

**ITEM 20, APPENDIX N**  
[Supplementary paper]

**WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE – 1 DECEMBER 2009**

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Title:

**PROPOSED HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE**

[Portfolio Holder: Councillor John Sandy]

[Wards Affected: All]

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At its meeting on 23 November 2009, the Environment & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee was asked to:

1. Consider whether food waste has priority at a time of financial challenge, and/ or therefore whether it warrants treating as an exception;
2. Consider whether the principle of concentrating on urban areas, is the right one;
3. Consider and comment upon the proposed next steps as outlined in paragraph 25.

The Committee considered these points in turn, and **RESOLVED** that the following observations be forwarded to the Executive:

**1. To consider whether food waste has priority at a time of financial challenge, and/or, therefore, whether it warrants treating as an exception.**

1. The Committee agreed that food waste collection was a priority, and highly desirable for the Council, but, how high a priority depended on the budget implications and what would have to be given up to proceed with this trial.
2. The Committee wanted assurance that the Council would make savings if it began collecting food waste rather than continue taking it to land fill. Members noted the aspect of the pressure of increases in landfill tax in future years.
3. The Committee would like to see a cost breakdown per household and comparison with Surrey Heath and Guildford, although noted that a direct comparison would not be possible since in the short term Waverley would be introducing a phased rather than a integrated approach. Members noted a more comparable service would be possible in around two years time.

4. The Committee was concerned about the costs of ongoing publicity and questioned whether £20,000 was actually needed for this process.
5. The Committee noted that the £30000 Staff item (Food Waste Adviser) was no longer deemed necessary.
6. There were social concerns about how the waste would be separated when it was taken to the MRF.
7. The Committee questioned whether the Council should consider charging the full cost for green waste collection.
8. The Committee noted that the Local Public Service Grant Funding was a one-off payment and the implications this had for supporting the trial's introduction.

**2. To consider whether the principal of concentrating on urban areas is the right one:**

1. The Committee agreed that the trial should start with urban areas first, prior to any consideration of extending it to rural areas.
2. The Committee supported the proposal for a bolt-on service during the duration of the trial. The Committee supports, via the imminent renegotiations with the existing Contractor, the Council moving to an integrated service.
3. The Committee noted that officers were in negotiations with the Contractors about establishing a trial area of 40,000 homes. The Committees preferred approach, if financially possible, would be for the Council to adopt a trial in each of the four urban areas, covering all 40,000 homes, to maximise participation and yield rather than just piloting in one area.

**3. To consider and comment upon the proposed next steps as outlined in paragraph 25 of the officer's report:**

1. Members supported the 6 'Next Steps' set out in the agenda report and, given that the Committee's deliberations on this subject had focused on the financial and logistical aspects of introducing kerbside food waste collection, requested that priority be allocated to:

c) Working up a detailed financial strategy to fund the initiative;

d) Establishing the best location for the initial round(s) to optimise participation and collection rates.

**Recommendation**

Taking the comments from the Environment & Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Committee into account, it is therefore recommended that:

1. In considering service initiatives for 2010/11 the introduction of a food-waste collection service be a priority for the Council,

2. Subject to approval as part of the budget-setting process in February 2010, the Council should embark on a bolt-on service during 2010/11, and the service should focus initially on urban areas,
3. Officers be requested to bring forward proposals for further encouraging home composting in the rural and semi-rural areas of the Borough; and
4. Officers be instructed to proceed with the 'Next Steps' as outlined in Paragraph 25 of the report, to report back to Members in February 2010 with the outcome of this work and to seek a final decision on whether to proceed with this initiative.

