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**REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**AGENDA ITEM:**

**13**

**DATE OF MEETING: 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2002**

**CATEGORY: OPEN**

**REPORT FROM: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: PAUL EVANS**

**DOC:**  
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recycling centres - pe.doc

**SUBJECT: COLLECTIONS FROM THE COUNCIL'S RECYCLING CENTRES**

**REF:**

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE: ES 07**

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Members approve a proposal to enter a private sector partnership for the collection of recyclables from the District's recycling centres.
- 1.2 That a campaign is undertaken to increase the amounts of recyclables collected from the 26 minor recycling centres, on a "use it or lose it" basis.
- 1.3 That the results of this campaign be reported to a future meeting of the Committee to enable Members to consider the future of these minor sites.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To outline the options for Members' consideration.

## **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 The Council has 37 major recycling centres and 26 minor centres in the district. A plan detailing the sites is appended at Annexe A. This report concerns the collection of glass, cans and plastics from these centres. The collections from the paper banks, textile banks etc. are unaffected.
- 3.2 Cans and plastics are collected from all the centres by the Direct Services Unit. Glass collections at the major centres are made by a contractor who keeps the money for the glass but does not charge the Council for doing the work. Glass at the minor centres is collected by the Direct Services Unit.
- 3.3 Last year 547 tonnes in total were collected from the major sites and just 26 tonnes from the minor sites.
- 3.3 The Council receives Recycling Credits for the tonnages collected at a current rate of £29.92 per tonne.

- 3.4 The service provided by the Direct Services Unit usually takes one to two days per week. The driver is employed on other duties in the Refuse Collection, Recycling and Street Cleansing Services for the rest of the week.
- 3.5 The Council's recycling vehicle (D903 DOT) was first registered in 1986. The vehicle was purpose built as a prototype using an old refuse freighter body mounted on a Seddon Atkinson chassis and equipped with side and rear lifters. The manufacturer was taken over in June 2000 since when it has become increasingly expensive to maintain the vehicle and much more difficult to acquire spare parts.
- 3.6 The vehicle's scheduled replacement in 1999 was delayed to allow for a thorough and unfettered consideration of the Council's recycling plans in the recently completed Cleansing the Environment Best Value Review
- 3.7 £10,000 has been allowed in this year's budget for maintaining the vehicle. This includes a nominal Finance Lease charge of £187.
- 3.8 The vehicle has now reached the end of its useful economic life and is no longer able to provide a reliable service. The service is being provided currently using a spare refuse freighter but this is not sustainable in the long term
- 3.9 The options outlined for Members' consideration are as follows:
- **Purchase a new recycling vehicle and continue the present service**  
Leasing and running costs for a new vehicle are estimated at £30,000 per year. This year's budget for the existing vehicle is £10,000.
  - **Seek a private sector partner**  
Preliminary discussions have taken place with two contractors about taking over the sites currently serviced by the Direct Services Unit. Initial cost indications are in the region of £30,000 per year. The costs would reduce by approximately £8,000 if the minor sites were withdrawn and only the major sites were retained.
- 3.10 As stated in para. 3.3 a relatively small tonnage is collected from the 26 minor centres. Compared to the major sites, and indeed to the compost scheme and kerbside paper scheme the relative costs of running these sites, per tonne of material recycled, is very high. In terms of cost effectiveness therefore there would be strong argument for removing the minor sites. The Action Plan, arising from the Cleansing of the Environment Review, identified this as a matter for review in terms of reducing the costs of refuse collection.
- 3.11 Having said this these minor sites have been in place for several years and their removal would be seen as a loss of service to some residents and could be construed as a negative approach by the Council in its overall efforts to encourage more recycling across the District. In addition many were placed with parish council assistance. Members may therefore wish to consider undertaking a "use it or lose it" campaign before deciding on whether to remove some or all of these minor sites. This campaign could also include discussion with all affected parishes to establish whether there are any alternative sites where larger glass "igloos" could be provided of the sort used at the major sites and which are a fundamental reason for the improved cost effectiveness there by reason of the much greater tonnages that can be removed in a single visit.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Both of the options included in para. 3.9 will add £20,000 per annum over and above the existing budget provision. However only the private sector option would allow for a reduction in these additional costs should the minor centres be removed, estimated at £8,000 per annum if all 26 were taken out.
- 4.1 A Service Development Proposal ( including additional expenditure of £13,000 this year and £20,000 for following years) was considered by the Service and Financial Planning Working Group at the end of June. They will be recommending to the Finance and Management Committee, on 25<sup>th</sup> July, that this additional finance is made available for the service development. However they wished Members of the Environmental Services Committee be requested to consider the future of the 26 minor centres in the light of their relatively poor cost effectiveness.

#### **5.0 Community Implications**

- 5.1 The recycling centres provide an important facility to the community.
- 5.2 An effective collection service will encourage people to recycle.

#### **6.0 Conclusions**

- 6.1 The Council's recycling vehicle has reached the end of its useful life.
- 6.2 The Service and Financial Planning Working Group will be recommending the approval of a service development proposal to the Finance and Management Committee to enable the servicing of the 63 recycling centres to continue.
- 6.3 The relative cost effectiveness of the 27 minor recycling centres is poor and Members may wish to consider removing some or all of these to reduce costs. A "lose it or use it" campaign may increase the cost effectiveness of some of these sites.
- 6.4 There are options to continue the service in house or by a private sector partner but only the latter affords the flexibility to reduce servicing costs if the number of sites is reduced.

