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**REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE****PORTFOLIO: ENVIRONMENT****REPORT FROM HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES****SUBJECT: BIN ALLOCATION CRITERIA****1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

1.1 To note the progress being made with the Maximise Recycling Scheme and providing a waste management service that meets the changing needs of the residents of the District by providing suitable containers for different types of properties and for residents with disabilities.

1.2 That subject to officers striving to maximise recycling and the number of properties on the three bins scheme, the following criteria are adopted with regard to the provision of bins:-

1.3 Recyclables

- Provide households that are proficient recyclers with a 360 litre bin removing the existing 240 litre bin for re-use;
- Provide households with six or more residents residing in the property with a 360 litre bin, removing the 240 litre bin for re-use; and
- Provide terraced and similar properties that have insufficient space to house a 240 litre recyclables bin with a smaller bin on request.

1.4 Non-recyclables

- Provide households with more than 6 adults with a second 180 litre non recyclables bin, provided that the property's recyclables bin is being utilized;
- Provide households with specific medical needs or having two or more children in nappies with a 360 litre non recyclables bin, provided the property's recyclables bin is being utilized;
- Cease issuing refuse sacks to any household, including those in mobile homes, in circumstances where a suitable alternative method of collection has been rejected by the household;
- Provide households having one or two residents with a 120 litre non recyclables bin upon request; and
- Provide terraced and similar properties that have insufficient space to house a 180 litre bin with a smaller bin upon request.

### 1.5 Compostables

- Households with a 240 litre compostables bin that needs to be replaced, shall be provided with 140 litre bin;
- Provide terraced and similar properties that have insufficient space to house a 140 litre compostables bin with alternative arrangements, such as a caddy, for collection of waste food only.

### 1.6 Exempted properties

- Where residents have a genuine difficulty in utilising the scheme they will be provided with either a single 180 or 360 litre bin for non recyclables waste, these will be collected and emptied every other week, in line with all other properties.

### 1.7 Exceptions

- Exceptions to this policy to be agreed by the Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the Environment.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Maximise Recycling Scheme (MRS) – the three bins scheme introduced in July 2008 has been extremely successful in improving recycling, with the recycling rate increasing from 19.4 per cent in 2007-08 to over 60 per cent in 2009-10, resulting in Rochford being the highest performing Council in the East of England. A 240 litre bin is provided for recyclables, a 180 litre bin for non-recyclables and a 140 litre bin for compostables.
- 2.2 As the recycling scheme has been progressively rolled out it is apparent that the current policy on the provision of bins, agreed by the Executive Board on 6 February 2008, needs to be more flexible in meeting the needs of our residents. The recommendations in this report therefore supersede the earlier policy.
- 2.3 There are still dwellings within the District that are not on the MRS, these include a number of flats, mobile homes and exempted properties. The recommendations contained within this report will ensure that all households are provided with appropriate bins and should maximise our recycling performance.
- 2.4 The recommendations will also encourage householders that are proficient recyclers to utilise larger recycling bins to dispose of their recyclable materials, some of which is currently disposed of in the non recycling waste stream.

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### Recyclables

- 2.6 There has been significant demand from residents requesting a larger bin as the 240 litre bin has insufficient capacity for their household needs. It is proposed to expand the current number of 360 litre recyclables bins to more households. The Council has an agreement with SITA that replacing a 240 litre bin with a 360 litre bin would not result in any additional collection costs for the Council.
- 2.7 Currently the Council has in the region of 300 requests for either a second bin or a 360 litre bin for recyclables. These requests have arisen since the scheme was introduced in July 2008. They come in on a daily basis and a log is retained in the office. A number of 360 litre bins have been trialled and have been found to be very successful in meeting the needs of residents and increasing the tonnages of recyclable material.
- 2.8 It is proposed that all households with over six people living in the house or any household that can demonstrate a need are provided with a 360 litre recyclables bin. Officers would ensure that, before issuing a larger bin, the household are using their current recyclables bin correctly.
- 2.9 It is planned to continue to encourage residents in smaller properties and those that are currently exempt on the grounds of space to have a 140 litre recyclables bin.

### **Non-recyclables**

- 2.10 There have been a number of requests from residents seeking a smaller non recyclables bin, particularly from residents who are keen recyclers or from residents where only one or two people reside in the property. It is proposed to supply 120 litre bins to these households.
- 2.11 Officers are contacting residents who are currently exempt from the three bins scheme to encourage them to move away from sacks to a 120 litre non recyclables bin.

### **Compostables**

- 2.12 The Council will continue to promote home composting. There are no plans to change the 140 litre bin for compostables. The reason is that the original Waste Composition Analysis, carried out prior to the scheme being implemented, identified the volume and weight of compostable waste entering the waste stream. The 140 litre bin reflected the average capacity required to capture the compostable waste arising at that time. Increasing the size of this bin would generate additional waste arising, typically garden waste, and adversely affect the quantity of waste per household, which is a National indicator. A new Waste Composition Analysis on the non recyclable bins will be part funded by UPM, the new MRF contractor. This is planned to take place in early summer 2011.

- 2.13 A number of properties on the original charged garden collection scheme still have 240 litre bins. It is proposed that, as these bins deteriorate and need replacing, they will be replaced by 140 litre bins in line with other households throughout the District.
- 2.14 To achieve improvements in recycling participation, particularly in terraced properties where households have limited storage space and it is not possible to store a 140 litre or any other wheeled bin, it is proposed to consider whether a caddy for kitchen arisings would be appropriate.

