

**ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****4 SEPTEMBER 2007****WASTE AND RECYCLING ACTION PLAN: ANNUAL REPORT 2007****SUMMARY**

This report provides Councillors with:-

- a summary of the National Waste Strategy for England 2007;
- a review of the Council's recycling performance in 2006/07;
- a summary of the financial performance for the recycling service for 2006/07; and
- an outline of the decisions and actions that are required for the Council to reach the 60% recycling and home composting target by 2010. Four options have been presented for discussion, along with a proposal for introducing kerbside collection of household batteries. The introduction of a relevant trial and a consultation exercise is recommended.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Waste Strategy for England 2007 was published in May 2007 and a summary of the main issues is provided in this report. A consultation exercise on the proposal for incentivising recycling was recently undertaken by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Council's response is set out in Annex I.
- 1.2 The annual update on recycling performance and working towards the 60% recycling and home composting target covers the Council's performance on the kerbside collections rounds, the bring sites and the education and waste minimisation projects.
- 1.3 At its meeting on the 29 May 2007, this Committee asked for a financial report on recycling services. This has been integrated within this report and can be found in Section 4.
- 1.4 In relation to working towards the 60% target (established in 2001), Officers have been investigating a number of approaches and options that could be implemented. Four options, including a proposal for a trial and a consultation exercise, have been provided for discussion. A proposal for introducing kerbside collections of batteries has also been included.

**2. NEW NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY FOR ENGLAND**

- 2.1 The key objectives of the Strategy are to:-
  - decouple waste growth (in all sectors) from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use;
  - meet and exceed the Landfill Directive diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste in 2010, 2013 and 2020;

- increase diversion from landfill of non-municipal waste and secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non-municipal waste;
- secure the investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill and for the management of hazardous waste; and
- get the most environmental benefit from that investment, through increased recycling of resources and recovery of energy from residual waste using a mix of technologies.

### Targets

2.2 For the first time, the Government has introduced a target for waste prevention, namely:-

Reduce the amount of household waste not re-used, recycled or composted from over 22.2 million tonnes in 2000 by 29% to 15.8 million tonnes in 2010 with an aspiration to reduce it to 12.2 million tonnes in 2020 – a reduction of 45%. This is equivalent to a fall of 50% per person (from 450 kg per person in 2000 to 225 kg in 2020).

2.3 Higher national targets than in 2000 have been set for:-

- recycling and composting of household waste – at least 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020; and
- recovery of municipal waste – 53% by 2010, 67% by 2015 and 75% by 2020.

2.4 Councillors will note that these are national targets. Targets for individual local authorities, both collection and disposal authorities, are to be subject to a further consultation following which the Government has committed to publish targets for individual local authorities in the Autumn of 2007.

2.5 In addition, the Government will shortly be setting a new national target for the reduction of commercial and industrial waste going to landfill. On the basis of the policies set out in *Waste Strategy for England 2007*, levels of commercial and industrial waste landfilled are expected to fall by 20% by 2010 compared to 2004. The Government is considering, in conjunction with the construction industry, a target to halve the amount of construction, demolition and excavation waste going to landfill by 2012 as a result of waste reduction, re-use and recycling.

