



Glasgow City Council

Executive Committee

Report by Councillor Alistair Watson, Executive Member for Sustainability & Transport

Contact: Brian Devlin Ext: 79100

Item 5

13th August 2015

HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE COLLECTION

Purpose of Report:

To inform and seek approval for proposals to implement citywide household food waste collections and the potential new employment opportunities arising from this.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that committee approves: –

- (a) the proposals to implement household food waste collections citywide;
and
- (b) the associated funding requirements.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

1. Introduction

The Waste (Scotland) Regulations (WSR) places a statutory duty on local authorities to provide a food waste collection service to all households. LES is required to develop arrangements to ensure compliance by this date and determine the best option for rolling out this service, within the resources currently available to GCC.

2. Background

2.1 Legislation

In Scotland, the WSR amended some of the provisions within the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (the EPA) and placed a statutory duty on local authorities to provide a food waste collection service to all households.

2.2 Food Waste Pilot Collection

LES operated a pilot scheme of food waste collection for approximately 43,000 households across 3 property types – kerbside, flatted and high-rise - in Glasgow from July 2013 to July 2014. LES received funding support from Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) to undertake the pilot collection service. This allowed the service to evaluate each collection system, participation levels, and the quantity and quality of materials collected. The pilot can be summarised as follows:

- Separate weekly collections for all household types was undertaken;
- Communication material was provided to each household participating in the pilot with positive feedback on the material provided;
- Each householder was provided with a container, known as a caddy, and liners to be used for the food waste;
- Over the pilot period, 2,145 tonnes of food waste was collected and diverted from landfill which is equivalent to plus 0.9% to the city's recycling rate;
- Kerbside properties diverted higher levels of food waste than the averages quoted by ZWS;
- Flatted and high-rise properties diverted less waste than averages compared with other authorities;

- Monitoring undertaken on kerbside routes, recorded weekly presentation rates on average of 27%;
- During the pilot, surveys were completed with 79% indicating that they were using the food waste service;
- The collected food waste was processed via anaerobic digestion facilities, through third party contractors.

2.3 Development of a Citywide Food Waste Collection Scheme

The pilot exercise has been useful in assisting LES in developing a suitable approach for rolling out a full food waste collection service citywide as follows:

- The frequency of collections for residents in kerbside properties will be fortnightly as the quantity of food waste generated and presentation of bins during the pilot demonstrated that residents did not require weekly uplifts;
- For residents in kerbside properties, the existing brown garden waste bins provide a suitable collection container for food waste that householders can present to kerbside;
- The frequency of collections for residents in flatted and high-rise properties will be weekly as the bins are shared;
- Residents living in both flatted and high-rise properties will be provided with communal bins to separate food waste;
- All householders will be provided with a kitchen caddy to store their food wastes;
- Householders will be provided with liners.
- A clear and continuing promotional/communication campaign will be put in place to inform and encourage householders to support the food waste recycling service.

2.4 Proposed Food Waste Collection Arrangements

2.4.1 Collection Arrangements By Property Type

The food waste collection arrangements will be undertaken on the following basis:

- **Kerbside Properties** – 123,000 properties on existing managed weekly collection routes will deposit food waste in

existing brown bins, where food waste will be co-mingled with other biodegradable garden wastes;

- **Flatted Properties** - 151,000 properties city wide will deposit food waste in a communal bin sited in the back court; and
- **High Rise Properties** – 26,000 properties city wide will deposit food waste in a communal bin sited adjacent to the refuse area.

2.4.2 Phased Implementation of Food Waste Collections

As there are 300,000 residential properties citywide, there is a requirement to phase the introduction of the new food waste collection arrangements as follows -

- **Phase 1** – From January 2016, all kerbside properties on a managed weekly collection service will commence food waste collections through use of their existing brown bin.
- **Phase 2** – All flatted and high rise properties will have the service introduced on a phased basis from April 2016, to be fully rolled out by March 2017.

