towards the utilisation of the new "Envirosort" facilities currently being developed by the County Council, with a view to increasing the range of materials available for recycling.**
- 5.2 The Council adopts the revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Worcestershire as far as it is able to so.**
- 5.3 In line with recommendation 5.1 the Council implements a wheeled bin collection for recycling materials, where possible, and special arrangements be made for problem collections.**
- 5.4 In relation to the cost of collection, an alternate weekly service be implemented for recycling/residual waste, whilst acknowledging the need to retain existing special arrangements.**
- 5.5 Due to prohibitive cost restraints, the Council is unable to give support to the implementation of a food waste service at this time.**
- 5.6 In light of recommendation 5.5, the County Council be urged to review their decision to remove funding for sink waste disposal units.**
- 5.7 The Council implements a 'paid for' Wheeled Bin Garden Waste Service on a trial basis, and dependant upon initial interest, develops proposals to offer the service to either 5,000 or 10,000 households, on a cost recovery basis.**

- 5.8 **An Implementation Plan, including details of communication of proposals to the public be developed as a matter of urgency, and reported to future meetings of the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee;**
- 5.9 **Fully costed proposals in relation to the options listed above be included within the budget considerations for 2010/11 and beyond.**

## **6. Background Papers**

The minutes of the Domestic Waste Collection & Recycling Review Panel held on:

19<sup>th</sup> May 2009  
10<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
13<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
26<sup>th</sup> August 2009

## **7. Appendices**

None

### **Officer Contact Details:**

Sue Saunders  
Committee/Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 01562 732733  
Email: [susan.saunders@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:susan.saunders@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)