

Report to the Cabinet

Report reference: C-031-2011/12
Date of meeting: 24 October 2011



Portfolio: Environment
Subject: Outcome of pilot scheme for collection of textiles at the door step
Responsible Officer: Qasim (Kim) Durrani (01992 564055).
Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To agree to continue the door step textile collection service in view of the success of the pilot scheme launched in April this year;**
- (2) To agree that the estimated income of circa £2,130 derived from the sales of textiles collected at the door step, after deducting collection costs, be donated to the Council Chairman's charities for 2011/12 and the decision on income from future years be kept under review; and**
- (3) That the doorstep collection service be included within the procurement exercise for the Council's bring schemes (i.e. recycling banks)**

Executive Summary:

The previous door step textile collection service ceased due to operational difficulties. Until recently it was not possible to reintroduce a door step textile collection service for a variety of reasons, namely; provision of sorting facilities, storage and agreement on costs of collections.

A pilot scheme for door step textile collection was launched in April this year by utilising the services of Lawrence M. Barry Limited. The pilot has proven to be very successful with residents generating 2.9 tonnes of recyclable textiles. The sale of the textiles collected has generated an income of £886 in the first five months (April to August).

It is an officer assessment, based on resident feedback, anecdotal evidence and good practice elsewhere, that participation is higher if such schemes are linked to charitable causes. It is for this reason that the pilot scheme was advertised on the basis that all income, after deduction of cost of collection, would be given to the Chairman's charities.

In order to ensure that procurement process are fully adhered to, it is also proposed to include this service within the procurement exercise to be undertaken for the Council's bring schemes (i.e. recycling banks)

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To seek approval for ongoing provision of the door step textile collection and transfer of income received to the Council Chairman's charities.

Other Options for Action:

To ignore the success of the pilot door step textile collection service and not continue the service on an ongoing basis. Although some residents would be able to make their own arrangements e.g. donate to charity shops or use the civic amenity sites, there is a risk that a proportion of recyclable textile materials will end up in landfill.

To not pay the income generated into the Chairman's charities could create difficulties with the residents as the pilot scheme is advertised on this basis.

Report:

1. The Council is continually looking for opportunities to increase recycling. Removing recyclable materials from landfill waste means less impact on the environment and an increase in the Council recycling performance which means more recycling credit payment from the County Council.

2. At various public events and road shows residents have expressed an interest in a door step textile collection service. However until recently it has not been possible to reintroduce a door step textile collection service.

3. A pilot textile collection service was introduced across the whole district in April this year with the help of Lawrence M Barry Limited, the service provider who manage textile collections at some of the Council recycling centres (also known as bring banks). The scheme has proven to be popular with residents and so far a total of 2.9 tonnes of recyclable textiles materials have been collected the sale of which has resulted in a profit, after deduction of contractor costs, of £870. Assuming the same level of resident participation for remainder of the year could result in a total textile collection of 7.1 tonnes which could generate a net income of £2,130. It is recommended that the service be continued on an ongoing basis (**recommendation 1**).

4. Industry good practice and officer experience indicate that resident participation is higher if such schemes are linked to charitable causes. It is for this reason that the scheme is advertised to pass all income to Council Chairman's charities. It is necessary to seek Cabinet approval to donate all proceeds from the sale of textiles, after deduction of collection costs, to the Council Chairman's charities. The position will be kept in review and reported to Cabinet when required for example if the income levels drop (**recommendation 2**).

5. Although the present arrangements have been formalised through an exchange of letters between the Council and the contractor, in order to ensure that the arrangement with the contractor complies with procurement rules, it is also proposed to include this doorstep collection service within the procurement exercise for bring schemes which was approved by cabinet at its last meeting (**recommendation 3**).

6. Last year the total waste collected by the Council was 51408 tonnes which consisted of 21,005 tonnes of landfill waste and 30,403 tonnes of recycling. This equates to a total recycling rate of 59.14%. The Council receives a payment from Essex County Council for exceeding its target recycling rate under the Inter Authority Agreement. The removal of textiles from the overall waste tonnage will result in a higher recycling rate and correspondingly higher payment of recycling credit from the County Council.

Resource Implications:

It is estimated that if the current door step textile collection rate of 0.59 tonnes per month continues for the remainder of the year then a total of 7.1 tonnes will be collected. If the

tonnages of all other waste materials collected and the recycling credit remain the same as last year then the recycling rate would be 0.01% higher. This would result in an additional recycling credit payment to the Council of £394.

The service is provided by the same contractor who manages the textile collections at the Council's bring bank sites. Collections are made by the contractor following prearranged bookings with residents. This enables the contractor to programme textile collection rounds with visits to the bring bank sites, reducing collection costs.

There is no cost to the Council and it receives a payment of £300 per tonne of textile collected, after deductions of costs of collections by the contractor.

Legal and Governance Implications:

Relevant legislation includes:

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

In order to deal with any contractual relationship which is considered to exist between the Council and Lawrence M Barry Limited, an exchange of letters has taken place between the two organisations setting out clearly the nature of the relationship, responsibilities and financial control etc. In order to ensure that the arrangement with the contractor complies with procurement rules, it is also proposed to include this doorstep collection service within the procurement exercise for bring schemes which was approved by Cabinet at its last meeting.

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 collection of additional recyclable material and its removal from the Council's overall waste tonnage should boost the Council's performance.

Consultation Undertaken:

Lawrence M Barry Limited.
Sita UK.
Essex County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority.

Background Papers:

None.

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

There is a risk that the contractor is unable to collect sufficient tonnage of textiles to enable the operation of a feasible scheme. If such a situation were to arise then the Council would have to suspend the scheme and this could cause some anxiety among residents.

Following a recent review of the performance of the bring bank schemes across the District tenders will be invited for the provision of only those services that generate a net surplus for the Council. Although textile materials currently generate a profit there remains a risk that the tendering exercise may result in an increase in cost. If that were to happen then the scheme

may have to be suspended.

Equality and Diversity:

This is a door step service and should be more beneficial for those residents who do not have access to a vehicle to take their textiles to a civic amenity site. These could be the very elderly who would not find it convenient to use the civic amenity sites or those on low incomes who do not have access to a vehicle.

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?
N/A.

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?
N/A.