
Report To: Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee

Date: 1/09/2009

**Report By: Corporate Director, Environment and
Community Protection**

**Report No:
ECP/ENV/AB09.22**

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Subject: Food Waste Trial and Proposed Future Delivery

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the food waste trial funded by the Scottish Government for one year and to advise of options for continuation of a food waste collection service.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In September 2008 Inverclyde Council launched the Food Waste Trial to 5,182 households within Inverclyde. Residents were issued sacks and caddies and given advice on the use of the system.
- 2.2 The food waste trial was extremely successful and subsequent validation from SWAG has shown a very high degree of customer satisfaction with the scheme. The total amount of food waste diverted of 400 Tonnes has added to the Council's recycling performance.
- 2.3 The cost of collection for food waste only is very high and it is not possible to continue this service at present levels of costs.
- 2.4 Options for an alternative system has been identified which would reduce the overall costs and similar systems are now in operation in Scotland. Detailed work is required to identify the costs of any proposed future service provision.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the contents of this report.
- 3.2 That it be remitted to the Corporate Director, Environment and Community Protection to advise participants of the termination of the trial scheme.
- 3.3 That a further report be brought to this Committee with detailed costs of any future service options for the collection of food waste.

Alan G Barnes
Head of Environmental Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish Government provided funding to a number of Local Authorities to introduce a trial food waste collection scheme for one year. Inverclyde Council put forward a bid which was successful and were subsequently awarded £252,000 to cover the cost of containers, employees, vehicles, and treatment costs.
- 4.2 The trial was issued to 5,182 households within Inverclyde across all housing types. Collections commenced 1st September 2008. Households were issued bio-degradable sacks, kitchen caddies, food containers and publicity material on how to utilise the system. The food waste containers were collected weekly and the levels of participation recorded.
- 4.3 The food waste trials were also backed up nationally by the Scottish Government's Love Food Hate Waste campaign, which included national newspaper adverts, billboards and radio and television adverts.
- 4.4 The total tonnage between September 2008 and August 2009 which has been diverted from landfill is 400 Tonnes. This is within the estimated tonnages for the scheme. Additionally the total quantities of waste collected were predicted to decline as households became more aware of the amounts of food waste they were generating.
- 4.5 A follow up survey carried out by SWAG identified that the food waste scheme was seen as a very worthwhile service and had a significant approval rating.
- 4.6 Data was collated through Remade Scotland and has come up with the following findings:
- Yields ranges from 1.46-2.35 kg per household per week
 - Set-out rates approximately 50%
 - Very little contamination

Inverclyde's scheme had the highest set out rate of similar schemes.

5.0 FOOD WASTE – FUTURE OPTIONS

- 5.1 While the scheme has been successful, the funding provided was for one year and this funding has not been extended. At current levels of spend, funding for the food waste trial will conclude in October 2009
- 5.2 We would require to inform those households which have taken part of the cessation of this service thanking them for their contribution. Funding is in place to allow this through the allocation received from the Scottish Government.
- 5.3 In terms of future service provision it is possible that the food waste could be collected as part of the Council's Brown Bin system along with garden waste. This would significantly reduce the operating cost for collections and allow the scheme to be rolled out to around 21,000 households. It is anticipated that this would generate around 1500 tonnes of food waste per annum and increase the Council's recycling percentage by 3%.
- 5.4 The revised scheme would be based on providing householders with a kitchen caddy, an initial supply of biodegradable bags along with a list of suppliers locally and publicity material on the scheme. The Brown Bin would continue to be collected on the same frequency as at present.
- 5.5 This system has been widely used and is similar to that operated by Perth and Kinross Falkirk and North Lanarkshire Councils. Indications are that the schemes have been widely accepted within these authorities and are well used. Indicative operating costs for these schemes are between £173/tonne and £201/tonne, compared with the food only collection scheme operated by Inverclyde Council at £377/tonne. Lower vehicle and staff

costs are generated for combined food and waste as a result of using existing rounds and crews.

5.6 Discussions have taken place with re-processors and a number of neighbouring authorities including Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute. Processors have indicated a gate fee of between £55 and £60 per tonne, subject to any future contract tender. It is unlikely that any reprocessing facilities will be available to the Council before 1st April 2010.

5.7 There will be some cost implications for transporting waste to the reprocessing facility and designating a secure area for depositing the material prior to collection for processing. This element is subject to SEPA licensing and PPC permitting. The storage facility requires to be bunded to avoid any spillage and ensure moisture retention.

5.8 Alternatively this material could be transported directly to the reprocessing facility and this would avoid contractor's transportation costs but would incur additional refuse collection costs. A one off storage option would be incurred for the storage facility at Pottery Street including the relevant licences under the Animal Bi-Product Regulations. These costs are estimated at around £60,000, with an annually recurring cost of £10,000 for PPC permitting.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Further detailed work requires to be undertaken to ensure that any cost of service provides value for money to the Council.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation for this report has been held with Finance Services.

7.2 Consultation has also been undertaken with Renfrewshire , East Renfrewshire , West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute Councils,

8.0 EQUALITIES STATEMENT

8.1 The contents of this report does not negatively impact on any equalities issues.

9.0 REFERENCES

9.1 <http://www.ciwm.co.uk/mediastore/FILES/17950.pdf>