



<b>Policy, Finance and Development Committee</b>	<b>21st July 2015</b>	<b>Matter for Decision</b>
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Title: **Waste Issues – Policy Update**

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## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to inform members of some of the current and imminent policy issues that they will need to consider over the next 18 months in relation to waste.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That officers are tasked to do all the necessary work including carrying out any appropriate consultations prior to presenting any future reports to members.

2.2 That the Council funds its contribution to the Leicestershire Waste Partnership as “one off” expenditure from the Management of Change reserves for 2015/16 and/or until it is able to make an informed decision as to the value of continuing to be a member of the partnership in the longer term.

## **3. Information**

There are a number of significant policy decisions in relation to waste that have wide ranging consequences and that members will have to consider over the next 18 months. They are:

### **3.1 Oadby & Wigston Trial Food Waste Scheme**

a. The Council introduced a limited trial food waste collection service using a Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) grant in October 2013. This funding ceased in March 2015. As part of the 2015/16 budgetary process it was agreed that food waste collection should continue and be funded from reserves at a cost of £80,000 for the year in order to give members the time and opportunity to decide if the scheme should continue, and if so in what form. If the scheme does continue then those costs will need to be built into the council’s base revenue budget in future years as growth.

b. 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. There is a participation rate of approximately 60%. The scheme is very popular with residents with the most common compliments being that the caddy contains the smell and prevents animals from ripping open bags and spreading rubbish all over their property and the streets.

c. Before the end of the year the Council will need to consider and decide what it wishes to do in relation to the trial food waste scheme.

### **3.2 County Wide Food Waste Collection Scheme**

a. Before making any decision regarding 3.1 above members resolved to wait to see the results and options of the possibility of working with the other local authorities in Leicestershire to provide a countywide food waste collection scheme at the most economic cost that produces the highest net income.

b. The seven district councils and the County Council are now presently exploring the viability of introducing a countywide food waste collection scheme. If this were to be progressed then any scheme would likely to come into operation in 2017 at the earliest. This proposal will be the subject of a further report to members once it has been completed later in this financial year.

c. For information no other district council in Leicestershire is currently collecting food waste and have no intention to do so as individual authorities in the near future.

### **3.3 Oadby & Wigston Garden Waste Scheme**

This free scheme was re launched by the Council in February 2015 when the Council gave all residents the choice of either continuing to use up to four reusable garden sacks or a wheeled bin. The revised scheme was implemented seamlessly with 13,000 households requesting a bin. The scheme has been operating very successfully since it started in February with high customer satisfaction. A full review of the first year's operation and performance will be presented to the Service Delivery Committee later this year as there are still a number of operational issues that have become apparent over the last month and need to be resolved.

### **3.4 Payment of Recycling Credits**

Leicestershire County Council, as the waste disposal authority, has traditionally paid all the district councils for every tonne of waste that they divert away from landfill by recycling and composting it. In 2014 the County Council stopped paying district councils recycling credits for garden waste. The County Council is now also giving notice that it will stop paying recycling credits to the districts for all other recyclates from 2019. Extensive work has been done in order to establish if the County Council can legally withdraw these payments and it has

been confirmed that it can as long as it goes through due process, which it presently is. The district councils are now in discussions with the County Council to see if and how they can mitigate for this substantial loss of income from 2019 onwards. Members will receive a further report on this once the full implications are known.

### **3.5 Leicestershire Waste Partnership**

This is a body that works together as a collective and is made up of all of the district councils together with the County Council and focuses on waste issues that relate to whole county area. The Partnership's main focus at the moment is the work being done on the possibility of introducing a county wide food waste collection scheme. Each district council contributes £10,000 per year to fund the partnership and the work that it does. A significant question was raised regarding the value of the Partnership prior to the food waste project commencing earlier this year. At that stage it was felt that it did not provide value and on that basis the £10,000 annual sum paid by this council to the Partnership was taken out of the 2015/16 base revenue budget as part of the council's budget saving process. It is now recommended that that the Council continues in the Partnership and funds its contribution as "one off" expenditure from reserves for 2015/16 and/or until it is able to make an informed decision as to the value of continuing to be a member of the Partnership in the longer term.

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#### **Implications**

Financial (JD)	Adequate reserves available for funding purposes
Risk (MH)	Decreasing financial resources CR1 and effective utilisation of assets/buildings (health and safety) implications CR5
Equalities (MH)	No significant implications
Legal (AC)	No significant implications