



**Policy Finance and
Development
Committee**

**23 September
2014**

Matter for Decision

Title: **Food Waste Services**

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1. Introduction

1.1 The newly constituted Waste Task Group met on the 15th July and 20th August 2014 to consider the Council's policy and way forward in relation to the collection of food waste. This report sets out the issues considered by the Task Group together with its resulting recommendations which are being presented to the Policy, Finance and Development Committee for its consideration.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Council continues with the existing food waste trial collection scheme for the three rounds in Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston at a cost of £80k per year for the financial year 2015/16.

2.2 That funding for the continuation of the scheme should be considered as part of the 2015/16 budget setting process as it will no longer be possible to be fund the scheme using the Government grant money which the Council received for 2013/14/15.

2.3 That this position is reviewed during the 2015/16 once it is known if there is the possibility of a countywide food waste recycling scheme being introduced.

3. Background

The Council introduced a limited trial food waste collection service using a Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) grant from October 2013. This funding ceases in March 2015.

The trial scheme covers 5,000 houses on three rounds, one per day over three days in each of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston. Each round is focused around the town centre. This is a weekly collection.

4. Food Waste Collection Information

The collection tonnage statistics to date for 2013/14 for the trial rounds are:

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
Kitchen Waste	27	34	29	27	26	31	25	26	30	255
Black Bag Waste	113	140	126	126	134	124	125	126	161	1175
Total	140	174	155	153	160	155	150	152	191	1430

The primary purpose of the scheme is to reduce the overall amount of residual waste being put into black bags and going to landfill. If the trial were to continue as recommended in this report it is then intended that the Council will work with the County Council and the residents in the pilot areas in order to gain a better understanding of what the lessons and implications are of the results set out above.

The scheme operates as follows. The scheme is free to all residents in the three pilot areas. Residents put their kitchen food waste into a bio degradable bag in a small caddy in their kitchen. Once full the bag is tied up and placed into the larger caddy outside. That caddy can hold one weeks worth of full bags. The full bags are then collected weekly and taken to Whetstone for onward transport and processing into compost at a conversion rate of approximately 80%.

5. Financial Implications

Based on the information available the revenue cost for a full year's operation of the trial scheme would be:

Bio degradable bags	£35k
Staff	£35k
Vehicle Running costs	£10k

The Council does not have to pay for the processing of the kitchen waste into compost however there is no income and the County Council will not pay any recycling credits.

If the scheme were to be extended out across the Borough from 5,000 properties to 23,000 properties it is estimated it would cost approximately £300k per year to operate. This would also require the purchase of 3 additional specialised vehicles at a minimum total cost of £165k.

Until March 2015 the trial food waste scheme will be funded by the DCLG grant. If there is a continuation of the scheme in any form after that date then this will have to be fully funded by the Borough Council.

6. Possible Future Developments

There is the possibility that the seven District Councils and the County Council will explore the viability of introducing a countywide kitchen waste recycling scheme. The idea of this would be that it should be more efficient and cost effective than each district trying to operate its own

food waste collection service. If this were to be agreed then it is likely to come into operation in 18 months time at the earliest.

No other district councils in Leicestershire are currently collecting kitchen waste and have no intention to do so as individual authorities in the near future.

7. Options

7.1 Stop the kitchen food waste trial scheme in March 2015 and review the position during the 2015/16 once it is known if there is the possibility of a countywide food waste recycling scheme being introduced.

7.2. That the Council continues with the existing food waste trial scheme of three rounds in Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston at a cost of £80k per year for the financial year 2015/16. That this position is reviewed during the 2015/16 once it is known if there is the possibility of a countywide food waste recycling scheme being introduced.

7.3. That the Council continues with the existing food waste trial scheme of three rounds in Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston for a minimum of 6 months to 30 September 2015. That this position is reviewed early in 2015/16 once it is known if there is the possibility of a countywide food waste recycling scheme being introduced.

7.4 Extend the food waste collection service Borough wide at a revenue cost of approximately £300k per year which will also include the purchase of 3 additional specialist food waste vehicles at a minimum total cost of £165k. Review this once it is known if there is to be a countywide kitchen waste recycling scheme or not. Until March 2015 the trial food waste scheme will be funded by the DCLG grant. If there is a continuation of the scheme in any form after that date then this will have to be fully funded by the Borough Council.

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Background Papers:- Waste Task Group Papers – 20 August 2014

Implications	
Financial (CR)	It is important that any financial growth for 2015/16 be considered as part of the budget process for that year once the Council's funding for that year is known.
Risk (CR)	CR1; Decreasing Financial Resources
Equalities (KG)	None
Legal (KG)	None other than to ensure the contract procedure rules are considered for any procurement exercise.