### Key Proposals for Action

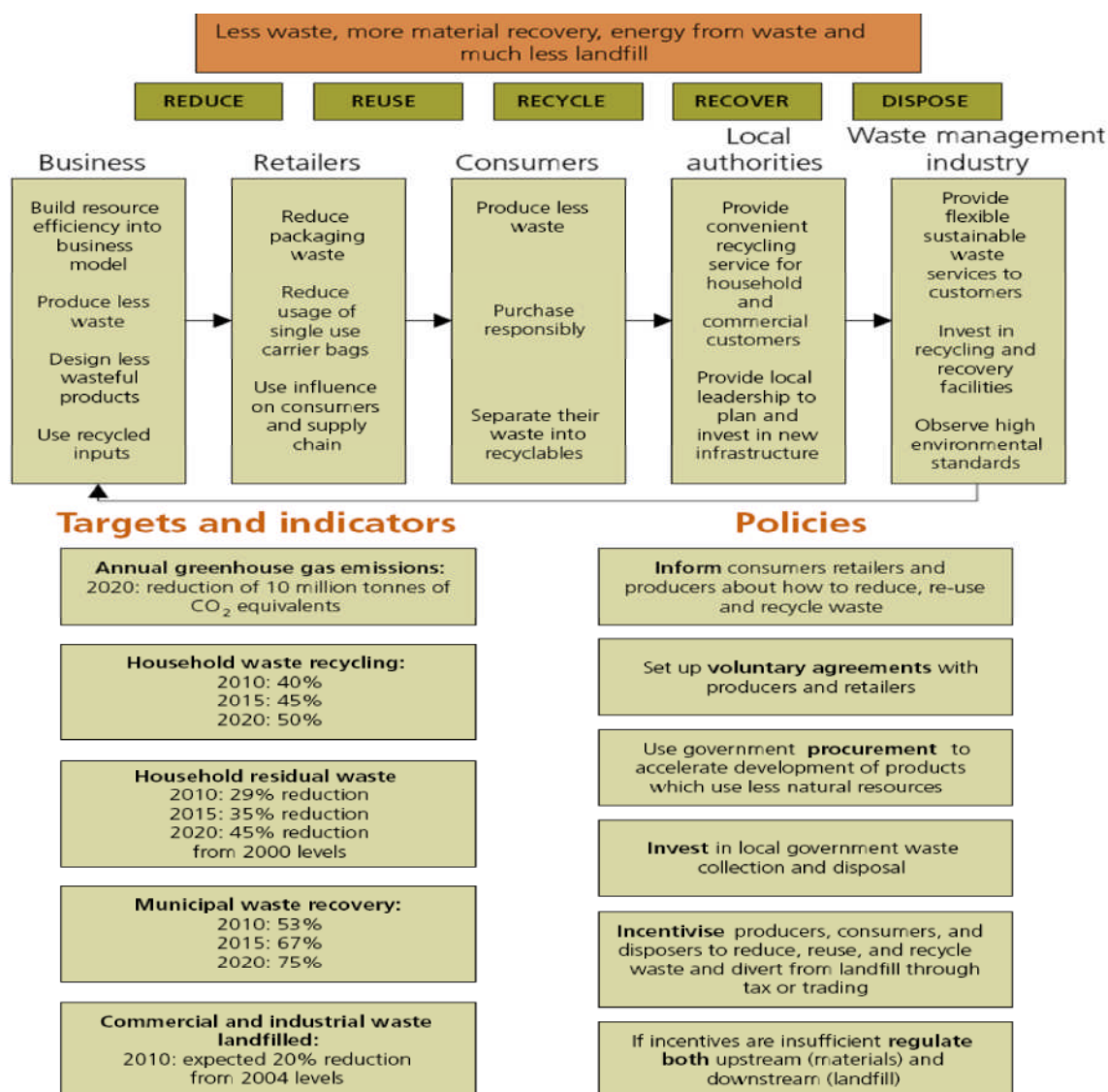
2.6 The main elements of the new Strategy are set out in the following paragraphs.

2.7 **Incentivise efforts to reduce, re-use, recycle waste and recover energy from waste.** This will include increasing the landfill tax escalator so that the standard rate of tax will increase by £8 per year from 2008 until at least 2010/2011 to give greater financial incentives to businesses to reduce, re-use and recycle waste (from £24 now to £48 in 2010). The Government will also consult on removing the ban on local authorities introducing household financial incentives for waste reduction and recycling, through early legislative change. Local authorities would be free to introduce schemes where householders who recycle their waste receive payments funded by householders who do not recycle.

