

THE EXECUTIVE

27 MARCH 2007

REPORT FROM THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER SERVICES

Title: Improved Green Waste Doorstep Collection Service	For Decision
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Summary:

The Barking and Dagenham Waste Strategy, agreed by Members in April 2006 is a key element of the delivery of the Council' Community Priority of Making Barking and Dagenham Cleaner, Greener and Safer.

Through sustainable waste management, the Waste Strategy identifies how the Council and its partners will deal with waste reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal so we can deliver

- The cleanest streets in London
- The greatest waste reduction and highest recycling and composting rates in London

Composting Green Garden Waste is a major contributor to reducing the amount of waste going to landfill and increasing the amount of our domestic waste which is recycled.

This report describes the feedback for our customers about existing green waste services and reviews in particular the current doorstep Green Garden Waste Composting Schemes and describes proposals for its improvement, which include a fortnightly doorstep collection, and the choice for residents to either purchase a wheelie bin or white biodegradable bags in which to present their green waste for collection.

We anticipate the positive outcomes will be a significant reduction in the amount of complaints received from customers. In addition to this we also anticipate that we should see over the next two years, an increase of 6% in the total waste sent to composting.

Wards Affected

All wards

Implications:

Financial:

Both the collection and administration costs of this scheme are included in current estimates. £50,000 of the capital element of the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant, will be used to offer a discount of £5 per bin for residents joining the scheme in the first year. Residents will pay around £10 to cover the remaining cost of the bin. The status of the discount will be reviewed again in 2008/09 when we know if the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant will continue.

Legal:

The Council has no statutory need to collect green waste separately from domestic waste. However, running this service will significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and improve the recycling performance.

Risk Management

There could be poor take up of the scheme resulting in lower than expected volumes sent for composting. A procurement mechanism will be established so that we do not purchase bins and bags without the income to pay for them. However the previous scheme was very well subscribed

The corporate method of risk management would be applied to the project

Social Inclusion and Diversity

By offering a small subsidy we will ensure that the cost of joining the scheme is kept affordable for our residents. We will also extend the assisted collection scheme to residents who have mobility issues.

Crime and Disorder:

None

Recommendations

The Executive is asked to:

Agree to the proposal to implement:

- The improved fortnightly collection scheme.
- That a discount of £5 per bin will be provided from the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant and residents will pay the remaining cost of the bin.
- That residents who can not use a bin pay £5 a year for 2 rolls of biodegradable sacks
- That procurement of bins is through a Consortium Framework Agreement

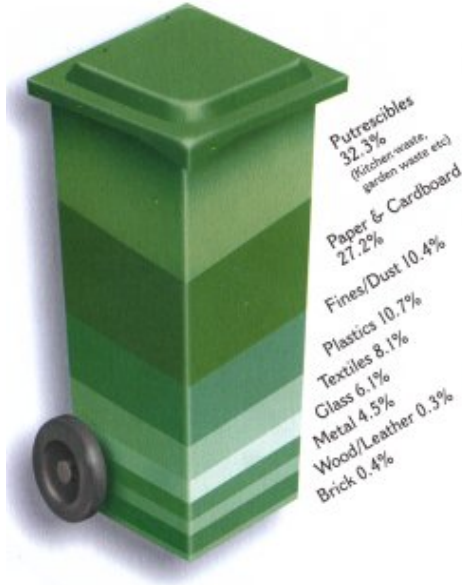
Reason

These proposals form part of the implementation of the Barking and Dagenham Waste Strategy.

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1 Background

- 1.1 Each year Barking and Dagenham residents throw away roughly 60,000 tonnes of waste. About one third of this is green garden waste and other compostible materials
- 1.2 The Barking and Dagenham Waste Management Strategy sets the clear aim of having the highest recycling and composting rates in London.
- 1.3 Our approach is to give everyone in the Borough the opportunity to take part in a simple straightforward recycling and composting system that makes life easy for them and ensures we capture the maximum amount of waste before it is sent for disposal.



- 1.4 This graphic shows the typical types of material we find in our resident's bins. We have been very successful with the orange bag scheme which allows us to capture a good proportion of paper and thin card, plastics and a very high proportion of metal. Through the bottle banks and also the black bag processing facilities at Frog Island we also take the vast majority of glass from the general waste stream.
- 1.5 The big area where we have the opportunity to make significant gains is in the 32% of the contents which can be composted. Although the 'white bag' scheme has significantly increased the amount of composting in the Borough we still only compost 6% of our total waste.