#### Special collections

- 2.15 There are two types of special collections - exempt and assisted collections (or pullouts). Exempt properties are those not on the three bins scheme and consist of two main categories:-
- Properties with insufficient space; or
  - Properties in which a resident has genuine difficulty utilizing the scheme.
- 2.16 It is proposed to simplify collection arrangements for the latter category by providing a single larger bin that can be emptied on an alternate weekly basis, the same frequency as the remainder of the District.
- 2.17 Assisted collections are made where there is no person in the household who is able to move the bins to the front curtilage of the property. SITA collect the bins from an agreed location at the property and return it to this location. No change is proposed to these arrangements.

#### **Flatted properties**

- 2.18 Officers are currently reviewing the need for different bin configuration at flatted properties as the compostable rollout takes place.

#### Recyclables

- 2.19 It is proposed to increase the number of communal recyclables bins located at flatted properties, where space allows, to further encourage recycling.

#### Non recyclables

- 2.20 All bins are to be standardised to 180 litre bins with the removal of 660 and 1100 litre euro bins. It is also proposed to reduce the capacity for non recyclables with the aim of encouraging more recycling.

#### Compostables

- 2.21 The rollout continues, with all flatted properties being provided with compostable collections using a 140 litre bin for this material. In addition, all flats will be provided with a 7 litre kitchen caddy.

Mobile home sites

- 2.22 Assessments are currently being made to ascertain the number of bins that can be safely located at each mobile home. Discussions are also taking place with site owners and residents to establish the most appropriate bin provision. It is anticipated that most of the sites will be placed on the three bin scheme by April 2011.

Exceptions

- 2.23 Inevitably, there will be certain exceptions to the arrangements detailed above. On the basis of maximising recycling performance, exceptions will be agreed by the Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the Environment.

Bring banks

- 2.24 Prior to any further action on the bring banks all current contracts with outside suppliers for the existing banks are being reviewed. Separate budget options are being considered in respect of textiles.
- 2.25 The demand for bring banks continues and discussions are currently taking place with SITA to provide an alternative method of collection. It is proposed to continue to reduce the number of bring bank units and to mix all materials together with the exception of paper and textiles. This will enable the banks to be emptied on the normal recyclable collection rounds every other week. The value of paper and textiles has improved recently and it is planned to enter into specific contracts to maximise income.
- 2.26 The current bell housing and other units would be removed and specifically designed 1100 euro recyclables bins installed in their place. Now that the new Material Recovery Facility (MRF) contract has been let, most materials in the banks, including Tetra packs, can be mixed as they are sorted at the MRF.

**3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 There are a whole range of different options that the Council could consider in providing waste collection services. The current provision does not provide the potential for maximising recycling from all properties. Various combinations of containers for waste have been utilised and the preferred options set out above will increase recycling rates for the District.
- 3.2 There are currently a wide range of containers being used to collect waste from the different types of properties and different households. These range from the 7 litre caddy to 1100 litre euro bins and also include sacks.

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#### **4 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no immediate risk implications arising from this report. However, if officers identify issues, remedial action will be taken. Any such arrangements can be funded from existing budgets.
- 4.2 Officers will be meeting with carers and carers' organisations to promote the use of the scheme.

#### **5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The recommendations contained within this report give due consideration to equality issues. Special collection arrangements are available for households where residents have mental or physical capacity issues.

#### **6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The proposals contained in this report are aimed at reinforcing our existing policy of waste minimisation that is sympathetic to the needs of residents.
- 6.2 The proposal also assists in meeting the District's targets and aims specified in the Inter Authority Agreement with Essex County Council that the District approved in 2009, in that the recommendations will assist in meeting the stringent recycling targets set out in this agreement.
- 6.3 Limiting the tonnages of waste entering landfill reduces the greenhouse gases and will contribute towards the Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy 2008-13.

#### **7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 SITA currently charge £36,400 a year to collect from properties not on the MRS. These include properties where bins are not able to be utilised for any of the waste streams, properties occupied by residents with special medical needs, flatted properties and mobile home sites where weekly collection of non recyclables currently takes place.
- 7.2 Officers are working to reduce the number of these properties in order to reduce the costs currently incurred. Significant progress will be made in the current financial year.
- 7.3 The recommendations in this report will assist in increasing the recycling level achieved in the District. For each additional tonne of recyclable material collected the Council will receive £53.91 as payment for recycling credits, rising to £55.53 in 2011-12. In addition to this, the new MRF contract will pay an extra £10 for each uncontaminated tonne.
- 7.4 It is difficult for officers to accurately predict the tonnages of dry recycling that can be achieved once the scheme has been rolled out to all flats and mobile

homes. This has been estimated at 1,080 T, which will give an additional £58,222 in recycling credits.

- 7.5 SITA have raised the issue of collecting more than one bin of each type from households and are stating that, under the contract, a separate charge should be made for collecting the extra bins.
- 7.6 The additional cost to the Council of replacing the 240 litre bins with 360 litre bins will be in the region of £1000 (capital) based on the current waiting list of 300. The costs of this over the life of the current SITA contract will be low and can easily be met from increased recycling credits.

## **8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The Council has a duty to collect waste from all properties in the District.
- 8.2 Under the Household Waste Recycling Act 2003 the Council has to collect a minimum of two recyclable waste streams. The range of bins to be distributed to the different households within the District will enable this to be achieved.

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**

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### **Background Papers:**

None.

For further information please contact Richard Evans on:-

Tel:- 01702 318044

Email:- richard.evans@rochford.gov.uk

If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.