- 2.8 **Reform regulation to drive the reduction of waste and diversion from landfill while reducing costs to compliant businesses and the regulator.** Actions outlined here are the simplification of the regulatory system and a further consultation on whether the introduction of further restrictions on the landfilling of biodegradable waste or recyclable materials would make an effective contribution to meeting the objectives set out in the Strategy, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resource efficiency.
- 2.9 **Target action on materials, products and sectors with the greatest scope for environmental and economic outcomes.** Actions here include the establishment of a new Products and Materials Unit to identify and catalyse actions across the supply chain to improve the environmental performance of products throughout their life cycle. Materials to be targeted are paper, garden and food wastes, plastics and aluminium. The Government has also committed to develop eco-design requirements, further encourage the re-use and re-manufacture of products and to strengthen producer responsibility arrangements for packaging, unaddressed mail and construction waste.
- 2.10 **Stimulate investment in collection, recycling and recovery infrastructure, and recovered materials that will maximise the value of materials and energy recovered.** The Government is committed to improving procurement and investment by local authorities through comprehensive support and strengthened central and regional coordination by the Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme (WIDP), a new unit to ensure cost effective and timely delivery of the major infrastructure required. It will also continue to support WRAP's market development work (focusing on priority materials). This will include development of a centre of expertise on export markets to help businesses manage the market risks, maintain the value of recycled material and comply with the controls on export of waste.
- 2.11 **Improve national, regional and local governance, with a clearer performance framework to deliver better coordinated action and services on the ground.** The Government is committed to strengthening the ability of local authorities in two-tier areas to work together and encouraging partnership working between local authorities through new powers for authorities to *voluntarily* form joint waste authorities. It also wishes to encourage local authorities to take on a wider role (in partnerships) to help local (particularly smaller) businesses reduce and recycle their waste with cost savings through more integrated management of different waste streams. It will encourage the Regional Development Agencies and other regional bodies to co-ordinate business waste and resource management in partnership with local authorities and third sector organisations. Members will note that the Council has already taken action in this regard with the introduction of its commercial recycling services.
- 2.12 **Stimulate further action by both individuals and businesses so that changed behaviour is embedded across all aspects of our lives.** Actions here include extending the national campaign for recycling to awareness and action on reducing waste, incentivising excellence in sustainable waste management through a Zero Waste Places initiative to develop innovative and exemplary practice, reducing single use shopping bags through a retailer commitment to a programme of action to reduce the environmental impact of carrier bags by 25% by the end of 2008, providing more recycling bins in public places and placing greater emphasis on promoting the reduction of waste and increase of recycling in schools.

**Delivery**

- 2.13 To drive implementation of the Strategy, the Government is establishing a DEFRA led Waste Strategy Board to provide leadership within and across government. The Board will be chaired by the lead DEFRA Director for Sustainable Consumption and Production and Waste and will include representation from other Government Departments with a key interest and/or role in waste and the Environment Agency. The Board will be accountable to the Lead DEFRA Minister for Waste. The Board will be responsible for taking forward the delivery of the Strategy and developing new policy actions as necessary. A new Waste Stakeholder Group will provide external advice, challenge and assistance with delivery. Membership will be drawn from waste stakeholders across the field (including business, waste management industry, local government, third sector, environmental non-governmental organisations and consumers and households). Periodic reports on progress will be published.
- 2.14 The following table from the Waste Strategy for England 2007 summarises its objectives, action for different parts of society, the policy approach and indicators and targets.



- 2.15 The implications of the Strategy for the Council will become clearer once the specific targets for each authority have been set and decisions have been made based on the consultation exercise. A copy of the Waste Strategy for England 2007 has been placed in the Members Room.

### 3. PROGRESS IN 2006/07

#### Review of Home Composting Performance 2006/07

- 3.1 Home composting remains the Council's preferred option for the handling of garden waste as it requires no transport and provides residents with a useful resource to use in their own gardens. This policy also complies with the waste hierarchy, as set out in the Government's National Waste Strategy 2000 and 2007.
- 3.2 In order to encourage residents to compost at home, the Council supplies subsidised compost bins and green cones to residents. In 2005/06, the Council distributed 1,746 units. This brings the number of units in the Borough to a total of 23,203. As a result, Officers estimate that a total of 5,917 tonnes of biodegradable waste were diverted from the waste stream leading to a home composting rate of 11.75%.

