

Proposal to Participate in County Food Waste Collection Trial

1. Contacts

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- 1.1. That Cabinet supports the recommendation of the Waste and Recycling Panel at their meeting on 12 October 2018 as set out in paragraph 2.7 of this report.**
- 1.2. The Environment Panel are tasked with monitoring development in this area, including consideration of implications for this Council arising from the Government's revised Waste Strategy.**

2. Background

- 2.1. Chichester District Council provide five streams of waste collection:-**
 - a) Fortnightly residual waste – household waste (excluding recyclable materials).**
 - b) Fortnightly recyclable waste – household waste that is recyclable**
 - c) Fortnightly garden waste – voluntary paid-for service**
 - d) Trade waste – commercial paid-for service.**
 - e) Clinical waste – contracted to third party provider**
- 2.2 The UK adopted the Revisions to the UK Waste Framework Directive which have been binding on member states since July 2018. This will continue to be in UK law post Brexit. This Directive set waste recycling targets of:-**
 - 50% by 2020**
 - 55% by 2025**
 - 65% by 2034**

As a County, West Sussex recycled 50% residual waste in the year 2018/19. This has been achieved by a number of initiatives amongst the West Sussex Waste Partnership, including education, campaigning and the introduction of fortnightly residual waste collections by three of the partners (Chichester, Horsham and Mid Sussex).

- 2.2 It has been recognised by the Partnership that to increase recycling rates to meet the government's targets will require a significant increase in extracting further recyclable waste from the residual waste stream. Analysis of the residual waste stream indicates up to 20% of waste is food, which if collected separately and recycled, would support the partnership in achieving the 2025 target.
- 2.3 In 2017 West Sussex County Council (WSCC) commissioned a waste management consultant to develop a model to understand the implications of introducing weekly food waste collections alongside a reduced refuse collection frequency. For Chichester this would mean a weekly food waste collection, fortnightly recycling collection and a three weekly residual waste collection. The model projected an increase in recycling rates for the County as a whole to 58%.
- 2.4 To test the model to make a judgement as to whether a full roll-out was appropriate, WSCC invited two Districts to participate in a trial. The trial purpose is to assess resident take-up and food waste capture rates. At their meeting on 12 October 2018 the Waste and Recycling Panel (W&RP) considered whether to recommend to Cabinet that Chichester should volunteer to take part in the trial. WSCC confirmed that the principles of the trial would be:-
- WSCC would fund the cost of the trial
 - Two districts or boroughs (one rural, one urban) would be required to provide a robust trial
 - 3,000 households of mixed property type would be included in the trial
 - The trial would commence in Spring 2020.
 - Decisions on participation in the trial by Districts would be made post the 2019 elections to enable new Members to participate in the decision process.
- 2.5 In considering the trial, the W&RP recognised that the Government were due to issue a draft Waste Strategy at the end of 2018. This would likely set out the Governments' requirements for local authorities on a number of issues, including food waste collection.
- 2.6 Running parallel to the food waste debate, WSCC announced their intention to revise the existing recycling incentive payment made to Districts with effect from 1 April 2019. WSCC is the disposal authority for the County i.e. they are responsible for the disposal of waste and pay for disposal costs. The Districts are responsible for the collection of waste. The disposal of residual waste is more expensive than the disposal of recycling and less environmentally friendly. To encourage recycling, the Clean Neighbourhood & Environment Act 2006 enabled authorities to mutually agree a formula for disposal authorities to make a recycling incentive payment to collection authorities to incentivise recycling. The West Sussex Waste Partnership agreed a formula based on property numbers, a performance bonus and a share in the income received from the sale of recyclable material. Regulations in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provide a default calculation in the event that the cost of disposal is not known or is too difficult to calculate. This is not the case in West Sussex; however WSCC announced their intention to adopt the default calculation for the year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The effect on Chichester

income is a loss of £86,000 per annum. WSCC stated they were willing to agree a revised calculation going forward; however this has not progressed. Districts and Boroughs have instead been advised by WSCC that in the light of WSCC funding pressures, options to further reduce the recycling incentive payment will be considered by WSCC Cabinet as part of their budget preparation for 2020/21 and is likely to further reduce going forward. CDC will need to plan for this reduction and possible removal of all payments in their 5 year financial strategy. The W&RP were keen to understand the position with regard to the payment of recycling credits prior to making a decision on the food trial.

