

Report to the Cabinet



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference: C/027/2006-07.

Date of meeting: 10 July 2006.

Portfolio: Customer Services, Media, Communication and ICT.

Subject: Alternate Weekly Refuse Collections.

Officer contact for further information: John Gilbert (01992 – 564062).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 – 56 4470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

To submit a detailed report to Council on 25 July 2006 in respect of the alternate weekly collection of residual waste.

Report:

1. Wheeled bins were introduced into the district in October 2005, forming part of the Council's waste management and recycling strategy which also included alternate weekly collections of residual waste and recyclables. The system has been implemented on a collection day basis with all collections on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays now using the wheeled bin. It is intended to complete the implementation across the district by the end of the calendar year.
2. In introducing the system, it was clear that there would be issues raised by the district's residents about:
 - (a) capacity for residual waste provided by the standard 180 litre bin; and
 - (b) possible problems resulting from the alternate weekly collection of residual waste such as smell, flies and maggots etc during the hotter summer months.
3. With regard to point (b) above, over recent weeks, due to the summer weather and temperatures, we have received complaints regarding smells, flies and maggots in the residual bin. Unfortunately, calls in respect of smells and maggots are not individually collected. However, on an anecdotal basis, the officers taking calls are of the view that in the order of 40% to 50% of all wheeled bin related calls have been in respect of this issue over the past 4 weeks.
4. Given this relatively high level of concern, confirmed by the calls received on the Portfolio Holders 'Waste Hot Line' it is considered appropriate to review whether any action is required. There are a number of possible options, but each has policy and budget implications that would require a referral to Council. It is therefore recommended that a detailed report be submitted to Council for its meeting on the 25th of July 2006.

Statement in support of recommended action:

5. If a review is considered appropriate, It is not reasonable to submit such a detailed report to Cabinet at very short notice. In any event, a decision to change the present arrangements would constitute a change of policy and would have significant budgetary implications thereby requiring a referral to Council. If it is decided that any changes are to be put into place to for the remaining summer period the referral must be made to the 25th of July meeting.

Other options for action:

6. The alternative options are:

- (i) take no action and review at a later date; or
- (ii) deal with at Cabinet at this meeting and then refer as appropriate to Council at the next or a subsequent meeting

Consultation undertaken:

7. Cory Environmental

Resource implications:

Budget provision: Supplementary estimate required dependant upon decision made.

Personnel: Nil.

Land: Nil.

Community Plan/BVPP reference: N/A.

Relevant statutory powers: Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Background papers: Previous reports to cabinet and Scrutiny on the waste management arrangements.

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: None.

Key Decision reference (if required): N/A.