#### Review of Garden Waste Collection Scheme 2006/07

- 3.3 2006/07 was the second year in which the charged garden waste collection scheme was in operation Borough-wide. At the end of the financial year, the scheme had attracted 14,919 subscribers. 12,681 households purchased 2 sacks, 802 households purchased 3 sacks and 1,436 households purchased 4 sacks.
- 3.4 As a result of the operation of this scheme and the collection of leaf fall from street sweepings, a total of 4,194 tonnes of biodegradable waste was sent for composting, adding 8.41% to the Council's recycling rate.

#### Review of The Kerbside Collection Scheme 2006/07

- 3.5 This year saw the introduction of plastic bottle and textile collections from the kerbside. The collection of these materials was phased in between October 2006 and March 2007 and is now available to the vast majority of households in the Borough.
- 3.6 The provision of mini-recycling centres for new flats continued when new developments were completed. As a result, the kerbside collection service is now available to 98% of households in the Borough. Tonnages of materials collected from the kerbside are set out in the following table

Material	Mixed Papers	Glass	Cans	Plastic bottles	Textiles	Total
Tonnes	7319	3190	614	60	21	11,204

#### Review of Bring Bank Systems 2006/07

- 3.7 No changes were made to the bring bank systems in the review period. They continue to be a useful facility for the minority of residents that cannot be serviced by the kerbside rounds and for the collection of materials not accepted at the kerbside. Complaints about overflowing banks and untidy sites have reduced to virtually zero as a result of the introduction of a dedicated cleansing team. Tonnages of material collected from bring banks are set out below.

Material	Mixed Paper	Glass	Plastic & cans	Textiles	Books	Foil	Total
Tonnes	678	587	179	175	36	2	1,657

### **Recycling Performance 2006/07**

- 3.8 With a recycling rate of 25.7% for dry recyclables (BVPI 82a) and a 8.41% recycling rate for compostables (BVPI 82b), the Council achieved an overall recycling rate of 34.11% in this period. If the home composting rate, as detailed in paragraph 3.2 above, is added, the Council achieved a recycling and home composting rate of 45.86% in 2006/07.

### **Recycling Services for Businesses**

- 3.9 Whilst this report focuses on the domestic waste stream, it should be noted that, during the period of this review, the Council greatly increased recycling services for businesses within the Borough. The Recycling for Business Scheme developed a customer base of 180 businesses collecting paper, cans, aerosols and plastic bottles on a weekly basis. Approximately five tonnes of recyclate is collected each week. In addition, a new trial scheme for the collection of glass from licensed premises in the town centre was introduced. At the end of the financial year, just under 30 customers had joined the scheme and approximately 3 tonnes of glass was being collected each week.

### **Review of Waste Education and Awareness Campaign 2006/07**

- 3.10 The Council's joint waste awareness and education campaign continued throughout the period. The campaign focussed on advertising, roadshows, talks/events, newsletters, door-to-door canvassing of residents to encourage participation in the kerbside collection service and the Community Recyclers' Scheme. The period saw a marked increase in the level of activity of community recyclers, with a high number of local events organised by the volunteers and supported by the Council. The scheme has proved to be an invaluable tool in helping the Council spread the message about sustainable waste management and Officers are extremely grateful for the level of commitment and hard work of volunteers. Another notable highlight was the "Compost Heaven" event in September organised jointly with Parks and Countryside Services, Guildford Allotment Society and community recyclers. Over 800 residents attended the event to collect free compost, free compost bins and free advice from composting experts.
- 3.11 Provision has been made in the budget for 2007/08 to continue this work in Guildford Borough.
- 3.12 The revised and updated Waste and Recycling Action Plan timetable is attached to this report as Annex II.

## **4. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR 2006/07**

- 4.1 The service achieved a budget surplus of £41,000 due principally to a net surplus in recycling credits. Some of this money was used to defray higher than anticipated operational costs due to inclement weather. Savings were also achieved by the renegotiation of the 'gate fee' for paper, which was used to contribute to the additional costs associated with the roll out of Borough-wide plastic and textile collections.
- 4.2 Kerbside Collections: The 2006/07 financial year saw the introduction of Borough-wide plastic bottle and textile collections. The roll-out programme commenced in October 2006 and concluded in March 2007. As highlighted above, improved income levels surpassed associated increased costs. This has resulted in a reduction in net costs.

