

HAWKWELL RECYCLING TRIAL - GREEN WASTE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This Urgency Sub Committee is being asked to consider proposals to manage a possible surge in compostable waste over the Easter period.
- 1.2 Recycling is a discretionary function.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In February of this year Members enhanced the recycling trial to three waste streams:
 - dry recyclables - blue box (paper, cardboard, cans, plastic bottles and textiles),
 - compostable waste - green bin (garden waste and vegetables/fruit peelings)
 - residual - grey bin.
- 2.2 This change followed a questionnaire sent to all households on the trial that indicated significant support for the collection of compostable organics.
- 2.3 Compostables are collected in the green 120 litre green bin on alternate weeks to the grey 240 litre bin, with the dry recyclables being collected weekly in the 60 litre blue box.
- 2.4 A further questionnaire is to be sent to all households taking part and the analysis of the returns and a full report on the trial brought to the next Transportation & Environmental Services Committee.

3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Ecologika, the Council's recycling strategy consultants, have recently advised that on the basis of their research in other areas, there is likely to be a surge of compostable waste that the householders will try to put out for collection over the Easter period. From the information supplied by the consultant the weight from compostable waste across Essex can vary from three to ten times the average collected. From our own analysis of waste from the trial area, which was carried out in February prior to its set up, compostables accounted for 36% by weight of the grey bin. At present we are collecting between five and twelve tonnes per fortnight and it is estimated that this could rise to twenty to twenty-five tonnes per fortnight over the Easter period.

- 3.2 In line with Council policy no side refuse is taken from the grey bin or green bin. However, excess dry recyclables, put out with the blue box, are taken. The surge in garden waste may overload the green and grey bins over the Easter period. This could lead to a rise in complaints and dissatisfaction with the trial. In order to manage the surge it is proposed to take excess garden waste. To minimise revenue and capital costs and working within the time restraints, an extra two collections of the green bin has been discussed and the principle agreed with the Council's contractor Serviceteam.
- 3.3 The extra collections would allow the compostable waste to be collected on a weekly basis from the 19th April 2000 to the 10th May 2000 inclusive. In addition a leaflet advising householders of the revised collections and alternative methods of disposing of compostable waste would be delivered to each household. The draft leaflet will be provided at the meeting. This would improve the service given to the residents on the trial.
- 3.4 It should be noted that if this proposal is undertaken it would be at the same time as the questionnaire is given to the public and some may view it as an incentive to alter their views on the trial.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Recycling reduces the amount of waste deposited in landfill.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The revised schedule of collections could be delivered at the same time as the questionnaire. At the time of writing this report the costs of the additional collections are still awaited from the Contractor but are likely to total £600. A verbal report will be given to the Committee. For every tonne of compostable material processed the Council receives £9 in "Composting Credit" from Essex County Council. Credit derived from the extra collections can be used to offset some of the costs. Between 20 and 25 tonnes of extra compostables may be collected. The anticipated net cost can be met from the agreed Payment to Contractors budget.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The trial is in the Parishes of Ashingdon and Hawkwell.

7 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RESOLVES:-**

That two further collections of compostable waste are made in order to give a weekly collection from the 19th April 2000 to the 10th May 2000 inclusive and that this is financed from the Payment to Contractors budget.

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