

16. SUSTAINABLE WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE – BROWN BIN OPTIONS

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising of the proposal to deliver the approved savings with regards to the collection and process for Garden Waste (Brown Bin) and Food Waste.

The report provided information on the current position with regard to tonnages, market rates for processing, options employed by other authorities and the timescales involved in implementing the proposal. The market risks and tonnage variations were also explained within the report to provide context on the ability to guarantee savings levels.

The report recalled that Council Executive on 6 February 2018 agreed that a proposal for charging for brown bin collections of £433,000 should be replaced by an alternative reduction measure which was subsequently agreed at the Council meeting on 13 February 2018. The agreed alternative measure was a reduction of £327,000 to be delivered by 1 April 2019, by co-mingling garden and food waste.

The Head of Operational Services explained that due to Brown Bin collections not being a statutory provision there was a potential to charge for its collection, however following a motion to Council Executive on 6 February 2018 officers were asked to consider alternative proposals for the co-mingling of garden waste and food waste into a single container.

The report provided a summary which showed financial, collection and staffing implications of the proposed collection service based upon the current market prices paid and the actual 2017 tonnage. Participation rates were based on available data from other Scottish Local Authorities adapted for the likely uptake within West Lothian. A “Do Nothing” option was also provided in the report for context.

The report informed the panel that in order to inform residents of the impending changes the service intended to follow the format of the engagement plan used successfully in previous roll out projects, for separate Food Waste collections and the 140 litre landfill bin.

The service changes would be communicated over a period of weeks initially in the local press, on the council’s website and in the Bulletin. This would be followed by a direct communication to each household, in partnership with information on social media.

Two weeks before the change in service, Recycling and Waste Services would hold information sessions for householders in each relevant area. The sessions would provide householders with an opportunity to talk to Recycling and Waste staff and address any concerns.

Following approval the service would commence to develop and design routes for the collection vehicles based on fortnightly co-mingled Garden and Food Collection

In conclusion the report advised that the modelled proposal for comingling Garden Food and Waste would enable the service to work towards the savings targets set. The tonnages received and market prices were external risks to the delivery of the savings. The service had no alternative solutions which would increase this saving without resorting to the previously discounted proposal and it was important that the panel were aware of this.

The report recommended that the Council Executive:-

1. Approve the proposal presented and the various impacts: financial, environmental, equality and staffing.
2. Note the market and tonnage risks associated with this savings proposal.
3. Note the “do nothing” pressure that existed for 2018/2019

#### Motion

To approve the terms of the report.

- Moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan.

#### Amendment

To delay implementation until the result of impact assessments and consultations with Trade Unions are known.

- Moved by Councillor Frank Anderson and seconded by Councillor Diane Calder.

A roll call vote was taken which resulted as follows:

#### Motion

Harry Cartmill

Tom Conn

David Dodds

Angela Doran

Lawrence Fitzpatrick

Peter Heggie

Chris Horne

Charles Kennedy

George Paul

#### Amendment

Frank Anderson

Diane Calder

Kirsteen Sullivan

Damian Timson

Decision

Following a roll call vote the motion was successful by 11 votes to 2 and it was agreed accordingly.