Sunderland City Council

# CABINET MEETING – 29 APRIL 2009

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET - PART 1**

#### Title of Report:

Kerbside Recycling

#### Author(s):

Director of Community and Cultural Services

#### **Purpose of Report:**

To seek approval to progress the procurement of containers and vehicles that will permit changes to and the continuation of the recycling collection service from 1 April 2010.

# **Description of Decision:**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) agree the proposal to replace the existing black-box used to collect recyclable materials with a blue wheeled-bin; and
- b) agree to progress the procurement of the necessary containers and vehicles

#### Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework \*Yes/No

# If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

To achieve the objectives of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy including an expansion in the range of materials to be collected and the achievement of recycling targets.

To assist in the achievement of compliance with LATS targets.

To provide for changes to collection arrangements for recyclable materials and other wastes that should prove easier to use for residents.

To secure the delivery of containers and vehicles before 1 April 2010.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

Continuation of the existing arrangements for the collection of recyclable materials will not address matters raised but residents and consequently is not likely to improve participation and recycling levels. Achievement of short and medium term recycling targets are, therefore, unlikely.

Do nothing. The existing service would need to be gradually wound-down or would otherwise deteriorate as the current fleet of vehicles became uneconomic to maintain.

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution Yes/ <del>No</del>	Relevant Review Committee:
Is it included in the Forward Plan	Environmental and Planning
TS it included in the Forward Flan ¥es/No	

# CABINET

# **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES**

#### **KERBSIDE RECYCLING**

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.2 To seek approval to progress the procurement of containers and vehicles that will permit changes to and the continuation of the recycling collection service from 1 April 2010.

#### 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
  - a) agree the proposal to replace the existing black-box used to collect recyclable materials with a blue wheeled-bin; and
  - b) agree to progress the procurement of the necessary containers and vehicles.

# 3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) of the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership (STWWMP) aims to reduce the reliance on landfill and increase recycling performance to:
  - 30% by 2010
  - 45% by 2015
  - 50% by 2020

and to extend the range of materials recycled

- 3.2 There are indications that the percentage of waste recovered for recycling by means of the current kerb-it scheme has fallen back in 2008/09. This may be due to several factors. The black-box, however, has not enjoyed universal acceptance and the existing vehicles will not allow for the expansion of the range of materials to be collected. The desire for an additional wheeled-bin to replace the black-box and to extend the range of materials recycled, particularly plastic bottles, has regularly featured in residents comments and responses from consultation events.
- 3.3 Cabinet received a report on 14 January 2009 which in addition to addressing the contract period for a range of waste services to be procured by the STWWMP outlined the desirability of changes to the collection arrangements for recyclable materials. Those changes included the phased introduction of a further wheeled-bin to all conventional dwellings for the collection of mixed recyclable materials. This would then require changes to the type of

collection vehicle used with the utilisation of those with twin-compartment compaction bodies identified as offering greater flexibilities.

- 3.4 The Kerb-it scheme for the collection of dry recyclable materials was introduced in 2003 with the assistance of grant-funding from DEFRA. Following a joint tendering exercise with the other Tyne and Wear authorities a contract was originally awarded to Premier Waste Management for the collection and handling, including securing market outlets, of the recovered materials. Those being paper, glass and cans.
- 3.5 On expiry of the original contract term the collection element of the service was brought in-house on 1 April 2008. Premier Waste Management remains responsible for the handling and marketing of materials. The contract concludes on 31 March 2010.
- 3.6 The STWWMP is currently undertaking a procurement exercise for the handling and processing of recyclable materials for a minimum period of three years from 1 April 2010.

# 4. REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING KERBSIDE COLLECTION SYSTEM

- 4.1 It is proposed that changes to the collection system will provide, as a minimum, for the collection of card and plastics alongside paper, cans and glass from the kerbside. It may be possible to include other materials dependent upon the outcome of the procurement exercise for the handling and processing of recyclable materials.
- 4.2 A number of options for kerbside recycling collections have been considered by officers of STWWMP.
- 4.3 The proposed system will involve the provision of a blue 240 litre wheeled bin (the same size as the green and brown bins already provided) to each conventional dwelling. The bin may also be provided with a 40 litre inner container (caddy). In those cases where a 120 litre / 140 litre green bin is provided (largely purpose designed aged person dwellings) the same size of blue bin will be deployed. The requirement for an inner container or some other form of containment for particular materials will be influenced by the outcome of the procurement exercise for services referred to at 3.6.
- 4.4 A blue bin will be consistent with nationally recognised coding for recycling.
- 4.5 Indications from other authorities where a wheeled bin is utilised rather than another type of container and where it has been possible to collect an increased range of materials; are that participation and recycling levels are significantly improved.
- 4.6 A further wheeled-bin will address those issues most frequently raised by residents including ease of use, manoeuvrability and the avoidance of lifting, as well as the containment of materials.

- 4.7 The utilisation of a further wheeled-bin will necessarily require automation with vehicles being equipped with rear-end hoists. Different types of vehicles to those currently used in the recycling service will, therefore, be required to service the bins.
- 4.8 The deployment of an additional bin to all conventional dwellings will take several months. It will be phased and undertaken in a similar way to the distribution of the original wheeled- bins and those for the Green-It scheme.
- 4.9 Recent experience of delivery periods for both vehicles and containers indicates the desirability of moving to their procurement as soon as possible if they are to be in place for April 2010 and the following months.
- 4.10 It is proposed that Members will be given notice of the deployment programme as it affects their wards.

# 5. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- To achieve the objectives of the JMWMS including an expansion in the range of materials to be collected and the achievement of recycling targets.
- To assist in the achievement of compliance with LATS targets.
- To provide for changes to the collection arrangements for recyclable materials and other wastes that should prove easier to use for residents.
- To secure the delivery of containers and vehicles before 1 April 2010.

# 6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 Continuation of the existing arrangements for the collection of recyclable materials will not address matters raised by residents and consequently is not likely to improve participation and recycling levels. Achievement of short and medium term recycling targets are, therefore, unlikely.
- 6.2 Do nothing. The existing service would need to be gradually wound-down or would otherwise deteriorate as the current fleet of vehicles became uneconomic to maintain.

# 7. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

7.1 a) Financial Implications

The City Treasurer confirms that the costs of procuring the containers has been included in the Council's capital programme (ref. CC90144); that the leasing and hire costs of procuring new vehicles in 2009/2010 can be met from Community and Cultural Services' Refuse Collection revenue budget; and that costs in future years will be included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and future years' budgets

- b) Legal Implications The City Solicitor has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated within the report.
- c) The Public The Joint Municipal Waste Strategy has been subject to wide public consultation.

Community Spirit consultation events in 2007 assisted in the preparation of the JMWMS with further events in 2008 being used to discuss how recycling, composting and landfill avoidance targets might be achieved. The Cabinet member for Neighbourhood and Street Services has been consulted on the proposals.

# 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report

- i) Report of Director of Community and Cultural Services Wastes Management Ancillary Procurements Cabinet 14 January 2009.
- ii) Report of Director of Community and Cultural Services Kerb-It Recycling Service Cabinet 5 December 2007.
- iii) South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership Joint Municipal Waste Strategy 2007 2027.