

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

27 May 2014

**Joint Report of the Director of Street Scene & Leisure and the
Cabinet Member for Environmental Services**

Part 1- Public

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken
by the Cabinet Member)**

1 WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (WEEE) RECYCLING

Summary

The report updates Members on the Council's WEEE recycling pilot and recommends that the initiative be extended to the summer of 2015 to allow further evaluation of partnership arrangements with Kent County Council.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Council provides a Saturday Household Bulky collection service at 63 community 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 any additional waste. The service has been in place for many years, is extremely popular with residents and is part funded by Kent County Council.

1.1.2 There have always been certain types of waste that cannot be taken by this service ie building materials, liquids, fridges, tyres, etc. In recent years this list has been extended due to changes in legislation to include WEEE, ie TVs and other electrical appliances. This has meant that residents have had to make other arrangements to dispose of these materials.

1.2 WEEE Pilot

1.2.1 In previous reports to this Board we have set out details of a pilot scheme which has the aim of collecting separately WEEE and scrap metal at our Saturday community collection points. In the report to the Board in March 2014 we advised that our contractor running the pilot, Light Brothers, were incurring unforeseen and significant new costs resulting in part by the relocation of their depot some way out of the borough. An option to provide the service by Veolia was considered by the Board and subsequently agreed. The pilot was extended to the end of June 2014 in order that we could work with Veolia to identify the most cost effective options for this service into the future.

1.2.2 We are pleased to say that Veolia's response has been positive. Veolia seamlessly took over from the previous contractor and has provided an excellent and consistent level of service to date. Whilst we continue to work with them to maximise opportunities to reduce costs, ie looking at ways of generating income from sale of materials, we are happy with Veolia's working arrangements and ability to provide the service.

1.2.3 For general information the WEEE pilot is diverting about 150 tonnes per year of WEEE and scrap metal for recycling. We are also aware that the service is well supported by our residents.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 None.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 It was envisaged from the onset of the pilot that the service would be self-financing with the income from the sale of material covering haulage and vehicle costs. Our actual experience has shown that the 'self-financing' model is not realistic. This is mainly due to market fluctuations in commodity prices and greater than expected haulage costs.

1.4.2 The absence of a Household Waste Recycling Centre in the borough means that our residents do not have opportunities readily available to dispose of WEEE. Consequently, we have engaged with KCC to seek part funding of the new service costs.

1.4.3 KCC Waste Management presently work with Valpak who run an industry 'Producer Compliance Scheme' (PCS). Present legislation requires all producers and distributors of WEEE to take responsibility for its collection and disposal/treatment. Any such business can join a PCS who will take on their responsibility. KCC Waste Management and Valpak work together under contractual arrangements in respect of WEEE collected at Household Waste Recycling Centres. The existing arrangements between KCC and Valpak are subject to review in January 2015.

1.4.4 We are pleased to say that KCC has agreed a contribution of £6,000 towards our 2014/15 costs. We have also been advised that KCC's ongoing support for any ongoing WEEE service we provide will be reconsidered when they have in place new arrangements for their wider WEEE recycling services early in 2015. In addition, KCC and Valpak would like to work with us to maximise the efficiency of the service and assess future options.

1.4.5 It is considered appropriate that the service be extended until the summer of 2015 in order that we can assess the extent of ongoing financial support from KCC/Valpak and assess options for service delivery.

1.4.6 We set out an overview of the financial position below:

<u>Service costs</u>	£
July 2014 – June 2015	18,960
KCC Contribution	<u>- 6,000</u>
Additional cost	<u>12,960</u>

1.4.7 The additional cost of providing the service up to June 2015 will be met from existing revenue budgets and the Waste and Street Scene reserve fund.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 This initiative is the subject of ongoing review which most importantly includes the ongoing financial viability, affordability and sustainability of the service.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 It is **RECOMMENDED THAT CABINET:**

- 1) note the changes to the funding arrangements of the WEEE pilot as detailed in the report;
- 2) endorse the appointment of Veolia as the provider of the WEEE recycling pilot to 30 June 2015; and
- 3) request the Director of Street Scene & Leisure to report back to the Board on the findings of his ongoing review of the WEEE Recycling Service and in particular details of any proposed partnership funding with KCC.

The Director of Street Scene & Leisure confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Phil Beddoes

Nil

Robert Styles
Director of Street Scene & Leisure

Brian Luker
Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The decisions do not adversely impact on any of the equality groups.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	All groups will be treated equally.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.