- 4.3 Green Waste: The service performed slightly ahead of expectations, with the kerbside service having a net cost of £132,000 against a budget of £135,000. Other savings resulted in a £6,000 saving in this budget area.
- 4.4 The renewals process for the current financial year has been completed smoothly. This year, the decision was taken to contact current subscribers only for renewals and to advertise for new customers via the Council's website and a newspaper advertisement. As such, the Council wrote to around 15,000 households rather than 45,000 households as in previous renewals. There has been a 3% increase in customer numbers. This year also saw the introduction of electronic payments, including automated telephone payments and web payments. These electronic methods were used by nearly half of the customers.
- 4.5 Bring Bank Service: The bring bank service continues to effectively support the kerbside service and has performed slightly ahead of budget (£2,000).
- 4.6 Summary: The service continues to deliver in line with budgets with a net cost in the 2006/07 financial year 2.61% under budget.

## 5. **WORKING TOWARDS THE 2010 60% RECYCLING AND HOME COMPOSTING TARGET**

### **Household Battery Collection**

- 5.1 A new reprocessing facility owned by G & P Batteries Ltd is able to process household batteries (e.g. AAA, AA, C, D and button cells). This now makes the collection of this material from the kerbside a practicable option and Officers propose to introduce a trial collection scheme in October 2007. If the trial proves successful, it is proposed that it should be expanded to the remainder of the kerbside fleet in December 2007. It is estimated that the average UK resident uses 21 disposable batteries per year and evidence from trials carried out recently in the UK would suggest that the Council could collect approximately 4 tonnes per year from a kerbside scheme. Residents will be provided with bags to store spent batteries and these would be collected from the green recycling box. A small collection box will be welded to each kerbside vehicle in order to store the material on the routes. Officers have secured funding for this scheme through the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

### Borough-Wide Food Waste Collections and Review of Refuse and Recycling Services

- 5.2 The management of waste and particularly increasing recycling is topical currently and the Communities and Local Government Select Committee has recently published a report on the whole issue entitled 'Refuse Collection'. The key objective was to assess the influence of both collection methods and associated charging and financial issues on overall recycling rates. The document is both relevant and pertinent and may be accessed in the Members' Room. The comments with respect to food collection are extremely relevant:-

*'Food waste represents nearly a fifth of the total household waste stream and is a particularly significant contributor to greenhouse gases when sent to landfill. We recommend that Government encourage more local authorities to adopt both separate food waste collection and at least weekly food waste collection'.*

- 5.3 The trial which is currently underway complies with this recommendation in that food waste is being collected separately from specially provided containers on a weekly basis. Whilst it is too early to make definitive comments about the success of that trial, early observations are that there is a high level of participation and householders

find the system acceptable. From 3,000 households, around 5 tonnes per week are being collected.

- 5.4 The Council has set an ambitious target rate of 60% for recycling, composting and home composting to be delivered by 2010. This comprises a target of 47% for recycling and composting and a separate target of 13% for home composting. As reported above, the current rate for recycling and composting is over 34%. Whilst this is a significant achievement, this is still some way short of the 47% needed to reach the 2010 target.
- 5.5 Whilst some improvement on this figure is achievable, there is insufficient material in the current range collected for this figure to come near to 47% and, therefore, additional materials in the waste stream need to be targeted.
- 5.6 Food waste is a material for which there are limited options for diverting away from the residual waste stream and it constitutes a significant proportion of domestic waste. When sent to landfill, it decomposes in the absence of air, creating methane, a major greenhouse gas and contributor to global warming. The separation and collection of this material to divert it from landfill is, therefore, crucially important. In addition, without this material, it will not be possible to achieve a recycling and composting rate of 47%. The cost of delivering a food waste collection service is also a significant factor. The addition of this material to the service will involve significant additional resources and expenditure. Greater success in terms of higher recycling rates and diversion from landfill tends to be rewarded currently by additional grant and Government support, which would assist in defraying the costs to the Council itself.
- 5.7 Councillors will be aware that Surrey County Council has a duty under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) to meet challenging diversion targets for Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW). These targets will inform the County Council's provision of suitable facilities for this waste. The Borough Council has also signed up to the Surrey Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS), which has the following agreed targets, policies and actions:-
- Promotion of kerbside organic collections.
  - Development of systems to collect both garden waste and kitchen waste from householders by 2010.
  - Agreement to commit significant efforts and resources to achieve and exceed household recycling and composting targets of 40% by the year 2010 and 50% by 2015 and aspire to reach a long term target of 60% recycling and composting by 2025.

