

## **Report to the Cabinet**

**Report reference: C-103-2009/10**

**Date of meeting: 19 April 2010**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Portfolio: Environment.**

**Subject: Waste Containers – Provision of Replacements & Spare Parts.**

**Responsible Officer: David Marsh (01992 564889).**

**Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).**

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### **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

- (1) To agree that in order to purchase replacement waste and recycling containers and their spare parts the estimated under spend of £8,000 within the 2009/10 CSB budget for waste and recycling be converted to DDF and carried forward to 2010/11; and**
- (2) To monitor expenditure on replacement and repair of containers during 2010/11 and present a report setting out future funding arrangements.**

### **Executive Summary:**

The Council has a policy of repairing and replacing the containers it supplies to residents for presenting their waste and recycling for collection. Adequate budgets exist for repair and replacement of containers for 2009/10, there is an opportunity to carry forward some of the savings from 2009/10 allocation to next year. This will ease pressure on expenditure next year and will allow officers to make a more detailed assessment of ongoing replacement and repair needs.

This is a key decision

“Green and Unique – Ensuring the protection of the unique, green and sustainable environment of the District”, Action Plan Ref; GU 2, HN6 and IP5 (Council Plan 2006-2010)

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

To ensure that the Council continues to provide a replacement and repair service for the various containers it provides to residents for collection of refuse and recycling.

### **Other Options for Action:**

That the under spend is not carried forward and a saving is achieved in 2009/10 budget. This is likely to put pressure on budgets next year and could result in requests for supplementary estimates in 2010/11.

### **Report:**

1. The Council's waste collection services rely on residents presenting their refuse and recycling in approved containers namely wheelie bins, blue boxes, kitchen and kerbside caddys. These are supplied to all residents of the District with the exception of flats and

communal buildings where separate collection arrangements exist.

2. These containers can get damaged or lost as part of the normal collection operations for example it is possible that the lid of a wheelie bin can break off if caught in the lifting mechanism of refuse freighter, or an entire dust bin can fall into the refuse freighter and get crushed by the compactor. In some instances the damage is repairable for example a broken lid or a damaged wheel or axle of a wheelie bin.

3. Blue boxes that are used for glass collection can also get damaged as a result of normal wear and tear. If a replacement box is not provided then residents are likely to discard glass bottles into their refuse wheelie bin. This is not desirable as the material that can be recycled is sent to landfill.

4. The introduction of new food and garden recycling service in September 2009 saw an increase in the number of containers made available to residents. Although there is no evidence to suggest that in percentage terms the damage to wheelie bins and containers is outside normal accepted industry levels, the reality is that the increased number of containers requires more repairs and replacements.

5. It is considered that currently not enough information is available to seek CSB growth bid for on going repair and replacement of containers. It is felt that at least one year of service operation is required before a meaningful assessment of the funding requirement can be made.

6. For this reason it is proposed that current estimated CSB under spend of £8,000 in the waste and recycling budget for 2009/10 be converted to DDF and carried forward to 2010/11. This will allow officers to deal with any repair and replacement demands next year and at the same time allow a more comprehensive assessment of funding needs.

7. Once the new food and garden service has been in operation for one year in September 2010 enough information would be available to report back to Cabinet with firm proposals on future funding arrangements for repair and replacement of containers.

#### **Resource Implications:**

Existing staff will manage the tasks arising out of the recommendations in this report. There will be no resource implications once the CSB under spend is made into DDF and rolled forward.

#### **Legal & Governance Implications:**

Relevant legislation includes:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Controlled Waste Regulations 1992
- Household Waste & Recycling Act 2003

#### **Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:**

The collection and recycling of household waste is a key component of the Council's "Safer, Cleaner, Greener" strategy. Although there is a cost to the Council for providing refuse and recycling containers free of charge, a discontinuation of this service could see a reduction in Council's recycling levels if recyclable items are diverted to landfill.

#### **Consultation Undertaken:**

Sita UK.

**Background Papers:**

None.

**Impact Assessments:**

Risk Management

The Council incurred considerable expense by introducing new food and garden recycling service in September 2009. Residents have responded well to the new service and initial recycling figures are very encouraging. A discontinuation of providing replacement containers before residents fully embrace the new service could jeopardise the investment.

If the supply of replacement containers is not managed in future then there is a cost risk to the Council. It is for this reason that a recommendation is sought to come back and report in greater detail and seek alternative arrangements.

Equality & Diversity

Currently there are no equality issues for those residents who use containers as part of their normal collection as all residents are provided replacements if their container(s) are lost or damaged.

There is a disparity between the residents of flats and others in that those who live in flats do not benefit from the same level of service. This is because separate collection arrangements exist in flats, collections are via communal bins and individual properties do not have containers. It is not practicable for the Council to address this because of safety and cost issues surrounding provision of containers to individual flats.

<i>Did the initial assessment of the proposals contained in this report for relevance to the Council's general equality duties, reveal any potentially adverse equality implications?</i>		No
<i>Where equality implications were identified through the initial assessment process, has a formal Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken?</i>		No
<i>What equality implications were identified through the Equality Impact Assessment process?</i>	N/A.	
<i>How have the equality implications identified through the Equality Impact Assessment been addressed in this report in order to avoid discrimination against any particular group?</i>	N/A.	