

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE – 31ST MARCH 2004

IMPLEMENTATION OF THREE BIN REFUSE COLLECTION SYSTEM

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of matters dealt with and recommendations made by the Member/Officer Working Group for the 3 bin system of kerbside household waste recycling, and to seek approval of these actions and recommendations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At a meeting of Community Services Committee on 17th September, it was agreed that a Member/Officer Working Group be set up to assist in managing the initial change and the further changes which will be required in successfully implementing the Area Waste Plan.
- 2.2 The Member/Officer Group has met on 3 separate occasions and has now dealt with all imminent issues required to be addressed. Minutes of these meetings are listed as background papers.
- 2.3 A wide range of matters and issues were considered at these meetings and the key areas can be summarised as follows: -

2.3.1 Procurement

Procurement of plant vehicles and equipment is being undertaken by the three Ayrshire Councils and Dumfries and Galloway Council with each Council working on behalf of each other to maximise the financial benefits and increase efficiency. East Ayrshire Council are also promoting a procurement exercise for the composting of green waste. The contract period is five years.

2.3.2 Publicity and Marketing

It was felt that this was crucial to the success of the scheme and comprehensive information booklets will be issued to all householders and Elected Members as the scheme is introduced. Public information sessions and individual briefings for Elected Members will also be undertaken.

A full assessment of publicity material will be undertaken following implementation of the first phase and any required changes made.

2.3.3 Refuse Collection Service and Existing Policy

The Group felt that it was necessary to amend the existing refuse collection service to encourage the maximum amount of recycling.

The suggested revised Policy is attached (Appendix 1) for consideration. However it is important to stress that the service will depend on individual circumstances and officers will work with householders to ensure maximum uptake of the services.

2.3.4 Recycling

The number of 'bring' containers will be enhanced wherever possible within the resources available to assist householders who cannot, for whatever reason, participate in the three bin system. Similarly in the interim the Group felt that it would be beneficial if the existing blue bag scheme was discontinued as this could possibly lead to confusion.

3. **DISCUSSION**

3.1 The decision to set up the Member/Officer Working Group to manage the changes demanded by the introduction of kerbside waste recycling has proved very effective and allowed Elected members to spend time considering in detail, the complex implications for both the Council and householders.

3.2 The presentation to Elected Members on 5th February also raised a number of additional issues which have since been addressed and where appropriate, will be incorporated in the Council's procedures and promotional material.

As individual collection routes are converted to the 3 bin system, staff will offer briefings to the local Member. Presentations will also be made to Community Councils. Exhibitions of the new system will be arranged to allow local communities to familiarise themselves with the system. A helpline has been set up to deal specifically with public concerns.

A copy of the Implementation Programme is attached as Appendix 2.

3.3 The Committee is now invited to endorse the recommendations and actions taken by the Member/Officer Working Group.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Council has been awarded £14,890,000 from the Strategic Waste Fund to introduce source-separated kerbside waste recycling for all households within East Ayrshire.

4.2 Following the initial advice of the award in a letter from the Scottish Executive dated 18th August 2003, Council Officers (including the Community Services Financial Services Manager) met Scottish Executive Officials in Victoria Quay on 25th September 2003 at which a number of issues were raised. Thereafter a further letter of amendment was received from the Scottish Executive dated 10th October 2003.

5. **LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The National Waste Strategy.

5.2 The EU Directive on Landfill.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The new service will result in increased levels of recycling and less waste going to landfill. This is consistent with local and national priorities and environmental policies.

6.2 The Trade Unions have been involved throughout and are generally supportive. Further consultations will take place on the content of this report.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The Member/Officer Working Group set up by Community Services Committee on 17th September has now met on three separate occasions and considered a number of matters which require to be addressed to ensure a successful implementation of the 3 bin system of kerbside household waste recycling.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee is invited to approve and endorse the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group as follows: -

- (i) policy changes to the Council's domestic refuse collection service (as detailed in the appendix to this report);
- (ii) no kitchen or catering waste to be collected in the garden waste bin;
- (iii) a five year contract (with optional two year extension) to be placed for windrowing of compostable garden waste;
- (iv) purchase of a tape recording for households with sensory impairment; and
- (v) following further consultation with the Trade Unions, withdrawal of existing 'blue bag' kerbside paper recycling services; and
- (vi) otherwise note the content of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

JFC/CAM

30th March 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Minutes of Member/Officer Working Group meeting held on 4th November 2003.
2. Minutes of Member/Officer Working Group meeting held on 4th December 200.
3. Minutes of Member/Officer Working Group meeting held on 25th February 2004.

Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should contact John F Crawford on 01563 576111

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RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION POLICY

Following a phased introduction, commencing 5th April 2004 and concluding on 1st April 2006 the standard domestic waste collection policy shall be: -

- (1) a 240 litre wheeled bin of residual household waste per household to be emptied fortnightly at a point designated by the Council on a day specified by the Council;
- (2) a 240 litre brown bin of green garden waste per household (free of all wood, plastic and other non-organic material) to be emptied once every four weeks at a point designated by the Council on a day specified by the Council;
- (3) a 240 litre blue bin per household for paper, cardboard, pamphlet etc waste to be emptied once every four weeks at a point designated by the Council and on a day specified by the Council;
- (4) a black box for glass and can recycle to be emptied fortnightly at a point designated by the Council and on a day specified by the Council;
- (5) a special uplift service for bulky items of household goods (excluding kitchen, bathroom etc fixtures and fittings; fitted furniture; garden huts; fences; coal bunkers etc) which cannot fit into a domestic wheeled bin.

There will be a limit of five free special uplifts per household per annum and a maximum of 6 items will be considered as one uplift. Any uplifts in excess of the five provided free will be chargeable at a cost of £35 per uplift inclusive of VAT.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, general household waste will not be collected as part of the special uplift service;

- (6) a separate special uplift service for “white” goods (e.g. cookers, fridges, freezers etc);
- (7) an uplift service for those items excluded at 5 above (kitchen, bathroom etc fixtures and fittings etc etc). This service will be chargeable and each uplift (subject to a maximum of six items) will be chargeable at a cost of £35 inclusive of VAT; and
- (8) where there is no able-bodied adult in any household, the Director of Community Services will have discretion (subject to medical certification being provided) to make arrangements for assisted pull-outs of wheeled bins and boxes;

N.B. With respect to the forgoing, the Director of Community Services on being satisfied of the circumstances, will also have discretion as follows: -

- In 1 above:
- (a) to provide an additional wheeled bin on a temporary basis to any household where there are (certificated) medical circumstances; and
 - (b) to provide (as an alternative to the wheeled bin service) refuse sacks (a maximum of 52 sacks per

- household per annum) to be collected from the designated point on the specified collection day;
- In 2 above: (a) where any household generates little or no garden waste, to withdraw the brown wheeled bin; and
(b) where any household regularly generates more green garden waste than can be accommodated in the 240 litre brown bin, to supply an additional 240 litre brown bin;
- In 3 above: (a) where any household regularly generates more paper waste than can be accommodated in the 240 litre blue bin provided, to supply an additional 240 litre blue bin;
- In 4 above: (a) where any household generates insufficient glass or cans waste, to withdraw the black box;
(b) where any household regularly generates more glass and can waste and can't be accommodated in the black box, to supply an additional black box; and
(c) to provide on request, lids for black boxes to allow tidy storage on the premises provided lids are not presented with boxes at the designated collection point.