

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	17th September 2014
Subject:	Recycling Service – Trial Collection of Two Additional Items		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Environment		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Alternative Commodity Options Appraisal		

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of a trial project that is being developed in partnership with AMEY to collect additional items at the kerbside for recycling.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The contents of this report be noted.
- 2.2 Cabinet are asked to endorse the trial project involving the kerbside collection of two additional items for recycling

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 As a Council we have set ourselves an ambitious recycling target of 50% alongside a more general aim of reducing the amount of residual waste per household we send to landfill. There are both environmental and financial drivers to meet these targets which include reducing our carbon footprint, contributing to a closed loop society, reducing our landfill disposal costs and increasing the amount of revenue we receive from recycling credits and commodity sales.
- 3.2 Although the Waste & Recycling Service is about to undergo a root and branch review there is a clear need to identify and explore opportunities to increase our recycling rates in the interim period and make progress towards our 50% recycling target. In 2013/2014 we recycled 37.5% of all waste collected and as of July this financial year this figure has improved slightly to 38.4%

- 3.3 This proactive project development work forms a very important strand within the Waste & Recycling Action Plan which sits under the ownership of the newly formed Environmental Projects Team. This work also contributes to the attainment of a key Priority contained within the Gloucester City Council Corporate Plan 2014 – 2017 which in trying to achieve a greener Gloucester commits us to widening the range of materials collected for recycling.
- 3.3 Two of the additional items that have been considered are food and drink cartons (F&D cartons) and aerosols which we receive many enquiries about from residents. The Environmental Projects Team has throughout the summer worked with AMEY and material processors in looking at the different options for being able to collect these items having regard to our existing fleet of vehicles and the storage, sorting and bailing facilities available at our Eastern Avenue Depot.
- 3.4 A trial is currently being developed that would see us collect F&D cartons and aerosols that would be placed out for collection in the existing recycling box. The cartons would be collected in nets attached to the rear of our recycling vehicles and the aerosols in under utilised 'battery box space' identified on the same vehicles. This type of collection system is in use by several other Waste Collection Authorities.
- 3.5 The trial population is proposed to be 900 properties on seven streets within Longlevens. Longlevens as a ward was chosen as it achieves our highest rates of recycling and we wish to test the volume available to collect these additional items to their fullest. In addition the size and location of the streets will make communicating with residents prior to, during and following the trial more manageable.
- 3.6 It is proposed to commence the trial the week commencing 15th September and for it to run for 4 weeks. Communication and promotion of the trial will commence the week commencing 1st September using existing resources.
- 3.7 Research undertaken suggests that if such a scheme was to be rolled out City wide then based on our recycling participation rates we would collect in the region of 30 tonnes of F&D cartons and 35 tonnes of aerosols each year. With commodity prices currently standing at £55/t for cartons, £800/t for aluminium and £132/t for steel this would generate an income of approximately £15,000 in commodity sales and £4000 in recycling credits which would go towards off-setting the contract sum. It would also mean we would be sending 65t less waste to landfill and producing a saving of somewhere in the region of £5000 in landfill disposal costs.
- 3.6 This type of approach to developing our Waste & Recycling Service has already seen us implement a food waste trial using corn starch bags as an incentive, use of recycling litter bins within the City Centre and some of our heavily used playing fields and we are also looking at developing a 'pay per bag' garden waste service for identified hard to reach properties.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 A range of materials that are currently not collected as part of our recycling service have been considered for trial. However due to a range of reasons including ease of collection, ability to onward process and commodity prices, F&D cartons and aerosols were chosen as those materials that are most cost effective to collect and have a good income potential. This situation will be monitored and we will continue to keep abreast of opportunities in respect of other materials such as mixed plastics and cardboard.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 To increase our recycling rates it is essential that we explore a range of cost effective options to collect additional materials. The trial project will assess the success of adapting our current fleet of vehicles to collect cartons and aerosols
- 5.2 The trial project provides us with an opportunity to promote our Waste & Recycling Service and illustrate to our residents that we are committed to achieving they key targets of increasing recycling rates and reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill.
- 5.3 Our Council Plan 2014/2017 commits us to widening the range of materials collected for recycling. If this project proves successful and is implemented City wide it would allows us to achieve this outcome. At the end of the trial, we will also be able to more accurately assess the potential increase in recycling rates if the scheme was rolled out across the City.

6.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 6.1 Prior to the trial commencing a communications strategy will be developed and implemented to ensure those residents within the trial area are provided with sufficient information for them to take part. Messages and information will be disseminated via a range of outlets and will commence 2 weeks prior to start of the trial.
- 6.2 During the trial weights will be recorded of the additional materials collected for recycling and we will then calculate what this equates to in terms of recycling percentages, reduction in landfill and recycling credits.
- 6.3 At the completion of the trial all information gathered will be assessed in partnership with AMEY. If successful it is our intention to implement this service across the whole City as of 1st December 2014. We would then disseminate information on this change to our service alongside details of the Christmas collection dates.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There will be minimal resource implications in implementing the trial and the impact on AMEY has also been discussed. They have confirmed that collection and processing of additional materials that form part of the trial will not impact unduly on current operations and can be managed within existing resources.

7.2 If the service was to be rolled out across the City we would expect to generate an income of circa £19,000 in commodity sales and recycling credits. In addition by reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill we would also save somewhere in the region of £5000 in landfill disposal costs.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 No legal implications have been identified.

(Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

9.1 The following risk and opportunities have been identified:

Risks	Opportunities
If trial proves unsuccessful, residents might expect the service to be rolled out despite it being undeliverable	To promote the Council's Waste & Recycling Service
The trial and formal implementation of the project proves so successful that it has resource impact on operational delivery of Waste & Recycling Service	To increase our rates of household recycling and increase revenue through additional commodity prices and recycling credits
If commodity prices not achieved Gloucester City Council are liable to make up shortfall as written into contract.	To reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill and reduce our disposal costs
	To achieve a set of outcomes within the Council Plan 2014/2017 under the 'Greener Gloucester' thread.
	To work in partnership with AMEY at both an operational and strategic level and develop the role they can play in helping us achieve our waste & recycling targets

10.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

10.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

11.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

11.1 By providing an opportunity for residents to increase the amount of material they can recycle and reduce the amount of waste they send for disposal there is the potential for our street scene to suffer less from discarded side waste and fly-tipping which research has proven to have a positive impact on Community Safety.

Sustainability

- 11.2 Widening the range of materials we collect for recycling is one of the key steps in achieving our recycling target of 50%. There is sustainability built into this project as whether we remain a Council that provides a kerbside segregation service or an alternative service such as co-mingled collection, we will need to collect a broad as possible range of materials that can be recycled.

Staffing & Trade Union

- 11.3 No staffing or Trade Union implications have been identified