#### **Relevant research**

- 5.8 Studies by Surrey County Council's consultants, Eunomia, suggest that a composting rate of around 7% would be achievable without any changes to refuse collection systems, whereas combining weekly food waste collections with the introduction of fortnightly collections of residual waste could result in an increase in the recycling and composting rate of approximately 15%. The removal of food would take away the main issue of complaint relating to changes in frequency of waste collections. The expected increase in participation in recycling services would result in there being limited residual waste being presented for collection. Annex III provides an analysis of the Borough's waste stream and clearly indicates that materials that would left within the bins would be items such as non-recyclable packaging, polystyrene and

disposable nappies. Officers will continue to examine how the impact of disposable nappies can be reduced.

### **Health and safety issues**

- 5.9 If, after having removed food waste from the waste stream on a weekly basis, other non-putrescible items were collected on a less frequent collection cycle, it is likely that residents would prefer to accumulate that material in a wheeled bin. Sacks would be less convenient on that less frequent collection cycle. There are also very clear health and safety benefits from a wheeled bin system, which is in accordance with current guidance from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The Council has experienced a number of unpleasant incidents resulting in significant injury to staff which wheeled bins would help to avoid. In areas where wheeled bins have been introduced, there have also been positive impacts on street cleansing as there are fewer spills from bags attacked by foxes or other animals. It is very difficult to estimate the extent of any saving which might accrue to the street cleansing budget, but there is clear evidence and reporting from other authorities of higher levels of public satisfaction.
- 5.10 There are, however, parts of the Borough, for example, in some of our older blocks of flats or where there are long runs of terraced properties without access between the front and back gardens or, indeed, where there is no front garden, which are not suitable for wheeled bins and, where that applied, the current sack provision would remain. It is estimated that 80% of the borough would be covered by wheeled bins.

### **Discussion**

- 5.11 Four options have been produced for consideration. Each option is shown in Annex IV, with a pictorial guide relating to the relevant collection methods. Annex V summarises each of the options and illustrates how each one addresses the main issues. Annex VI provides a summary of the options and impacts in terms of annual expenditure requirements, cumulative additional costs over 10 years, changes to staff numbers and anticipated diversion rates.
- 5.12 If Option 4, which is cost effective and delivers considerable health and safety and waste management benefits, is preferred, there are implications for fleet procurement but the current vehicle manufacturer has worked closely with Officers and has confirmed that this option is viable. A diagram showing the vehicle adaptation required will be available at the meeting. The key to reaching the target and improving performance is the implementation of a service that is well designed and easy to use. Option 4 meets that criteria.

### **Timescales**

- 5.13 There are two external factors that impact on the timescales of any changes, which need to be considered:-
- There is currently no facility in the County that can accept food waste and any plans are, therefore, entirely dependent on Surrey County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority, finding and or building appropriate facilities to receive food waste.
  - The leases for most of the recycling vehicles expire in March 2009. This gives a limited window of opportunity to revise the Council's fleet to deliver revised services. Councillors will be aware that no waste vehicles have been purchased whilst plans for reaching the 60% target have been produced. As a result, there are now increased repair costs, reliability issues affecting the

service and increased hire costs compared to in-house charges. If no decision is made on future systems, then straightforward replacements for some vehicles will have to be ordered. This will not only limit future flexibility, but may also result in high costs for terminating any new leases for any future schemes to an expected figure of £25,000 per vehicle per year outstanding on the relevant lease. The procurement issues are also pertinent here and it will be appreciated that there is a significant lead in time after a decision is made on the right option for the Council. In practice, in order to implement improved collection methods in time to achieve targets by 2010, a decision will be required in March 2008.

