

Portfolio Holder Decision

Report Title: Proposed Day and Time Changes to Kerbside Waste Collections

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Don Stockton – Portfolio Holder - Environment

Senior Officer: Frank Jordan- Executive Director-Place

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider a change to the day and time of kerbside recycling and waste collections in the Borough.
- 1.2 The proposal would see new routes and rotas adopted by Ansa Environmental Services Ltd for the recycling and waste kerbside collection services from summer 2019.
- 1.3 This will allow financial saving of £600,000 and ensure the authority is collecting recycling waste in the most cost effective manner using fewer vehicles over a longer working period.
- 1.4 The proposal would align the changes with the introduction of the authority's new food waste recycling service in 2019. Residents would receive a food recycling caddy and will also be advised of new collection times and days for recycling and waste. This collection may be an earlier or later collection time between 6.30am and 6.00pm and some may experience a Saturday collection.
- 1.5 The proposals would also see the end of the garden waste collection winter shut down period, as food and garden waste would be collected for recycling all year round in the garden waste bin.
- 1.6 The proposals relate to a £600,000 saving which is identified in the pre-budget report for the 19/20 budget.

2 Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder:

- 2.1 Approve the commencement of consultation on proposed changes to collection days and times for household waste collection.
- 2.2 Delegate authority to the Executive Director Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, to take account of the representations received during the consultation and to make the decision to implement the finalised proposals.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The proposal would deliver a more efficient method for organising bin collection routes and will enable changes to be aligned with the beginning of the Council's new food waste recycling service.
- 3.2 These proposals would deliver savings of £600,000 in a full year of operation.

4 Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The Council's Environmental Services company Ansa examined a number of options when considering the best means of aligning their route and rota patterns. These were:
- 4.2 Option 1 - Do nothing and maintain the existing routes and rotas. This is not possible as existing routes need to be changed for the introduction of food waste recycling and this would not produce the saving required.
- 4.3 Option 2 - Carry out an initial change in line with the Council's current medium term financial strategy time table in 2018-19 on existing hours and 5-day week to deliver partial savings. This is seen to carry high risk effectively meaning the job will need doing twice as it will need to be done again with the roll out of food waste recycling.
- 4.4 Option 3 - Carrying out route and rota changes aligned with food waste recycling launch but for a 5-day week. This would not deliver the required savings as it does not make best use of the collection vehicles.

5 Background

- 5.1 Ansa's waste and recycling service currently collects waste from approximately 172,000 households three times per fortnight and operates over an average of 5 days a week with the first collection from residential properties taking place from 7am.
- 5.2 Changes are required to our collection system to allow the addition of food waste recycling in the garden waste bin. This will require vehicles to be rerouted to new locations and collection rounds rebalanced to account for the move of food waste tonnage from residual rounds to be recycled on the garden waste rounds. The changes will also see the end of the garden waste collection shut down period over the winter as the authority moves to collect the garden waste bin all year round.
- 5.3 The traffic management assessment associated with our collection rounds will be refreshed to identify areas and times of heavy traffic such as school drop off and pick up times and this will be taken account of in designing the new collection rounds.

6 Implications of the Recommendations

6.1 Legal Implications

- 6.1.1 Consultation with residents will be required in relation to these proposals
- 6.1.2 ANSA will have to ensure that the new rotas and routes comply with the company's permits and other environmental restrictions placed upon Ansa
- 6.1.3 Ansa will also have to take legal and HR advice to ensure that all staff consultation and employment related matters are lawful.

6.2 Finance Implications

- 6.2.1 Project funding for rerouting and associated communications was identified within the Environmental Hub project. Estimates have been updated and the project remains deliverable within the budget provision allocated. The project funding is held in the "New Environmental Hub – Interim Depot" - Earmarked Reserve. The funding is held by Cheshire East Council and is outside of Ansa's operational management fee. Ansa will require approval from CEC to incur the expenditure in 2018-19.

6.2.2 The revenue savings associated with the project have been incorporated into the Council medium term financial strategy for 2019-20.

6.2.3 Any delay to project development and implementation will increase Council costs due to the need for additional vehicles, overtime and/or agency workers associated with operating route designs, which were based on the use of historic depots at Commercial Road, Macclesfield and Pym's Lane, Crewe.

6.3 Policy Implications

6.3.1 The recommendation is in line with the Council Waste Strategy objectives, which include the aspiration to eliminate landfill.

6.3.2 This would contribute to the Council's corporate plan through: Outcome 2: Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy and Outcome 4: Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place.

6.3.3 Improved vehicle utilisation would reduce Ansa's overall fleet size. This aligns with the Council's environmental and sustainability objectives and contributes to making Cheshire East a green and pleasant place to live.

6.3.4 Outcome 6: Ansa Environmental Services Limited, as a wholly owned company of Cheshire East Council, is a responsible effective and efficient organisation.

6.4 Equality Implications

6.4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out based on providing access to the service and assistance with bins where required and we will be undertaking a full EIA as part of the project development plan.

6.4.2 Impacts for residents are likely to be minimal and universal. Any visible change is likely to be limited to a change of collection day and time.

6.4.3 Proposed changes would be the subject of extensive consultation and employees will be invited to share any concerns, request reasonable adjustments and/or apply for flexible working arrangements in the usual way.

6.4.4 As mitigation, a Travel Plan is already in place for the site, which includes the promotion of the salary sacrifice car and cycle schemes, the car sharing policy and the provision of minibuses where there is sufficient demand.

6.5 Human Resources Implications

- 6.5.1 All Human Resources requirements, associated with the project, will be conducted by Ansa and any specialist resource required to support the revised working methods.
- 6.5.2 Trade Unions associated with Ansa have been briefed and briefing and formal consultation will take place.
- 6.5.3 Affected employees include those engaged in waste and recycling, which accounts for approximately 45% of Ansa's employees.
- 6.5.4 Ansa will work closely with employees as part of the consultation process to minimise any perceived negative impact and to optimise the positive impact from the changes.

6.6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.6.1 Ansa propose to mitigate any employee relations risks associated with changes to employee shift patterns, shift lengths, working days and employer selection of some or all of annual leave dates, through full engagement with affected employees and their representatives.
- 6.6.2 As part of the project funding, Ansa proposes to procure specialist resources to deliver, shift pattern software and associated workforce facilitation, to support its in-house services in making the changes and mitigate associated risks. Project implementation dates will be dependent on the time taken to procure through the Chest e-procurement portal and mobilise resources.
- 6.6.3 There may be negative publicity associated with change of residents' collection day or time or the proposed extension of the waste collection working week to include Saturdays.

6.7 Rural Communities Implications

- 6.7.1 Implications of this proposal will equally affect rural and non-rural communities.

6.8 Implications for Children & Young People

- 6.8.1 None anticipated.

6.9 Public Health Implications

- 6.9.1 None anticipated.

7 Ward Members Affected

7.1 All wards are affected.

8 Consultation & Engagement

8.1 A Communications Plan has been developed to support engagement with employees. This engagement will take place over a 6-month period.

8.2 Trade Unions have been made aware of the project and its potential implications for employees. Further Trade Union and employee engagement will take place throughout the project with a view to securing agreement and input into the proposed changes.

8.3 Residents will be made aware of waste collection service changes, where applicable, in line with the Communications Plan

9 Access to Information

9.1 For access to any further information contact the report author as listed below.

10 Contact Information

10.1 Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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