

Appendix 1

Project/Item	Review of the Farm Collections
Date	26 th January 2011
Brief Description	<p>As part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy a report on Waste Collection and Recycling was submitted to Cabinet on the 17th November 2010. As a consequence of this, Members agreed to consider the results of a review of farm collection services to ensure they represent best value and remain fit for purpose.</p> <p>The farm collection rounds consist of 668 farm properties and rural properties in the Borough. The Council offers a weekly doorstep residual waste collection service to these properties regardless of remoteness of location; a limited recycling service is offered to a hand full of properties.</p> <p>All the waste produced by these properties is unsorted and taken direct to Landfill; Land filling unsorted and untreated waste represents a missed opportunity. Not only because of the savings from landfill gate fees and LATS, there are quantities of valuable materials that if sorted would net the council a reasonable income.</p> <p>As farms and rural properties are not unique to Rossendale a review, by means of a survey distributed to all Lancashire authorities was undertaken by the Operations Manager of how neighbouring authorities collect waste from similar locations. From the authorities who responded (7) it would appear the enhanced weekly doorstep collection is not available with authorities using alternative methods such as collection points.</p> <p>Collections in Rossendale are undertaken by one of two vehicles a 3.5t cage transit and a 7.5t refuse collection vehicle both with significantly less capacity than a standard refuse vehicle; the smallest collecting on average only 73 bins per day against 950 per day for residents on regular rounds.</p> <p>The cost associated with providing such a service for a relatively small percentage of bins is c.200% more expensive than the alternate week waste/recycling collections offered to the remainder of Rossendale's residents. The main difference in costs is the requirement to operate vehicles small enough to manoeuvre up and down farm tracks and rural lanes, most of which are privately owned.</p> <p>By having to operate smaller vehicles the Council is perhaps not</p>

using its resources in the most cost effective way. A more cost effective method would be to allocate these properties a number of drop off and collection points near to the main roads, which would remove the need to operate smaller vehicles transferring any waste and recycle on to larger vehicles.

In addition As part of the waste reduction agenda, Lancashire County Council (LCC) and partner districts discussed and agreed a waste reduction strategy for Lancashire. All districts adopted this strategy, which involves the Property Based Cost Sharing Mechanism (Cost Share) which required districts to agreed to the following:- As part of the agreement, the districts receive an income for every property that receives a waste and recycle service. Rossendale during fiscal year 2009/10, received a payment of £17.03 per property, which totalled approximately £500,000 in revenue income to subsidise such collections. The sum per property in 2010/11 is £17.29. Rossendale currently has a 95% participation rate in cost share. The farm properties are part of the 5% that do not currently qualify. If farms start to recycle this would mean that 100% of the Borough's residents would be able to recycle.

If the council were to consider this, the potential savings and the benefits from cost share can be summarised below:

	2011 – 12	2012 – 13	2013 – 14
Staff Costs	£52,243	£52,243	£52,243
Vehicle Costs	£11,477	£11,477	£23,467
SubTotal	£63,720	£63,720	£75,710
Cost Share Income	£12,090	£12,090	£12,090
Total Savings	£75,810	£75,810	£87,800

By implementing these changes residents would also have access to the same waste and recycling services currently afforded to the remainder of Rossendale. This would mean that for the first time these properties would be able to play an active roll in waste minimisation, enabling Rossendale to improve its recycling rates, reduce the burden on landfill and contribute further to the MTFs through the additional income possible from the sale of any recycle produced.

Recommendation

Agree that residents affected adopt an `end of lane` or roadside collection method.

Identify Risk

Reputation: Whilst there are increased recycling opportunities for those properties affected the benefits to some may not be sufficient to mitigate any negative reactions, as for some

residents, an end of lane or main road collection will see them having to take a greater responsibility in disposing of their waste and recycle.

Reputation: The Council's assisted collection service is open to all residents regardless of remoteness. Where an assisted service is requested, the operations team will deploy the street litter bin service to make a doorstep collection. However there could be occasions where by deploying this vehicle, we have to drive past properties that are being asked to present at the end of the lane we have just driven up. The residents of these properties may question the justification of the policy change.

The savings in year three are dependent on the disposal of the vehicles purchased to perform this function; failure to receive a value that could refund the borrowing costs for purchase would dilute any savings.