

Report to the Cabinet

Report reference: C-012-2011/12

Date of meeting: 18 July 2011



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Environment

Subject: Reallocation of Existing Waste and Recycling Budgets

Responsible Officer: Qasim (Kim) Durrani (01992 564055).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

(1) To agree to reallocate £10,000 from existing publicity budgets in the waste service for the purchase of spare parts to repair damaged wheelie bins where possible and purchase new bins where not.

Executive Summary:

The Council first introduced wheelie bins for refuse collection in 2005. Additional wheelie bins and containers were introduced in 2009 for the collection of food and garden recycling. Wheelie bins are expected to last at least seven years before requiring replacement. They can however get damaged sooner. On some occasions the damage is minor and repairable for example the bin lid could break or a wheel could come off. In such instances a repair is more cost effective than replacement.

Currently all necessary repairs and replacements are carried out by swapping usable parts from damaged bins. This is now proving difficult as the number of bins requiring repairs is continually increasing. An ongoing budget provision to purchase spare parts for repairing damaged bins will enable the reuse of damaged wheelie bins and extend the life of the Council's wheelie bin stock. If however a bin is not repairable for example the main body is damaged then the other usable parts; lid, wheels and axle could be taken off for re-use. This is only possible if the stock is supplied by the same manufacturer.

All the domestic wheelie bins across the district are supplied by Otto Limited and only Otto parts will be used for replacement. Attempts to fit parts supplied by other manufacturers may not be successful and could result in additional labour costs.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To enable reuse of wheelie bins that suffer minor damage.

Other Options for Action:

To not carry out repairs, discard slightly damaged bins and replace them with new ones will result in the Council incurring significant financial costs. Similarly to not buy new replacement bins from the same manufacturer, where repair is not possible, would make it difficult to reuse parts of damaged bins.

To not purchase spare parts from the same manufacturer and try to fit parts made by other suppliers would result in additional costs due to time lost in attempting to fit incompatible parts.

Report:

1. There are over 120,000 containers in use by the residents of the district. In addition the Council has a stock of 8449 wheelie bins and containers for providing replacement when these containers are lost or damaged beyond economic repair.

2. The average cost of a standard 180 litre wheelie bin is £20. the cost of replacing the entire stock of 48000 wheelie bins introduced in 2005 is estimated to be £960,000.

3. The Council has always taken a view that only those wheelie bins will be replaced which can not be economically repaired. When a resident reports a damaged wheelie bin they are provided a replacement. The damaged bin is repaired, if possible, for example if a wheel has come off. The bin is then stored at the storage compound in North Weald Airfield until it can be supplied to another resident.

4. A wheelie bin consists of seven usable parts: the main body, lid, two wheels, an axles and two clips to hold the lid. Until recently the rate of damage to the bins was low and it was possible to swap spares among the damaged bins. however the number of damaged bins continues to rise. This is partly due to the aging bin stock and the number of bins in circulation especially following the introduction of food and garden recycling service in 2009. It is now necessary to purchase, spare parts where a repair is possible, or a new bin where the damage is beyond repair.

5. The allocation of a continuous budget for the purchase of spare parts for wheelie bins will ensure that only the severely damaged and non repairable bins are discarded. This will extend the life of existing stock and delay the need for a major bulk purchase to replace the end of life stock. An under spend has been identified in the existing publicity budget within the waste service. A reallocation of £10,000 from waste publicity budget will enable the provision of ongoing bin repair service (**recommendation 1**).

6. The purchase of spares for wheelie bin will be an ongoing arrangement and it is proposed that the existing Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) framework agreement will be utilised. This framework agreement allows for the purchase of spare parts as well as new wheelie bins.

Resource Implications:

The Council currently has a stock of the following wheelie bins and containers at its storage area in the North Weald Airfield:

Size of wheelie bin	Number held in stock
340 litres	845
240 litres	193
180 litres	5695
140 litres	1716
Total	8449

On average the Council receives 180 requests a month for replacement of damaged wheelie bins. There are a number of reasons for damage: lifting mechanism of refuse freighters could snap the bin lid, a wheel could come off as a result of wear and tear, the carcass of the bin

could get damaged etc.

The cost of swapping wheelie bins from households and carrying out repairs is included within the existing Sita contract.

The total asset value of the existing wheelie bins and other container stock is listed as follows:

Container type	Year of introduction	Approximate number	Estimated cost
Wheelie bin for residual waste	2005	48,000	£ 960,000
Wheelie bin for food and garden recycling	2009	48,000	£ 960,000
25 litre kerbside caddies	2009	10,000	£ 50,000
5 litre kitchen caddies	2009	48,000	£ 96,000
			£ 2,066,000

Legal and Governance Implications:

Relevant legislation includes:

- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Controlled Waste Regulations 1992
- Local Government & Finance Act 1988
- Household Waste & Recycling Act 2003

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

The collection and recycling of household waste is a key component of the Council's "Safer, Cleaner, Greener" strategy. The state of containers presented by residents for collection of their residual waste and recycling has an impact on the street scene in the district. If the state of containers is poor and they are in a bad state of repair then it would reflect badly on the street and neighbourhood.

Consultation Undertaken:

Sita UK

Background Papers:

none

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

There is a financial risk to the Council if no repairs are carried out and even the slightly damaged bin is discarded along with any workable parts that could be taken off for reuse. The cost of purchase of new replacement bins would be higher than carrying out minor

repairs.

There is an ongoing budget allocation of £60,000 in the waste and recycling service budget and the proposed transfer of £10,000 for bin repair and replacement will not have an adverse impact on the ongoing publicity.

Equality and Diversity:

If the current policy of free bin swap and replacement were reviewed and a charge introduced then it is possible that the members of the community on low incomes could be adversely impacted.

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? No

Where equality implications were identified through the initial assessment process, has a formal Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? No

What equality implications were identified through the Equality Impact Assessment process?
No.

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?
No.