

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Garry Knighton – Head of Waste and Contract Services

REPORT NO. WCS7

DATE: 8 August 2005

TITLE:	Waste Collection Consultation
FORWARD PLAN ITEM:	Waste Collection Arrangements
DATE WHEN FIRST APPEARED IN FORWARD PLAN:	16.06.05 Listed under issue: Future of Recycling Strategy
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Future Policy Framework Proposal

COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Ray Auger – Portfolio Holder from Healthy Environment
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	Recycling
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	N/A
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	This report is publicly available and can be access via the Local Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Cabinet Private Briefing of 25 July 2005

1. SUMMARY

Following a previous Cabinet report with reference to the necessary changes to waste collection, this report aims to advise the Cabinet of the consultation exercise proposed to establish the desires of the public.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) In order to identify the method of waste collection wanted by the residents of the district, an extensive period of consultation is recommended. The consultation will involve discussion with the residents of the district through Parish Councils and Local Area Assemblies.
- b) A fact-finding visit by cabinet and members of the working group to Newark and Sherwood District Council,
- c) That once approval being given to the new scheme, a trial is carried out before full implementation.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

The DSP has already recommended to the Cabinet to change waste collection to a twin-bin system. This method gives all households two bins, one being for refuse, the other for recyclables, and each would be collected alternately.

Though a brief questionnaire has been placed in the local press, it is recognised that a more in depth consultation is required. This will allow a strong gauge of the public opinion and also to engage the public in any future changes made.

Direct Public Consultation

Questionnaires have been distributed to all the local newspapers, though these were very vague in their questions. This provides some initial feedback, but further consultation is required.

In order to approach the public directly, it is intended to use:

- Local Area Assemblies throughout September and November 2005
- Parish Council meetings through presentations and written questionnaires
- SKToday – extensive article with feedback forms

Questions Tackled

The consultation is meant to highlight the wishes of the public, and covers:

- Refuse collection containers – bags or wheeled bins
- Recycling collection containers – boxes or wheeled bins

Questions are to discover the publics' choice between the two following options:

- Alternate weekly collections using wheeled bins
- Alternate weekly collections using black bags for refuse and boxes for recycling

Examples of questions would be:

'Which of the two above do you prefer for your waste collection?'

'What reasons do you have for choosing this option?'

Each option would explain the future recycling predictions.

Other Stakeholders

Other Local Authorities will be approached and visited to understand their workings, and learn how they have overcome some problems and issues. With many authorities adopting variations of all of the above, consultations with them will highlight possible difficulties for the future. Two authorities that have already offered to be of assistance, allowing visits to their offices, are North Kesteven District Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council.

Access to a waste collection website will be maintained as this gives a quick reference to what other authorities are doing, with contact details.

Health and Safety

With increasing knowledge of industrial injuries, and the responsibilities of employers to protect staff from such dangers, there is an onus on the Council to consider the potential risks to collection staff using both bags and boxes. Research is being conducted by the Health and Safety Executive to identify the actual risks, and the results, once available, will need to be considered in the long-term.

Trials

To fully appreciate the difficulties of introducing an alternative weekly collection, a trial will be run. This will take place either in the Eco-Villages (should the funding application be successful), or in a town, such as Stamford.

The trial will allow problems to be highlighted and rectified before the scheme is offered to all residents.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Using all of the above methods to liaise with the public will not only provide valuable feedback as how to take waste collection into the future, but will have a positive impact on the publics view of waste collection in the future. If residents are included

into the decision making process they are then able to understand the reasoning behind any decision made, and adapt as necessary. Making any change to waste collection will affect every householder within the South Kesteven district, and to guarantee the changes are well received, a consultation exercise is the first step of the steep learning curve needed.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

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