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**REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 16 JULY 2014****PORTFOLIO: ENVIRONMENT****REPORT FROM HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES****SUBJECT: PILOT AMENITY VEHICLE SCHEME****1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 That a pilot amenity vehicle scheme be implemented in Great Wakering on a weekly basis, between 9.00 hours and Noon each Saturday for a period of six months.
- 1.2 That a further report is submitted to the Executive before the pilot scheme has concluded in order that a decision can be made about future arrangements.

**2 KEY DECISIONS DOCUMENT REFERENCE No: 12/14****3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Prior to April 2014 an arrangement was in place between Essex County Council (ECC) and Southend Borough Council to enable some Rochford residents to use the recycling centre in Stock Road, Southend. These arrangements have now been terminated and the nearest site for those residents in the eastern part of the District is the site in Castle Road Rayleigh. This change has resulted in an increase in the incidence of fly-tipping.
- 3.2 Essex County Council has confirmed that they are prepared to fully fund this pilot scheme.

**4 SALIENT INFORMATION**

- 4.1 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 as regards the maximum travel distances or how reasonably accessible these sites need to be.
- 4.2 A County recycling centre site was originally sited at Common Road, Great Wakering where residents could take their excess refuse and bulky waste. The site was closed in February 1998 when the Southend site in Stock Road became the nearest facility for residents living in the eastern part of the District to use. The availability of the Stock Road site was taken into consideration by Essex County Council when they carried out their review, which resulted in the closure of the Great Wakering Site.
- 4.3 In April 2001 Southend Borough Council introduced a charge of £3 for residents from Rochford using the Stock Road site. These residents could then claim the charge back from Essex County Council. This system was in

operation until two years ago when it was agreed that the residents of Rochford, Great Wakering, Little Wakering, Ashingdon, Hawkwell, Foulness, Stambridge, Canewdon, Paglesham and Barling could enter the Stock Road site free of charge. The annual cost of £30,000 was paid by Essex County to Southend Borough Council. This arrangement was stopped in March by ECC due to a significant increase in costs and a disagreement with Southend BC over congestion issues at the Castle Road site. It was considered that congestion at the Castle Road site was due to an increase in the number of Southend residents attending with vans, following the introduction of a partial prohibition on vans at all Southend sites, irrespective of whether they contained household waste.

- 4.4 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 is at Rayleigh, a distance of 11 miles.
- 4.5 There has been an increase in fly tipping in the area especially around the old site in Common Road, Great Wakering since the closure. The main complaint and comments from the local residents has related to the distance that residents have to travel to dispose of their excess refuse and bulky waste, especially those in Great Wakering, Little Wakering, Foulness, Stambridge, Canewdon, Paglesham and Barling.
- 4.6 It is proposed that a trial be undertaken to provide a facility in Great Wakering for residents in the surrounding areas. This would not operate as a full household waste and recycling centre, but comprise of manned vehicles parked for a set time on a Saturday to allow residents to dispose of their excess refuse.
- 4.7 The proposal is to provide a refuse freighter for general refuse, a freighter for green waste and a caged vehicle for scrap and bulky items. These would be stationed at the former Great Wakering Sport Centre on a Saturday from 09.00 hours to Noon. A full range of bring banks are also available in the vicinity to complement this arrangement. The site would be attended by Sita staff that would control entry arrangements and minimise disruption to other users of the open space. It may not be practicable to accept all materials at this site and detailed operational arrangements will be finalised with the ECC.
- 4.8 Officers will work with the adjacent Parish Councils on publicising the scheme. It is proposed to undertake a review before the end of the pilot scheme, to assess issues such as usage, tonnages, on-site arrangements and customer feedback.

## 5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The other option considered was to site a large skip in the village, which could be emptied on a regular basis. Whilst the basic cost of this option would be low, there would be no control over what was deposited 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.

## **6 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 If no action is taken to improve the current arrangements there is a risk that fly tipping could increase. The financial risk allocated with an increase in fly tipping rests with the contractor.
- 6.2 The introduction of an amenity vehicle scheme is likely to have some impact on the revenue we currently derive from bulky waste collections in the east of the District. Annual income currently stands at £33,000 for the whole district.
- 6.3 There is a risk to our headline recycling rate, on the basis that we would be unable to recycle the full range of material that can be achieved at purpose built County recycling centres. Materials that cannot be recycled would need to go to landfill, although as the site will be supervised it will be possible to reject certain materials. The availability of recycling banks in the vicinity should ensure that as many items as possible are recycled.

## **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The lack of a convenient recycling centre for the east of the District is likely to result in a further rise in fly tipping. It is too early at present to state if there are widespread issues, as Southend BC did allow Rochford residents into the Stock Road facility throughout May, prior to the complete ban.
- 7.2 An increase in fly tipping incidents has occurred over the past month at the old site in Common Road and at Star Lane in Great Wakering. The Council will be deploying mobile CCTV cameras in these areas in an attempt to address these issues.

## **8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The cost of this pilot scheme will be fully funded by Essex County Council. Long term funding arrangement will need to be discussed with the County Council and will be dependant upon the outcomes from the pilot.

## **9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The District Council has a duty as a Principal Litter Authority to remove all flying tipping from the highways, verges and its own land within the District. All fly tipping on private land has to be investigated and if the perpetrator is identified then legal action must be taken to secure a conviction and/or recover costs.

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: 

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**Head of Environmental Services**

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**Background Papers:-**

None.

For further information please contact Barry Saunders (Street scene Manager) on:-

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