- 5.14 Surrey County Council has indicated that it would assist in making interim arrangements to allow the Council to introduce kitchen waste services prior to its own facilities being completed. This would be similar to the existing arrangements with the current trial. The County Council has also indicated that there may be financial support – especially if it feels that the schemes are cost effective, efficient and work towards minimising waste and encouraging recycling.
- 5.15 The change of vehicles in March 2009 and appropriate disposal methods instituted by Surrey County Council means that it will be possible to implement a full scheme from March 2009. It also means that any delay in making a decision could result in significant additional expenditure in vehicle costs.

### **Trial of System**

- 5.16 Introduction of new refuse schemes, especially those that alter collection frequencies, can generate negative responses from residents. Adverse publicity has tended to arise where residents have perceived that a bi-weekly waste collection system, which includes putrescible or food waste, results in odour and vermin problems. Where food waste (which is a potentially unpleasant waste material which may attract rats and other pests and, in hot weather, smell) is removed separately and on a weekly basis, public acceptance is high. Councillors will be aware that the Council is already operating a trial of food waste collections on one round three days per week, although it is too early to be definitive, the trial shows a very high level of public acceptance and positive comment has been received. The level of complaint has been very low.
- 5.17 It would also be possible to implement a trial of a wheeled bin system with fortnightly collections for residual waste for 2 of these 3 days from December for a period of three months. This would involve approximately 1,800 properties. The trial could be provided with an existing fleet vehicle and the staff could be provided from within the existing service. The trial would test the range of services in Options 2 and 4. It should be noted, however, that the trial would not involve the vehicle proposal for Option 4 because that vehicle adaptation is not ready for use.
- 5.18 The extended trial would provide relevant evidence on how participation rates can be influenced by changing the frequency of residual waste collections. There may well be additional implications for householders in managing this provision and it will also be important to test the implications for service users.
- 5.19 It will be necessary to carry out a thorough study of the waste output and participation from the relevant properties prior to the trial starting and then monitor the situation throughout the actual trial period.
- 5.20 The costs of doing so will be around £60,000 and funding will be needed in order to deliver this trial. These costs include the wheeled bins, communications and an additional Officer for monitoring and practical resident support.

- 5.21 A trial for a three-month period may be regarded as being limited. Officers have, however, spoken with WRAP, which is keen to see how the changes in frequency of residual waste collections will influence the kitchen waste trial area. The size of the trial area can also be considered to be credible. The use of the existing kitchen waste trial area also provides the opportunity to introduce this trial for considerably less cost than would have been incurred if the cost of kitchen waste collections had to be included as part of the full trial costs. Also, as stated above, there are various factors dictating that decisions need to be made by March 2008.
- 5.22 The trial will be evaluated by a number of methods:-
- The measuring of the weights of recyclable, compostable and residual materials collected from the trial properties, before and during the trial period.
  - The numbers of calls to the hotline regarding the collection schemes, both positive and negative.
  - Direct consultation with the residents participating in the trial.
  - Operational evaluation of services, to include crew feedback.
  - Participation monitoring.
  - Monitoring of impact on street scene, such as fly tips and litter generation.

### **Consultation**

- 5.23 In the past, residents have been consulted on waste management issues through surveys, including the Citizens' Panel, Residents' Survey and the three yearly surveys for BV90a (Percentage of respondents expressing satisfaction with waste collection). None of these consultation exercises, however, have sought opinions on wheeled bins or changes to the frequency of residual waste collections. The future of waste management service provision in Guildford is a large and important topic that affects all householders within the Borough. It is important, therefore, that residents be consulted as to the current proposals and a draft explanatory letter and set of questions are provided as Annex VII.

## **6. THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 This report sets out progress made towards the achievement of the Council's 60% recycling and home composting target to be met by 2010, as agreed in the Waste and Recycling Action Plan adopted by the Executive in December 2004.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The revenue and capital costs associated with the roll out of kerbside battery collections are provided by Local Area Agreement funding for the current financial year. Future disposal costs of £4,000 per annum will need to be budgeted from 2008/9.
- 7.2 The costs associated with changes to waste collection methods are highlighted within Annex V. All costs are based on estimates and may need to be revised as the project develops. Detailed financial information is included in the item in the confidential section of this agenda.

