

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STREET SCENE and ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

07 November 2016

Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet – Council Decision

1 SATURDAY HOUSEHOLD BULKY & WASTE ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) SERVICE REVIEW

Summary

This report updates Members on the review of the Council's Bulky Refuse Collection and WEEE recycling service. The report makes recommendations for the continued provision of the services at no additional cost to the Council.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Council currently provides a Saturday Household Bulky collection service at 63 sites across the borough over a four-week cycle each month. A refuse freighter attends each site for an hour so that residents can dispose of bulky and additional waste. The service has been in place for many years, is extremely popular with residents at the majority of locations, and is part-funded by Kent County Council (KCC) due to the lack of a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) within the borough.

1.1.2 There have always been certain types of waste that cannot be taken by the bulky collection service, such as builders' waste, liquids, fridges & tyres. In recent years this has been extended by changes in legislation to include WEEE items, such as TVs, PC monitors, ovens, small electrical items, etc. In 2012 the Council commenced a trial service whereby a second vehicle attended each of the 63 sites at the same time as the refuse freighter to collect WEEE items for recycling. This service is also provided by our waste collection contractor, Veolia, and has to date diverted 530 tonnes of additional waste from landfill.

1.2 WEEE Collection Service

1.2.1 The WEEE service has proved very popular with residents, and also assists Veolia by enabling many items excluded by legislation from the normal Saturday Bulky service to be collected. From a monthly average of 4.75 tonnes in 2012/13, we are now collecting an average of 15.29 tonnes per month of WEEE items, diverting them from landfill or incineration. The current cost to the Council of providing the WEEE service is £19,600 per annum. In 2015/16 we were

successful in securing external funding through the Department for Business Innovations & Skills of £25,700 to pay for the WEEE service. Together with a one-off contribution of £6,000 from KCC, this meant that the service could be fully funded to 30 September 2016. Having received some further financial support from Veolia, we have been able to extend the service until 31 December 2016. Unfortunately there are currently no further external funding opportunities available, either through KCC or from other sources.

- 1.2.2 A review of the existing Saturday Bulky and WEEE services has been undertaken which included a number of options:
- cease provision of the WEEE service completely;
 - significantly reduce the number of locations visited by the Saturday Bulky service so that WEEE collections could continue at the remaining sites;
 - revise the existing service schedule in order to achieve efficiencies and make savings which could then contribute to the continuation of the WEEE service;
 - work with Veolia to identify efficiencies across the refuse, recycling & street cleansing contracts to help support the continued provision of the WEEE service.
- 1.2.3 Over the course of this summer, we have assessed usage at each collection location and reviewed the tonnage of bulky & WEEE waste collected; and the time spent at each site. It is worth noting that Veolia currently allow 30 minutes travel time between each site, regardless of the actual distance between locations, and an hour spent at every location, regardless of usage or tonnage collected. It was also identified that a number of locations could be grouped differently to maximise efficiency.
- 1.2.4 Having completed the review in partnership with Veolia, it is considered that a combination of both options 3 & 4 would achieve the aim of maintaining the WEEE service at the majority of the current Saturday Bulky locations.
- 1.2.5 Ceasing provision altogether would lead to significant dissatisfaction on the part of residents who use the service, especially in those areas where alternative options for disposal are limited. Residents can take their WEEE items to one of KCC's HWRCs, but as KCC currently have no plans for an HWRC within the borough, this option is not readily available to many of our residents.
- 1.2.6 A number of charities, such as the British Heart Foundation, will accept certain WEEE items for reuse and selling on, but the amount and types of equipment they can handle are limited. They also have limitations on the condition and age of the item, and there is no consistent approach to WEEE reuse across charities and other third sector organisations within Kent, and certainly cannot be considered a suitable alternative to the current WEEE service. However, when tendering for the

new contract, there may be opportunities to partnership with the third sector in order to deliver efficiencies and social value.

- 1.2.7 WEEE items taken to the Saturday Bulky vehicle cannot be accepted so there would be a risk of increased fly tipping or other illegal disposal of that waste. It is not considered desirable to significantly reduce the number of sites visited over the four-week cycle, as despite there being variations in usage, all of the locations are well used.
- 1.2.8 The proposed new schedule (**Annex 1**), maintains an appropriate level of service provision in each of the areas currently served. We have reduced the time spent at the lesser-used locations from 60 to 45 minutes. We have grouped the locations on each route to minimise time & fuel travelling between locations, thus reducing each driver's working day from 6 to 5 hours.
- 1.2.9 The new schedule reflects a continuation of both services at 60 of the 63 sites visited in the original four-week cycle. The three sites where there is a change are:
- Borough Green – Dene Lodge Week 2. This site is still visited in Weeks 1 & 3 of the proposed schedule. There are additional sites at the Blue Anchor, Platt, in Weeks 2 & 4.
 - Stansted/Fairseat – Village Hall Week 1. This site is still visited in Week 3.
 - Trottiscliffe – Ford Lane Week 3. There are two alternative sites at Ad-Pine on the A20 and Trottiscliffe Road opposite the golf course.
 - Local Members have been advised of the proposed re-scheduling and any comments received will be made available at the meeting.
- 1.2.10 Veolia have also identified a number of operational efficiencies which reduce their internal operating costs. They have agreed to reinvest those savings into the WEEE service provision as they see the operational benefit of diverting WEEE items away from the normal Saturday Bulky service and from potential fly tips.
- 1.2.11 A combination of the initiatives detailed above would provide sufficient funding for the WEEE service to be continued until the end of the current refuse and street cleansing contract in February 2019.
- 1.2.12 As sufficient time needs to be provided to advertise the proposed changes to the schedule, and because the current schedule has already been circulated to the public, it is intended that the new schedule be implemented from the first Saturday in February 2017.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 The continued service for the separate collection of WEEE items for recycling will assist this Council in demonstrating compliance with current waste legislation.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 The proposals brought in this report will maintain a service to the public at no additional cost to the Council.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 None

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet that:

- i) the revised schedule for the collection of bulky refuse and WEEE from locations across the Borough be approved.
- ii) the revised arrangements commence in February 2017 for a period of 2 years.
- iii) the bulky refuse and WEEE Service be reviewed further as part of the retender of the Council's Refuse & Street Cleansing Contract.

Background papers:

Nil

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