

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: NEIGHBOURHOODS SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL
DATE: 4 OCTOBER 2007

WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Purpose

To inform members of the panel on the decision taken by Cabinet when it considered a report on Waste Management Options on 19 September 2007. The Cabinet report included the recommendations of the Waste Management Working Group following its meeting on 6 September 2007.

Waste Management Working Group

The Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel established a working group at its meeting on 2 August 2007 in response to waste management becoming a key issue for the council due to the need to meet stretching targets for the diversion of waste from landfill sites. In order to meet the targets set by the Government and avoid significant penalties the council needs to drastically increase the amount of waste recycled and significantly decrease the amount of waste that is sent to landfill. If strict targets are not met the council will be required to purchase landfill credits or face penalties of up to £150 per tonne.

In order to meet these targets by 2009 a step-change is required in waste management and collection in Walsall. A number of options have been considered and reviewed so that a strategy can be developed and implemented to mitigate the risk of financial penalties.

The working group met on 6 September 2007 and considered provisional results of the recent waste management consultation conducted by the council.

After considering the provisional consultation results and questioning the Portfolio Holder (Environment), Assistant Director – Built Environment, Head of Street Pride and the Waste Services Manager the working group (panel) made the following recommendations to cabinet:

That:

- (a) in principle the proposals to collect recyclable materials in a 240 litre bin fortnightly and residual waste in a 140 litre bin weekly be supported;**
- (b) every effort be made to ensure that Walsall MBC meets its government targets for recycling and landfill;**
- (c) every effort be made to ensure that the residents of Walsall support any recycling scheme and are provided with all necessary materials and information to enable them to recycle;**
- (d) a sticker be provided for each bin detailing the items that are appropriate and inappropriate to be placed in it;**
- (e) it is essential that additional residual waste capacity for large families or those with young children be made available;**
- (f) additional collection capacity over and above that currently available be provided to deal with additional Christmas waste;**

- (g) buildings over two storeys, that generally do not benefit from a recycling service at present, be provided with communal recycling facilities;**
- (h) all schools in the borough be further encouraged to participate in the recycling scheme;**
- (i) facilities be provided to commercial premises to enable them to participate in the recycling scheme;**
- (j) measures be introduced to prevent residual waste from remaining on the kerbside following cleansing by individual residents or specialist companies;**
- (k) Recycling site operators be encouraged to develop facilities for recycling brown card so that it can be included as a recyclable material in Walsall;**
- (l) If it is decided to make the collection of kitchen waste a permanent borough-wide practice, a method of collection be devised for periods of the year when the brown bin is not collected;**
- (m) Investigations be carried out into the alleged faults in brown bins.**

These recommendations were presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 19 September 2007 along with a report detailing the alternative waste management options considered, the results of the borough wide consultation and future steps required to be taken.

Cabinet resolved:

- (1) That Option 7, weekly collections of refuse 140 litre wheeled bin, fortnightly collection of co-mingled recyclable materials including paper, glass, cans, plastics and cardboard in 240 litre wheeled bin to all low rise properties, fortnightly collection of garden waste in 240 litre wheeled bin to existing residents, be approved.**
- (2) That Cabinet note that the additional capital and revenue costs which are necessary to implement the new arrangements and minimise longer term financial risk to the Council, and which are identified in the report, will form part of the 2008/9 strategic choices budget setting process.**

Cabinet will consider a draft strategy during early 2008 detailing the implementation programme, timescales, collection arrangements, schedules, publicity, public communication and operational policies and procedures in relation to the agreed option.

Once this plan has been agreed the programme will be rolled out during 2008/09 with full implementation in place by 1 April 2009.

Recommendations to the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel

That: (a) the decision by Cabinet on the future waste management options be noted;

and;

- (b) the Waste Management Working Group is allowed to consider, comment and make recommendations on the draft waste management strategy and any other related waste management issues before they are considered by Cabinet.**

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