7.3 As emphasised in paragraph 5.6, improvements in performance and innovative measures to drive up recycling rates tend to attract higher levels of grant and subsidy, although that cannot yet be quantified precisely.

7.4 An additional £60,000 will be required for the proposed trial.

## **8. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The kerbside collection of batteries has no staffing implications.

8.2 Changes to waste collection methods to include food waste will lead to additional staffing requirements. These are highlighted in the item in the confidential section of this agenda for each option.

## **9. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Sound waste management practice and working towards the Council's 60% target for recycling and home composting by 2010 are considered crucial factors in ensuring sustainability.

## **10. CONCLUSIONS**

10.1 It can be concluded that recycling services have performed well over this period. The introduction of kerbside collection services for plastic bottles and textiles, the increase in home composting and the waste awareness campaign have all played an important part in the development of the overall service. In order to achieve the target of 60% recycling which was adopted a number of years ago, the Council needs to consider the most effective option financially and in terms of the aims and targets of the Surrey Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. National objectives and directives are becoming increasingly onerous and while it is not possible to predict absolutely the nature of the targets, which are likely to be imposed on local authorities in terms of their waste management, it is unquestionable that the standards will increase and the percentage of waste which may be landfilled will decrease sharply. It is also likely that health and safety issues will become increasingly important.

10.2 While every householder produces waste and expects it to be disposed of effectively, conveniently and environmentally, there are inevitably sensitive issues which arise in choosing the best method to achieve a good service for householders and increasingly onerous environmental standards. The recent Commons Select Committee Report referred to above in paragraph 5.2, emphasised the importance of retaining public acceptance and support for changing service provision. Public acceptance relates very closely to the maintenance of a weekly collection for putrescible waste. That is mainly kitchen waste, that is discarded and unwanted food items. The maintenance of a weekly kitchen waste collection is, therefore, an extremely important component not only in delivering an effective service but one which retains a high level of public endorsement. It is equally important, however, to ensure that the potential benefits are widely understood across the whole borough and that, therefore, the proposed option be subject to a trial, and that there is sufficient time to evaluate the trial results. The proposed trial will involve separate weekly food collection and, as a corollary to that, a reduced frequency in the collection of dry residual waste, which will be presented in a wheeled bin. It is recommended that the trial commences in December 2007 and the results be reported to Committee in March 2008. There are advantages and disadvantages in respect of all of the options, which are summarised in the matrix included as Annex V. Only two of the identified options enable the Borough Council to meet its 60% target for recycling and of those Option 4 is the most economic.

## 11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 At its meeting on 6 September 2007, the Executive will be requested to approve the following recommendations:-

- (I) That the Head of Recycling, Cleansing and Parking Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment, be authorised to finalise the arrangements for the kerbside collection of batteries from a trial area in October 2007 and to roll out the service Borough-wide in December 2007.
- (II) That the Head of Recycling, Cleansing and Parking Services be authorised, in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment, to implement a trial at an estimated cost of £60,000. The trial will involve 1,800 properties, which will be provided with a separate container for food waste to be collected on a weekly basis and a wheeled bin for the collection of residual dry waste to be collected bi-weekly. The trial will last for three months and commence in December 2007 after which report will be made to the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Committee in March 2008.
- (III) That the Head of Recycling, Cleansing and Parking Services and the Head of Communications, in consultation with the Lead Member for Environment, be authorised to design and carry out a suitable consultation exercise relating to the proposed methods for reaching the 60% recycling and home composting target by 2010.

### Reason for Recommendations

To reach the Council's 60% target for recycling and home composting of household waste.

11.2 The Committee is asked to submit its comments on the above recommendations for consideration by the Executive on 6 September 2007.

### Background Papers:

The Waste Strategy for England  
 Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Surrey  
 "Manual Handling in Refuse Collection", Dr Andrew Pinder, HSE, 2002

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