

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places (Introduced by the Executive Member for People and Places)	Executive Cabinet	11 November 2010

FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEME

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To agree the scheme for collecting food waste from households in the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the scheme described in this report is approved and Officers begin the procurement and publicity campaign in early 2011 to ensure Chorley is in a position to collect food waste in accordance with the Lancashire Waste Strategy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The Council has adopted the Lancashire Waste Strategy which requires us to collect food waste separately for composting when facilities are available at Farington Waste Technology Park (WTP), expected in June 2011. The Strategy includes the target of recycling and composting 56% of municipal waste by 2015.
- Chorley Council as part of its commitment to collect food waste has to design and deliver the appropriate scheme for collections to ensure it attracts the highest possible participation rate. The actual cost of collecting the food waste is already factored into the current ten year collection contract with Veolia.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- The preferred scheme for collecting food waste will ensure the Council meets the requirements of the Lancashire Waste Strategy including increasing its recycling rate.
- To continue to receive the £800,000 per annum waste cost share agreement payment from LCC once facilities are available for processing food waste we need to start collecting food waste separately for composting.
- The preferred scheme is the lowest cost option with an initial capital outlay of £30,000 and no ongoing revenue commitment.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- The Council could continue with its current refuse and recycling collection arrangements and not collect food waste separately for composting. Continuing with our current arrangements would not meet the eligibility criteria for the waste cost share payment from LCC as discussed above.

9. An alternative scheme has been considered utilising a small kitchen caddy and cornstarch (compostable) liners as a means of decantable storage of food waste prior to depositing in the larger caddy or garden waste bin. However, this service design would require an initial capital outlay of £72,000 with an annual revenue cost of £100,000 for replacement liners. The additional costs that such a scheme attracts are unlikely to result in any substantial increase in participation, customer satisfaction or tonnages of waste recycled. In addition, the use of caddy liners could result in householders utilising non biodegradable products, which would effectively contaminate the waste collected and render the composting process ineffective.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	✓
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	✓

BACKGROUND

11. Food waste is any food waste that can be composted. This includes vegetable peelings, dairy products, cooked food, leftovers, meat and bones. Waste audits of refuse bins from Chorley residents show 30.6% by weight of refuse bins is food waste. In-vessel composting facilities which process food and garden waste at the required temperatures will be available at Farington WTP from June 2011. This process destroys any harmful organisms and produces compost that meets industry standards.
12. Food waste collection trials have been taking place at 4,500 properties with gardens in Mawdesley, Eccleston, Chorley and Astley Village since February 2009. Half of the properties were provided with an indoor caddy for their food waste, the remainder were simply sent a letter informing them they could now put food waste in their garden waste bin for composting. No residents were provided with compostable liners. Based on calls to the Contact Centre and survey returns overall the trial has been well received. There was no marked difference in participation rates between those householders placing food waste directly in garden waste bins and those provided with the kitchen caddy.
13. South Ribble Borough Council have also been trialling food waste collections but to terraced properties without gardens. The trial with the highest participation rate of 41% was achieved where food waste collections were weekly and only a 23 litre outdoor caddy was provided. No liners were provided to any of the other properties on the trial. It was suggested that residents could wrap their food waste in newspaper and from observing collections many residents chose to do this.
14. Based on the above information it is proposed that residents who have a brown bin for garden waste, approximately 37,500 will be asked to put their food waste in their garden bin (brown bin) directly once facilities for composting are available at Farington WTP. Collections of these bins would remain fortnightly. No indoor caddies or liners would be provided.
15. Properties without gardens are predominately terraced and number approximately 8,000. These will be provided with a 23 or 25 litre brown outdoor caddy which has a lockable lid. These caddies would be collected from the front of properties on the pavement on a weekly basis. No indoor caddies or liners would be provided. Collection day would be on the

same day as the refuse and recycling collections, unless for efficiency reasons this is not possible. The small number of properties with communal collection facilities for their waste and recycling will be assessed to see what the most suitable collection arrangements are for their food waste in Autumn 2011.

16. The alternative and more costly model outlined in section 9 of this report would see indoor caddies provided to every household in the Borough and a regular supply of compostable liners. For reasons of cost and no anticipated impact on participation and recycling rates, this model is rejected.
17. A Communications programme will be agreed with Veolia and the Council's Communications and Customer Services teams. Publicity about food waste collections would highlight the financial savings to residents of not wasting food using the 'Love Food, Hate Waste' campaign and the simplicity of the collection scheme. A suggestion that residents can wrap their food waste in newspaper would be included in scheme literature.
18. Twelve months after food waste collections start, participation in the scheme and feedback from residents should be reviewed to see if any areas for improvement and efficiencies can be identified.
19. The proposed scheme has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment which indicates that, where appropriate, point of storage collections will need to be maintained for garden properties. Whereas given the size and anticipated weight of the caddies and planned collection point provided to non garden properties householders will be able to present their caddies for collection on a weekly basis at the front of the property.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

20. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	✓	Customer Services	✓
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR TRANSFORMATION

21. If the recommended scheme is approved, the £30,000 cost of purchasing caddies would be added to the capital programme for 2011/12. As there are no uncommitted capital resources, such as capital receipts, it would probably be necessary to borrow to finance this expenditure. Assuming that the caddies would be in use for 10 years, the annual revenue cost would be £3,000 each year, plus interest on the outstanding debt.
22. In addition to the cost of purchasing the caddies, publicity and distribution costs are estimated to be £16,000. As the recommendation is that the publicity campaign should begin in early 2011, part of this expenditure would be incurred before the end of 2010/11 and would be reflected in revenue budget monitoring for the current financial year. The balance would be spent during 2011/12 and would need to be included in the draft revenue budget for that year. Other revenue costs relating to the preferred scheme are already included in the Veolia contract.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR PLANNING POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

23. An equality impact assessment has been undertaken on the proposed scheme, using the feedback from the food waste collection trial. As with the other elements of the refuse and recycling collection scheme, there is the potential for some residents to find manoeuvring bins difficult. The plans to continue the point of storage collections should support these

residents to participate fully in the new scheme. Service requests and comments will continue to be monitored to ensure that feedback is taken into account.

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR PEOPLE AND PLACES

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Rubbish to Resources – Waste Management Strategy for Lancashire 2008 – 2020	Nov 2008		Email: wastestrategy@lancashire.gov.uk – for a copy
Lancashire Food Waste Trials Final Report	Oct 2010		Waste Management Coordinator – Bengal Street Offices

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jo Oliver	5737	12 October 2010	foodwaste