

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSPORT, PROPERTY AND
ENVIRONMENT****ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL GREEN WASTE INCENTIVE SCHEME****Purpose of the Report**

To inform Committee of the introduction of a district wide green waste collection service in Ashfield, funded initially by the County Council as an invest to save initiative.

Information and Advice

1. Members will recall approving the Waste Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting Plan 2015/16 at the previous Environment and Sustainability Committee in September. The Plan set out a number of initiatives to help the County Council reach its PFI contract target of 52%, and the EU Waste Framework Directive target of 50% recycling and composting by 2020.
2. The Plan includes a key action of providing incentives to the Waste Collection Authorities for introducing new or improved kerbside green waste collection schemes in order to reduce the amount of residual waste collected, improve performance and save on waste disposal costs.
3. On 9th November 2015 Finance and Property Committee approved the use of monies from the PFI Waste Contract reserve to support the introduction of a free district wide green waste collection service in Ashfield as an invest to save initiative. The PFI Waste Contract reserve is a Corporate Reserve and so falls under the remit of Finance and Property Committee.
4. As part of the initiative the County Council will fund the purchase of new smaller 180 litre residual bins for Ashfield District Council and pay for the re-purposing of the old 240 litre bins for the collection of green waste. Ashfield District Council will then offer residents a free garden waste collection scheme for 2 years, starting in April 2016.
5. The operational costs incurred by Ashfield will be funded by the County Council for this 2 year period, prior to the reintroduction of charges by Ashfield District Council to enable the scheme to be self-financing from year three. The County Council's liability for costs will cease at the end of year two.

6. The County Council will take the full benefit of any savings through the shift of residual waste to other waste streams and all associated waste disposal savings, for the life of the service. The scheme is modelled to generate a surplus by the end of year three, pay back the set up capital cost by year five, and to save the County Council a total of £6.2m in waste disposal costs (and generating a net saving of £3.4 million) over 10 years.
7. Furthermore Ashfield has a current recycling performance of 33% and it is anticipated this scheme will improve their recycling performance by up to 14% during the free collection period and up to 11% once charges are reintroduced. This equates to 1.8% and 1.4% at the County level.
8. Ashfield District Council approved the initiative on 5th November and has successively appointed a Project Manager to run the scheme. It is anticipated that the new service will be up and running for the start of the 2016/17 financial year maximising performance improvements and financial savings.

Other Options Considered

9. None – this is an information report.

Reasons for Recommendations

10. Funding the capital and revenue costs for Ashfield District Council to deliver a free green waste collection to Ashfield residents for two years provides a solid basis for the introduction of sustainable charged for green waste collection services from year three, and delivers a significant saving to the County Council over a ten year period by reducing disposal costs. It will also increase recycling and composting performance towards the EU and PFI Contract targets.
11. The model of incentivisation proposed for this initiative would be transferrable to Bassetlaw District Council and other district Councils in the County in due course. For the borough authorities that utilise the Eastcroft Energy from Waste plant for waste disposal the payback periods would be extended considerably and may not be sufficiently attractive to the County Council due to the favourable gate fees enjoyed at the Eastcroft facility.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

13. This report is for information only. The financial implications, as noted in paragraph 6. were considered in detail and approved by Finance and Property Committee on 9th November 2015.

Legal Implications

14. This report is for information only. The legal implications were considered and approved by Finance and Property Committee on 9th November 2015.

Implications for Service Users

15. The introduction of district wide green waste collections in Ashfield will allow residents more choice in how they dispose of their waste, and hopefully ease pressure on the County Councils recycling centre network. The reintroduction of charges for the service in year three will not impact adversely, as a chargeable service is the current offering provided by the District Council, and mirrors the provision made by all other Districts and Boroughs in the County with the exception of Bassetlaw, where no green waste collection service is currently available.
16. Reductions in the size of the residual bins will drive changes in the recycling habits of residents, and will optimise the use of the existing kerbside collection services provided by Ashfield District Council (alternate weekly dry recycling, monthly glass, and now alternate weekly green waste) in order to improve overall recycling and composting performance and minimise residual waste production.
17. Ashfield will assess the requirements of larger families who are unable to cope with the reduced residual capacity, and will make alternative arrangements, similarly for residents who have significant quantities of non-infectious medical wastes (i.e. those who do not need a separate collection) additional capacity will be provided as required.
18. Ashfield District Council working with the County Council and Veolia will undertake focussed marketing and promotional campaigns to ensure residents are best able to utilise the services provided, and understand the benefits of increasing recycling to the local area.

Recommendation

19. That Committee:
- I. Note the contents of the report.

Jas Hundal

Service Director, Transport, Property and Environment

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

None the report is for noting only.

Financial Comments

None the report is for noting only.

Background Papers

Ashfield District Council Green Waste Incentive Scheme report to Finance and Property Committee on 9th November 2015.

Electoral Divisions

All