
REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 15 OCTOBER 2014**PORTFOLIO: ENVIRONMENT****REPORT FROM HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES****SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF THE COLLECTION SCHEME FOR DRY RECYCLING****1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 That the existing “three bin” collection scheme for dry recycling is retained on the basis of the assessment undertaken by the consultants WYG.

2 KEY DECISION DOCUMENT REFERENCE No: 16/14**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Council is under a legal obligation to ensure that its dry recycling collection service is technically, environmentally and economically practicable (TEEP) under the Waste Regulations 2011. Following an assessment by an independent consultant it has been concluded that the system meets the requirements of the legislation and that no changes are required to our existing collection scheme.

4 SALIENT INFORMATION

- 4.1 The revised Waste Framework Directive requires the United Kingdom to take measures to promote high quality recycling. There is a specific requirement in the Directive that by 1 January 2015 all member states should set up separate collections of paper, plastic, metals and glass as a minimum. This requirement to set up separate collections has been implemented in England and Wales by the enactment of Regulation 13 of the 2011 Waste Regulations, as amended by the Waste Regulations 2012.
- 4.2 The purpose of Regulation 13 is to improve the quality of recycled material by reducing contamination on collection. The aim is to assist in achieving UK’s recycling targets, improve the environment, make better use of natural resources and help the economy. The EU Directive is targeting the concerns that the quality of materials collected is often poor due to contamination and instead of the material being recycled it is rejected and disposed of to landfill.
- 4.3 The Directive and the subsequent Regulations have introduced a test for the collection system which is known as TEEP. TEEP is the acronym for “Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable”. A local authority when forming a judgement about the type of collection methodology used is required to undertake a TEEP analysis to demonstrate that it is not Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable to collect the four waste systems separately.

- 4.4 In Rochford, paper, plastics, glass and metals are collected, co-mingled or mixed together. It had been hoped the Government would, through DEFRA, issue guidance on the implementation of the regulations, but this has not occurred. There is no formal guidance from Central Government on the implementation of the Regulations, only informal information from WRAP (Waste Resource Action Programme) on the “roadmap” to complete a TEEP assessment. There is also no guidance on the conclusion as to what is the best collection method regarding separate collections. The regulations stated that with any collection scheme the local authority undertakes must apply the “TEEP” test.
- 4.5 The implications of these Regulations were discussed at various meetings of the Essex Waste Managers and it was agreed that Braintree DC was to source a suitable consultant on behalf of the group to undertake the individual assessment for each District Council. WYG consultants were commissioned to apply the TEEP test to the Council’s collection scheme.
- 4.6 The outcome of this assessment was that the collection system carried out by SITA for the Council is deemed to have met the requirements of TEEP and that no changes are required. It is important to note that this issue is likely to remain high profile for the foreseeable future. It will be important to review the Council’s TEEP assessment from time to time.
- 4.7 This assessment must be agreed by Members.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The authority has no option other than to undertake a “TEEP” analysis of its collection service by 1 January 2015. The analysis could have been done in-house but it was considered that an independent technical assessment should be carried out to eliminate any internal bias.

6 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The non-compliance with the Waste Regulations 2011 as amended by the 2012 Waste regulation could lead to a legal challenge by an individual or enforcement action by the Environment Agency.
- 6.2 A successful challenge to the “TEEP” assessment could result in a requirement for the authority to collect each waste stream separately, which could mean a complete re-configuration of the waste collection service.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no additional environmental implications - the service prides itself on low contamination rates for dry recycling.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no resource implications, the costs of the assessment were met from existing budgets.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The non-compliance with the Waste Regulations 2011 as amended by the 2012 Waste regulation could lead to a legal challenge or enforcement action by the Environment Agency

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.

SMT Lead Officer Signature: 

Head of Environmental Services

Background Papers:-

The TEEP assessment by WYG

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