Both phases will require the distribution of caddies, bins, liners and promotional material. Additional vehicles and staff will be required to support Phase 2.

3. Food Waste Costs

The costs provided in the tables below have been developed from the pilot collection service that operated across the 3 property types (table 1.0).

3.1 Costs for Proposed Collection Service

The operation of the pilot and its associated costs have been reviewed to ensure the costs associated with introducing this new service are minimised where possible. The tables below show a summary of the revenue and capital costs for a phased roll out of the service. This would allow kerbside properties to receive the new service from 1 January 2016, with a programmed roll out for flatted properties starting in April 2016 and being completed no later than March 2017.

There are operational costs for the delivery of the services and capital costs for the supply of caddies and bins which are shown in the table below:

Table 1.0

Costs	2015/16 (3 months)	2016/17	2017/18
Operational costs including savings	£433,675	£4,756,217	£4,756,217
Capital costs for wheeled bins and caddies	£277,370	£535,934	£16,155

The costs detailed in the tables above do not include annual variations affected by Retail Price Index, changes in gate fees or landfill tax rates and may be subject to minor rounding variations.

4. Added Value of Food Waste Recycling

The introduction of the citywide food waste collection service supports the first stage of Glasgow's Waste Strategy. This specific initiative will provide the following benefits -

- The creation of 100 permanent jobs within LES;
- Provision of an additional recycling service to all residents citywide;
- The increase in the amount of waste recycled;
- Diversion of waste from landfill;
- Improvements to the City's recycling rate;
- Compliance with the Waste Scotland Regulations;
- Delivers a Social Return On Investment.

The Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a framework for measuring social, environmental and economic costs and benefits.

The framework states that a ratio of 3:1 benefits to costs applies, therefore, an investment of £1 delivers £3 of social value. The introduction of the food waste service provides additional jobs which will deliver an economic benefit.

5. Funding

Both capital and revenue funding is required to deliver the implementation of a food waste collection service to households in the city.

For the kerbside service, there are additional costs associated with the processing of co-mingled food and organic waste which have been included within the above budget estimate. Revenue costs are partially offset by revenue savings from diverting food waste from landfill. The level of savings achieved will depend on the participation of residents in various property types citywide to divert a sufficient quantity of food waste to produce landfill tax savings, as detailed above.

6. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:

The implementation of this service requires both capital and revenue funding as referred to in Section 3.1 of the main report.

Capital costs over 3 years are estimated at £829,459 for purchase of containers.

Revenue costs for 2015/16 are estimated at £433,675 and will be met from within the existing LES Budget. Funding for 2016/17 and future years is estimated at £4,756,217, which has been included in future financial planning assumptions.

Legal:

The Council is required to comply with the various statutory provisions of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 by introducing household food waste collections.

Personnel:

Recruitment of additional operational staff will be required. Facilitating the creation of circa 100 new jobs.

Procurement:

The procurement of caddies, bins, liners, vehicles to undertake the collections and the procurement of reprocessing capacity to take the collected food waste is required.

These will be procured through mini-competitions from Scotland Excel Framework.

Council Strategic Plan: Specify which theme(s) and outcome(s) the proposal supports

Economic Growth – the introduction of this service will provide employment opportunities within the City. The material collected will be processed locally creating and supporting economic development in the processing industry.

A Sustainable City – the introduction of this service will assist in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and increase the amount of material that is recycled. This will contribute to conserving resources and energy.

Equality Impacts:

EQIA carried out: Yes.

Outcome: No impact.

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental: This service will reduce the amount of material that is landfilled and increase the amount that is recycled.

Social: The service will be provided to every householder. In operating the service there will be employment opportunities.

Economic: The material collected will be processed locally creating and supporting local companies.

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that committee approves: –

- (a) the proposals to implement household food waste collections citywide;
and
- (b) the associated funding requirements.

**BRIAN DEVLIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LAND & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
13 August 2015**