

# APPENDIX D

## WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE

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#### Title:

#### **FOOD WASTE COLLECTION IN WAVERLEY**

**[Portfolio Holder: Councillor Bryn Morgan]**

**[Wards Affected: All]**

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#### Summary and purpose:

To report back to Members with the progress of work relating to the food waste collection service, including a summary of participation, operational issues, and to propose the expansion of the service to include an additional 2400 properties.

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#### How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

The report addresses the Council's 'Environment' priority, specifically, the plan to contribute to tackling climate change by "working with partners to increase the recycling rate to 45% by April 2010 and to 55% by 2015".

#### Equality and Diversity Implications

The first phase of the food-waste collection service has been provided equally to all sectors of the community. Bespoke arrangements have been developed to serve houses in multiple occupation, and assisted collection arrangements made for the disabled and infirm as provided for in the core service. This applies to both the initial properties on the scheme and similarly apply within the proposed extension of the service.

#### Resource Value for Money Implications

This extension to the service can be provided at no additional cost to the Council.

#### Legal Implications

The Council has no statutory duty to collect household food-waste separately and has no power to make a compulsory charge for such a service.

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#### Background

1. At its meeting of 2 March 2010 the Executive considered a report presenting a proposal for the introduction of one food waste round, with priority to be focussed on properties where access for home composting and food waste digestion would be limited.

2. This publicity of this scheme was carried out in months following this decision and the collection of food waste from approximately 6,000 properties across Waverley commenced on Monday 14 June 2010.

#### Performance of the food waste service

3. The participation in this scheme has increased week on week from an initial 54% participation to current levels that are consistently around 65% participation. The 2008 WRAP trials reported an average participation rate for authorities with AWC of 66%, and figures within Waverley seem to be closely reflecting this at present.
4. The indication initially was that some residents believed that this was a fortnightly service, and were only presenting their caddies on a fortnightly basis, however, the increase in participation indicates that this is being resolved, and may not need further promotion.
5. Currently around 6.5 tonnes per week are being diverted from landfill through this scheme. This is an increase of around 1 tonne per week from when the scheme commenced, after the initial peak of the first week, which could be accounted for by people using their caddies before the start of the scheme. For a full breakdown of participation and yield please see Annexe 1.

#### Customer Feedback

6. Feedback from residents has been monitored closely since the start of the scheme and it is apparent from this information that the level of customer contacts has decreased significantly week on week, indicating that the scheme is becoming fully understood and embedded, and that few operational/ service issues are arising.
7. The level of contact in the week before the scheme started was 84 customer enquiries, primarily from residents asking questions about how to line their caddies or asking when caddies would be delivered. In weeks after the start of the scheme this has decreased to around 9 customer contacts per week, regarding issues such as missing containers, or missed collections. For full breakdown of call levels please see Annexe 2.

#### Extension of the Service

8. At the current levels of participation, Veolia have indicated that there is still capacity on the round to extend the service to an additional 2,400 properties, bringing the weekly total to approximately 8,500 properties.
9. By extending the food waste service, there would be a financial implication of around £14,500 for set up costs, including publicity, and costs of ordering and delivering kitchen and kerbside caddies.
10. These one off costs would be funded by a capital contribution from Surrey County Council and from within existing budgets. There would not be an

additional cost for the delivery of the service because Veolia, the Council's contractor, has concluded that after operating the service for two months, there is sufficient capacity within their existing rounds to absorb a further 2,400 properties.

11. Therefore Waverley could introduce 2400 additional properties at nil extra cost, and also have a small budget to increase the promotion of the recycling service.

#### Proposed Implementation Timetable

12. The timetable for implementation of this extension of the scheme is largely dictated by the lead-times for the procurement of the food waste containers, and the minimum time period required ensuring the scheme receives adequate exposure and publicity before it is rolled out.
13. A draft project timetable is attached for consideration at Annexe 3 to this report.

#### Home Composting of Food Waste

14. At its meeting on 1 December 2009, the Executive made it clear that the provision of a food-waste collection service should be just one of a number of initiatives to remove food waste from the residual waste stream, and that to complement this initiative, further work was required to assist residents with minimisation and home-composting.
15. On 24 May 2010 a scheme was introduced to subsidise food waste digesters. There are currently two types of digester on offer, the Green Cone that is solely used for food waste, and the Green Johanna that is used for both food waste and garden waste. The units are currently being sold at a subsidised price of £20 and £30 including delivery, which accounts for a proportion of the subsidy being allocated by both Waverley and Surrey County Council.
16. In the month since the start of the scheme, there have been 12 Green Cones and 20 Green Johannas sold, in comparison to an average of 2 Cones per month and 5 Johannas per month prior to the promotion.

#### Conclusion

1. The first phase of the food waste service commenced over two months ago, and has become an integrated aspect of the waste collection service we provide to our residents, which has been shown by the increase in participation and yield of recycling through this scheme, and also by the reduction in customer contacts since the introduction of the scheme.
2. The collection of food waste is an important priority in the Surrey Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, a key element of SCC's current and future waste disposal policy, and a priority for this Council. Therefore the

extension of this service would meet a number of key objectives, and also allows the Council to make a saving of around £7,000.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Executive delegate responsibility to the Head of Environmental Services and Strategic Director, in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for the Environment, to proceed with the extension of the food waste service to an additional 2,400 properties.

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### **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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