- 2.7 As a result of the above, although the W&RP supported the principle of food waste collection, they made a decision to recommend to Cabinet that although the trial would provide practical experience of such a scheme, CDC should allow another District or Borough to participate in the trial but to contribute their support to the partnership in their analysis of the outcome and lessons learnt.
- 2.8 Since the W&RP's decision the Government have now issued their draft Waste Strategy 2018 for consultation. Feedback to the consultation closed on 16 May 2019 and a final draft of the Strategy is awaited. The Strategy contains four areas for consultation focussing on:-
 - a) Consistency in the collection of household and business recycling across the UK.
 - b) Reforming the packaging producers' responsibilities – transferring funding to meet costs associated with collecting and managing packaging from household waste from government to packaging producers.
 - c) A deposit return scheme – seeing a deposit added to the price of drinks at the point of purchase which would be redeemed on return of the empty container to designated return points. All producers of drink products that fall in the scope of the scheme would be mandated to join. This scheme is designed to address the issue of drinks containers causing a serious litter problem (*UK consumers use an estimated 14 billion plastic drinks bottles, 9 billion drinks cans and 5 billion glass bottles a year*).
 - d) A plastic packaging tax – introduction of a new tax on plastic packaging for businesses that produce or import plastic packaging which uses insufficient recycled content.

The area focussing on consistency in the collection of household and business recycling has the largest implications for local authorities. It sets a clear message that the Government are intending to legislate that with effect from 2023 all local authorities will be required to provide separate weekly food waste collections to households with a commitment that local authorities will be resourced to meet both up-front transition and on-going operational costs. Government analysis assumes weekly collection of dry recycling is also provided as well as at least alternate weekly collections of residual waste. The West Sussex Partnership have responded to the consultation that their experience is that if dry recycling is collected fortnightly and food weekly, less frequent collection of residual waste (e.g. three weekly) will encourage recycling and reduce costs to local authorities. However, should this feedback

not be supported the proposed trial would be based on a model that differs to the Government's requirements.

- 2.9 The Districts and Boroughs are still in the process of negotiating with WSCC a revised recycling incentive payment. WSCC have committed to agree a revised payment calculation for 2019/20. However, the draft Waste Strategy proposes to place responsibility on producers of recyclable materials to fund local authorities' collection and recycling of this waste. The mechanism will depend on the final governance arrangements of the packaging scheme and the mechanism for raising fees from producers but funds will be received by disposal authorities (WSCC). Government will need to consider how payments will be made between disposal and collection authorities. The intention is that local authorities will be resourced to cover the up-front and operational costs of introducing food waste. This suggests government will provide guidance/legislation on the formula of payments between disposal and collection authorities going forward which may supersede any existing locally agreed payment.

3. Outcomes to be Achieved

- To contribute to the West Sussex Waste Partnership
- To learn from the outcome of the proposed trial
- To contribute to the negotiations with WSCC to agree an interim recycling incentive credit payment, pending any legislative formula from government
- To analyse the final Waste Strategy from government following feedback on the consultation and work in partnership with the other West Sussex local authorities to meet directives contained within that Strategy

4. Proposal

- 4.1 To approve the recommendation of the Waste and Recycling Panel on 12 October 2018 to support the work of the West Sussex Waste partnership but not to participate in the trial. This decision is supported by the pending outcome of the Government Waste Strategy as it is highly likely that food waste collection will be mandatory for local authorities and will provide clarity on the collection frequencies of all waste streams. In considering the trial the W&RP were keen to provide consistency for residents and felt that on balance it was preferable to wait for more assurance from government on the frequency of the collection of waste streams before engaging residents.
- 4.2 Going forward the newly formed Environment Panel will consider developments in this area, including the implications of the new Government Waste Strategy and advise Cabinet accordingly.

5. Alternatives Considered

- 5.1 To take part in the WSCC food waste collection trial. The W&RP considered this option carefully and were supportive of the principle of food waste collection. As mentioned in paragraph 3.1, the Panel felt on balance that it would be preferable to await clarity from government.

6. Resources and Legal Implications

- 6.1 Resources will not be required if CDC do not participate in the trial. On receipt of the governments' final Waste Strategy and timetable for implementation, officers will report to Cabinet, setting out the implications and the WSWP's proposed approach going forward.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 Since their meeting on 12 October 2018, the W&RP have been consulted on the developments since that meeting regarding the Waste Strategy and the recycling credit incentive payments. Following this consultation, members of the Panel have confirmed that they continue to support their recommendation to Cabinet not to participate in the trial but fully support the principle of food waste collection and are committed to CDC participating in the West Sussex Waste Partnership in implementing the directives that arise from the Governments' Waste Strategy.

8. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 8.1 The potential reduction of recycling incentive payments income following the County wide review of the payment model is recorded on the corporate risk register as an organisational risk to CDC revenue budget.
- 8.2 Should the government introduce mandatory weekly food waste collection, CDC will need to manage the communication to residents to ensure a positive transition and roll-out of this new service.

- Other Implications

Are there any implications for the following?	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – improved protection for personal data.		X
Health and Wellbeing		X
Other		X

9. Appendices

None.

10. Background Papers

10.1 None.