2 Current Green Waste Service.

2.1 We offer four ways in which our residents can compost their waste:

1. We offer subsidised home compost bins and advice about how to use them

2. We have facilities at Frizlands Lane RRC
3. We have a pilot community kitchen waste composting scheme in Marks Gate
4. We offer an appointment based kerbside 'white bag' collection scheme.

2.2 The white bio-degradable bags bag scheme has been a real success this year. We have made 25,000 collections from our residents' homes, and because of high demand we moved the initial Sunday collection service to a weekly collection (again by appointment only) on the normal day of collection.

2.3 Feedback from residents has been good. They have told us they like the opportunity to compost as they know it is important, and like the collections from their homes. Nevertheless, appointment systems are inherently inefficient and towards the end of last year we moved beyond capacity and unfortunately missed a higher than acceptable number of collections.

2.4 Our customers have also told us that they would prefer a regular collection service, without the need to make an appointment as this would make the service easier to use.

3 High Performing Boroughs.

3.1 The most successful schemes in beacon Boroughs are run as regular doorstep collection available to all Borough residents on a fortnightly collection basis. The benefit of weekly collections is seen as marginal.

3.2 Feedback from those schemes is that the amount of compost captured is significantly increased by the introduction of wheelie bins, but only where residents have the capacity to store them.

4 An Improved Service for Barking and Dagenham.

4.1 In order to make the service efficient, regular and reliable a fortnightly doorstep collection on the normal day of collection will be made available to all Borough residents, (except areas of high rise flats where a garden waste scheme is inappropriate). This will do away with the need to ring the Council to make an appointment.

4.2 In order to increase the amount of compost captured and increase customer choice the new scheme will include the option to either purchase a wheelie bin from the Council or purchase the existing rolls of biodegradable bags.

4.3 The option of re-useable sacks has been considered but current advice from the Health and Safety Executive is that the manual handling hazard when used with garden waste is considerable.

4.4 By making use of the Government Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant we will be able to increase take up of the scheme by offering a £5 discount to

residents who join the scheme in 2007/08. This will reduce the contribution residents will make to around £10.

4.5 Where residents cannot use a wheelie bin they will be given the option to pay £5 per year to receive 2 rolls of 13 biodegradable bags.

4.6 These charges are considerably less than those made by neighbouring Boroughs for similar schemes.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 The cost of providing the fortnightly collection can be met from existing service budgets.

5.2 The capital element of the Government Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant will be used to make a discount of £5 per bin to residents joining the scheme in 2007/08. This will be to a maximum of £50,000.

5.3 This discount will be reviewed and a report brought to Members when details of the 2008/09 grant allocation are announced in early Spring 2008.

5.4 The cost of supplying biodegradable bags will be met from the suggested charges. The Council has no budget for the ongoing supply of composting bags.

5.5 Officers propose to take payment for the bin or bags when residents express and interest in registering for the scheme. The cost of administering the scheme can be met from existing budgets.

5.6 To cut the timeframe and expense of a full formal EU tender process, we can use a consortium framework agreement with an e-sourcing mini tender between the approved suppliers for the bins. The timeframe for a mini tender is approximately 3 months from the date of Executive approval. There is currently only one manufacturer, available under the framework agreement, for the supply of biodegradable bags and a single tender will be obtained under the framework. For future supplies this market will continue to be researched for alternative supply routes with an aim of cost reduction and or alternative product provision.

6 Staffing Implications.

6.1 The staff required for this scheme are included in the redesign of the waste management service completed in February.

7 Consultation

7.1 This report builds on the consultation carried out as part of the waste strategy, and uses feedback from customers using the existing green waste service.

7.2 Councillors

Councillor Fairbrass - Leader of the Council
Portfolio Holder — Councillor Milton McKenzie, Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability

7.3 Officers

East London Waste Authority

Tony Jarvis - Project Director

Environment and Enforcement Services
Michael Neale, Group Manager - Transport and Waste Services
Ruth Du-Lieu, Project Leader - Waste Strategy Implementation
Abdul Jallow, Waste and Recycling Policy Manager

Finance
Phillip Horner, Senior Accountant
Heather Cutler, Procurement and Stores Manager

CS
Robin Hanton, Corporate Legal Manager

Background Papers
LBBD Municipal Waste Strategy
Waste Management Consultation Strategy