

REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE – 6 APRIL 2016

PORTFOLIO: ENVIRONMENT

REPORT FROM: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: PILOT AMENITY VEHICLE SCHEME

1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 To continue the amenity collection service at Great Wakering Recreation Ground on a monthly basis, collecting General Refuse only.

2 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To provide a service for additional household refuse for residents within the District who have limited access to the recycling centre at Castle Road, Rayleigh.

3 SALIENT INFORMATION

- 3.1 Prior to April 2014 an arrangement was in place between Essex County Council (ECC) and Southend Borough Council to enable some Rochford District residents to use the recycling centre in Stock Road, Southend. These arrangements have now been terminated and the nearest site for residents in the eastern part of the District is the site in Castle Road, Rayleigh.
- 3.2 The County Council, as the waste disposal authority, has a statutory duty to provide a place where refuse, other than trade waste, may be deposited at all reasonable times free of charge by persons resident in the area. No specific standards have been laid down on the maximum travel distances or how reasonably accessible these sites need to be.
- 3.3 Since April 2014 residents who had previously been able to use the recycling centre at Stock Road, Southend on Sea, were no longer permitted access to this facility, their closest ECC recycling centre being at Rayleigh, a distance of 11 miles.
- 3.4 A trial was undertaken to provide a facility in Great Wakering for residents in the surrounding areas. This did not operate as a full household waste and recycling centre, but comprised manned vehicles parked for a set time on a Saturday to allow residents to dispose of their excess refuse. The trial provided a refuse freighter for general refuse, a freighter for green waste and a caged vehicle for scrap and bulky items. These were stationed at the former Great Wakering Sports Centre on Saturdays from 9.00 am to 12 noon. The site was attended by Sita staff, who could control entry arrangements and minimise disruption to other users of the open space.

- 3.5 The Initial trial was undertaken as an alternate weekly collection service for a period of six months. The approximate average weight per collection of each refuse stream is summarised below:-

General Refuse	–	4 tonnes per collection
Green Waste	–	0.75 tonnes per collection
Bulky Items	–	0.25 tonnes per collection

The trial was reduced to a monthly collection in July 2015 and will cease in March 2016. The approximate average weight per collection of each refuse stream is summarised below:-

General Refuse	–	5.5 tonnes per collection
Green Waste	–	1.0 tonne per collection
Bulky Items	–	0.25 tonnes per collection

- 3.6 The trial periods have demonstrated that there has been a moderate uptake in the facility, with the greatest uptake in the General Refuse stream. There have been no significant objections to the reduction in collections to a monthly service.
- 3.7 A trial period offering the collection service was also undertaken at the Freight House, Rochford. The take up of the service was lower than that of the Great Wakering area, and the trial ceased operating in May 2015. There have been no objections to the ceasing of the service. There have been no requests from other areas of the District for a similar service.
- 3.8 The cost of providing the service is at present based upon three refuse freighters, and costs £1,173 per collection. Therefore, depending on the frequency of the service, the cost is outlined below:-
- Monthly Collection Service - £14,085
 - Alternate Collection Weekly - £28,179
- 3.9 It is proposed to further reduce costs, by offering a monthly service that collects general refuse only. This will only require one freighter, but will still address the collection stream with the significantly higher demand.
- 3.10 To address the proposed removal of the 'Bulky collection', there will be further promotion, by the Recycling Team, of the existing Bulky Waste service (this provides collection of household furniture and electrical household items through Rochford District Council's contractor – SITA) and, further signposting of the Hopeworx Reuse Centre.
- 3.11 The cost of a monthly general refuse only collection would be £4,692 for a year. This service provision could be met within the existing allocated budget for the Recycling Collection & Street Cleansing Service.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The other option considered was to site a large skip at Great Wakering, which could be emptied on a regular basis. Whilst the basic cost of this option would be low, there would be no control over the nature of deposits and this could include hazardous material such as asbestos, chemicals and tyres. The disposal costs for these hazardous materials would need to be borne by this Council and would, therefore, represent a significant risk. It would also not be possible to separate the green waste, scrap metal and other recycling from the waste. The entire contents of the skip would have to go to landfill.
- 4.2 Discussions with Southend Borough Council to negotiate access to their facility at Stock Road suggested that individual accounts could be set up for Rochford Residents to use their facility. However, there would be no control over the amount of use, and, hence possible cost that would be recharged to Rochford Council. The lack of financial control and the commercial nature of rates that were likely to be charged, suggested that this was not an option to be explored further.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The lack of a convenient recycling centre for the east of the District could result in a further rise in fly tipping. Whilst the source of the vast majority of fly tips are commercial rather than residential, it is nevertheless a distinct possibility.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

As outlined above there is cause for concern on a possible rise in fly-tipping.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The cost of the monthly, general refuse only collection, would be £4,692 for a year's service. This can be met from within the existing allocated budget for the Recycling Collection and Street Cleansing Service.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

LT Lead Officer Signature: _____



Assistant Director – Environmental Services

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Marcus Hotten, Assistant Director – Environmental Services on:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.