

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places (Introduced by the Executive Member (Places))	Executive Cabinet	17 February 2011

FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS - UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To update members on the need to delay food waste collections to non-garden properties.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- The introduction of food waste collections to non-garden properties is delayed by a minimum of 12 months. Lancashire County Council have clarified this material is not currently required at the new Farington Waste Technology Park (WTP). However food waste collections to households with a garden waste bin could still be rolled out as proposed in the Executive Cabinet Report of November 2010. A further report for Executive Cabinet to be prepared once a date requiring us to collect food waste separately from all properties has been provided by LCC.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Lancashire County Council have now indicated that separate food waste collections are not required until 2012/13. Early indications are that the residual waste (green bin) input at both the Farington and Thornton WTPs has a shortfall of organic material compared to what was expected. This will result in a decrease in energy production from the plants. A delay in separate food waste to non-garden properties would result in a saving to the Council of £87,000 in 2011/12.
- However the rollout of food waste collections to garden properties could continue as proposed. Farington WTP does require an input of mixed garden and food waste to ensure the in vessel composting plant meets its acceptance tests.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- One of the key elements of the contract for the WTPs is energy production from the residual waste stream. Indications are that the Farington and Thornton plant will not generate the predicted levels of energy so there is now no urgency to divert all food waste into the composting process.
- Lancashire County Council have indicated that separate food waste collections are no longer a requirement for Chorley Council to receive the £800,000 per annum waste cost share agreement payment in 2011/12.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

7. To continue with the project to roll out of food waste collections to all householders in 2011 as recommended in the Executive Cabinet Report of 11 November 2010. This will not assist Lancashire County Council in meeting its energy generation targets at the Farington WTP.
8. To not introduce any food waste collections in 2011/12 would result in a shortfall in projected tonnages to the Farington WTP for its in vessel composting plant so acceptance testing could not be carried out. An increase in the Council's recycling rate would be very unlikely.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

9. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	√
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			√

BACKGROUND

10. The Lancashire Waste Strategy, which the Council adopted, contains a commitment to provide a collection of food waste for composting and the target of 56% recycling and composting of municipal waste by 2015.
11. A report containing preferred options for collecting food waste was presented to Executive Cabinet on 11 November 2010. The recommendations in the report were accepted, with rollout of the scheme expected to take place in early Summer 2011. The recommendations included weekly food waste collections to approximately 8,000 properties using a new collection vehicle and 23 litre brown outdoor collection caddies.
12. Lancashire County Council have reported that there is not as much organic matter in the residual waste being delivered to the Farington WTP as predicted. This means the level of electricity generated, which is a key component of the PFI contract is unlikely to be met.

IMPACT OF DELAYING FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS

13. The delay in introducing food waste collections to properties without gardens, predominately terraced would save the Council £57,000 in 2011/12 in reduced contract costs to Veolia, the Council's waste management contractor. This saving is from the delay in procuring the collection vehicle, staffing and running costs. There would also be a saving of £30,000 from the Council's capital budget 2011/12 which was set aside to purchase the 23 litre outdoor caddies for properties who would receive a weekly food waste collection.
14. It is still possible to phase in the introduction of food waste collections to properties who currently receive a fortnightly garden waste collection. Residents who have a brown bin, approximately 37,500 properties would be asked to put their food waste in their garden waste bin (brown bin). The roll out costs of this scheme would be met by existing budgets as it would be in the main communications materials. No additional vehicles or containers are required for this scheme. The introduction of food waste collections in two phases would enable existing resources to handle the increased volume of enquiries more easily.

Farington WTP does require an input of mixed garden and food waste to ensure the in vessel composting plant meets its acceptance tests.

15. LCC are currently indicating they would expect food waste collections to all households to commence in 2012/13 though this will not be known for certain until the WTPs are fully commissioned and operating at a steady state. They have stated they would provide a minimum of 12 months notice.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

16. 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 OF TRANSFORMATION

17. If the proposal is approved this will mean that there will be no requirement to increase the Veolia contract during the next financial year 2011/12. Consequently the increase will be deferred until the scheme is fully implemented and no provision will be made in the 2011/12 budget to increase the revenue costs by £57,000. The capital spend again will be deferred with the resultant slippage again until the scheme is fully implemented.

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

There are no background papers to this report.

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