

CABINET MEMBERS DELEGATED DECISION

Open		Would any decisions proposed :		
Any especially affected Wards	Operational	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide	YES	
		Need to be recommendations to Council	NO	
		Is it a Key Decision	NO	
Lead Member: Cllr Ian Devereux E-mail: cllr.Ian.Devereux@West-Norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted:		
		Other Members consulted: E & C Panel 24 th May 2017		
Lead Officer: Barry Brandford E-mail: barry.brandford@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial:01553 782074		Other Officers consulted: Chris Bamfield, Honor Howell, Sharon Clifton		
Financial Implications NO	Policy/Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications NO	Equal Impact Assessment NO If YES: Pre-screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications NO
If not for publication, the paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act considered to justify that is (are) paragraph(s)				
Date meeting advertised: 22 nd June 2017		Date of meeting decision to be taken: 29 th June 2017		
Deadline for Call-In: 6 th July 2017				

FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS – CADDY LINERS

Summary

This report provides information on changes which are proposed in the way in which residents can present food waste for collection due to technical changes in the processing of collected food waste.

Recommendation

The council ceases the selling of compostable caddy liners and that residents are informed that any plastic bag is acceptable and that the food waste caddies where food waste is not contained or wrapped within the bin is not an acceptable form of presentation and are not required to be emptied as part of the service.

Reason for Decision

The technical change in processing of food waste now provides for de bagging of food waste and therefore the use of compostable liners is not required and to make the process of emptying in food caddy less unpleasant for operatives the requirement for bagging or wrapping is introduced.

Background

- 1.1. The council in 2012 decided to implement service changes which included the introduction of a separate weekly collection of food waste. Much of the work on the design of the service was undertaken

by a Task and Finish Group which worked closely with officers and made a final recommendation to Cabinet.

- 1.2. One of the areas for discussion was the potential provision of caddy liners for householders to use to line the indoor food waste caddy. The provision of free liners was not adopted due to the high cost to the council of providing liners and distributing them. However, members were concerned about the commercial cost of liners and their availability throughout the borough. To address the concerns the council agreed to purchase and re-sell the liners at cost to members of the public through council owned facilities. This has been the case since 2013.
- 1.3. The reason that specialist liners were needed was due to the process the food went through after collection. This process is known as In Vessel Composting, where a soil conditioner is made and used by farmers for growing crops. One part of the regulation of the process is compliance with a standard requiring the absence of, amongst other things, plastic from the output of the facility.
- 1.4. The process which the collected food waste is now subject to is Anaerobic Digestion. The food waste is used to make bio gas through the action of bacteria in the absence of air. Bio gas is burnt to make electricity and a soil conditioner and liquid fertiliser are also produced.
- 1.5. The change of processing facility was brought about by the closure of the In Vessel Composting plant initially used by Kier for the processing of food waste and the change was not within Kier's control. There are no cost implications in the delivery of this change to the council.

Options Considered

- 2.1 The following options are considered as part of the formation of the change
 - No Change (Requires use of compostable bags, newspaper or no liner)
 - Food to be presented contained (Compostable bags, plastic bags, news paper)
 - No restriction on the presentation of food waste

Policy Implications

- 3.1 The ability to present food in a plastic bag (supermarket carrier bags, plastic bread bags, pedal bin liners, cereal box bags) increases the accessibility of the service. The ready availability of inexpensive or no cost, options for food waste containment means that the initial reason for the supply of caddy liners, at cost, by the council is now redundant as a service need.

- 3.2 Increasing the accessibility of the service, supported by appropriate promotion of the change, is expected to increase the use of the food waste service.
- 3.3 Research carried out by WRAP has shown that there is up to a 32% increase in food yields (kg/hh/yr) where an intervention package comprising caddy liners, communications and residual bin sticker is introduced. This level of increase is not anticipated within the proposed changes to improve accessibility but evidences the fact that improving accessibility increases the amount of food waste collected.
- 3.4 The council recycled nearly 3,200 tonnes of food waste collected from residents in 2016/17. For each tonne of food waste collected the council receives recycling credit of £56.89. This credit partially offsets the additional cost of collecting and processing food waste. Recycling credits are paid by Norfolk County Council. Norfolk County Council would make a similar saving on avoided disposal costs. The table below shows the performance of the scheme over the last 3 years.

Year	Tonnes Food Waste Collected
2014/15	3,624
2015/16	3,267
2016/17	3,192

By making the scheme easier to use it is intended to increase the amount of food waste collected.

- 3.5 Implementing a policy of requiring food waste to be contained for collection either within a bag or otherwise wrapped prevents spillage and improves the working conditions for collection teams. The availability of a range containment options makes the implementation feasible and desirable.

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There is no direct cost saving provided by not supplying caddy liners across a number of re-sale points in the borough. The work involves a number of people all of whom have to contribute to the process. The removal of the activity involved in caddy liner sales provides increased opportunities to focus on more significant parts of each individual's role.
- 4.2 The financial implications of the proposed change is that the council will not collect a contribution of £5,857 towards the costs of providing caddy liners to residents and will not have to purchase caddy liners in advance of their sale. In 2016/17 the council purchased caddy liners to the value of £25,000. The cost of administering the sale of caddy liners is estimated at £35,000. The sale, processing, cashiering, stock control and distribution of the caddy liners equates to 37 hours of work each week. Removal of the caddy liner sales will increase capacity

within the CIC to focus on their core work, which is to respond to customer enquiries and requests for service.

Personnel Implications

5.1 None

Statutory Considerations

6.1 The Council has a duty to make arrangements for the collection of household waste and nothing in this proposal impinges on that duty.

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

7.1 Screening of the proposed change does not show any negative outcomes and indicates that the service becomes easier to access and no person or group protected characteristics has their access to or ability to use the service reduced.

Risk Management Implications

8.1 None

Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

9.1 None

Background Papers

10.1 None

(Definition : Unpublished work relied on to a material extent in preparing the report that disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based. A copy of all background papers must be supplied to Democratic Services with the report for publishing with the agenda)

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function	Ending of sale of food waste caddy liners				
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?	Existing				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations	The council will end the sale of compostable caddy liners as the processing operation can now accommodate a range of widely available plastic bags				
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			x	
	Disability	x			
	Gender			X	
	Gender Re-assignment			X	
	Marriage/civil partnership			X	
	Pregnancy & maternity			X	
	Race			X	
	Religion or belief			X	
	Sexual orientation			X	
	Other (eg low income)				
Question	Answer	Comments			
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	No				
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	Yes	The positive impact for those with disability is that the need to go to shops or council offices to obtain caddy liners is removed as plastic bags are ubiquitous.			
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	No				
<p>5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section</p>	N/A	Actions: Impact is viewed as positive and therefore no action is required to address this			
		Actions agreed by EWG member: Becky Box, Policy, Performance and Personnel Manager			
Assessment completed by: Name	Barry Brandford				
Job title Waste & Recycling Manager	Date 9 th May 2017				

Please Note: If there are any positive or negative impacts identified in question 1, or there any 'yes' responses to questions 2 – 4 a full impact assessment will be required.