FOOD WASTE CADDY LINERS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To evaluate the option of using new and alternative cheaper plastic caddy liners for the food waste bins.

2. AREA FOR DECISION / ACTION

2.1 Procurement and use of Caddy Liners

2.1.1 In June when the new service commences residents will continue to receive a weekly collection of food waste but their refuse will go to a fortnightly collection. It is hoped that the fortnightly collection of residual waste will encourage residents to increase the use of their food waste caddies and divert leftover food from the main refuse waste stream - which goes to Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant in Basildon.

2.1.2 Currently an approximate 25% of residents participate in the food waste collection. Through the operation of the new alternate weekly collection service we wish to make a significant improvement upon the current level of participation. The current 25% participation yields 1225 tonnes of food waste which is composted at an Anaerobic Digestion plant in Halstead. In the Service Delivery Plan, which is a part of the Inter Authority Agreement that the Council signed up to in 2009, Maldon District Council (MDC) advised that we would be diverting 2800 tonnes of food waste. For committing to the weekly food waste collection service MDC receives an annual sum of £364,000 from Essex County Council (ECC).

2.1.3 The current scheme is underperforming by 1,575 tonnes. This could be due to the lack of provision of caddy liners for the kitchen food waste. In the past the Council has not heavily promoted the scheme and this could also be a factor in the current performance figures.

2.1.4 It is expected that 1500 – 2500 more tonnes of food waste per annum would be diverted as a consequence of going to alternate weekly collections however this is more likely to be guaranteed and would be more sustainable if caddy liners were supplied to residents. The cost of supplying 60 caddy liners to all properties for the year is £11,000.
2.1.5 In 2016 / 17 MDC will receive a payment of £10.21 for every additional tonne of food waste it diverts through the Avoided Disposal Payment from Essex County Council. Therefore an additional income of £15,315 to £25,525, which would easily cover the cost of caddy liners. The avoided disposal payment reduces in 2017 to £8.00 per tonne, a 2,000 increase in tonnage would yield an increased income of £16,000.

2.1.6 Additionally it costs (the council tax payer) £44.00 per tonne more to dispose of the food waste at the MBT plant than if it were taken to the compost facility in Halsted, the diversion of an additional 1500 tonnes of food waste would save the Council tax payer £66,000.

2.1.7 Officers recommend that this Council funds the procurement of caddy liners for the first year and then reviews performance and income from Essex County Council before deciding if to sustain the provision in future years.

3. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

3.1 The new waste Contract contributes to the corporate goal of ‘Delivering good quality, cost effective and valued services’ and ‘Protecting and shaping the district’

4. IMPLICATIONS

(i) **Impact on Customers** – The provision of caddy liners to residents for the year will result in increased participation in the diversion of food waste. This is likely to result in residents having higher levels of satisfaction with the new service as their food waste is removed weekly and their food waste containers are kept clean.

(ii) **Impact on Equalities** – As waste and recycling is collected from residents households, and special collections are arranged for assisted customers this service fulfils the councils equalities obligations.

(iii) **Impact on Risk** – The risk of not supplying the food waste caddies could be reduced levels of satisfaction with the new service by residents.

(iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – The increased tonnage of food waste which is diverted as a consequence of provision of caddy liners will result in an increased income which is likely to outweigh the cost of purchasing the bags for at least the first two years. The cost of delivering the caddy liners has already been included in the contract price.

(v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None identified within this report

(vi) **Impact on the Environment** – It is more environmentally beneficial to divert food waste for reprocessing via and Anaerobic digestion plant than through the Mechanical and Biological facility.
5. **CONCLUSIONS**

5.1 The provision of caddy liners will improve the currently low participation by residents in the recycling their food waste. This will ensure that food waste is taken away weekly as opposed to fortnightly in the black sack, it will also improve revenue to MDC from ECC and keep down costs to those that pay council tax in Essex.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

(i) that Members decide whether to fund the first year’s supply of food waste caddy liners to boost participation rates.

(ii) that subject to (i) above, Members recommend to the Finance and Corporate Services Committee that a sum of £11,000 be included within the 2016 / 17 estimate provisions.

**Background Papers:** None.

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