



**AGENDA ITEM: 10**  
**SUMMARY**

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> September 2014</b>
<b>PART:</b>	<b>1</b>
If Part II, reason:	

<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Waste Strategy</b>
Contact:	Cllr Julie Laws, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability  Author/Responsible Officer : David Austin, Assistant Director Neighbourhood Delivery
Purpose of report:	To seek approval for the 'TEEP' assessment of changes to the waste collection service in the Borough of Dacorum.
Recommendations	1. That Cabinet approve the 'TEEP' assessment as outlined in this report.
Corporate Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and Clean Environment</li> <li>• Dacorum Delivers</li> </ul>
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> No changes to the implications reported to Cabinet on 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2014.
'Value For Money Implications'	<u>Value for Money</u> As approved at Cabinet on 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2014, the new waste service configuration is the most cost effective option to remove cardboard from the organic waste stream.
Risk Implications	The risk implications relate to the risk of receiving a legal challenge that the changes to the waste service in Dacorum do not comply with the revised EU Waste Framework Directive.
Equalities Implications	As with the current service configuration, there will be criteria from which residents will be offered an assisted collection if they are unable to place their wheeled bins out for collection.
Health And Safety Implications	Given the inherent health and safety issues with the current box system (noise, manual handling), the introduction of a third

	wheeled bin will reduce risk in this area.
Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer Comments	<p><b>Monitoring Officer:</b></p> <p>No comments to add to the report.</p> <p><b>Deputy S.151 Officer</b></p> <p>There are no new budgetary implications arising directly from the recommendation in this report.</p>
Consultees:	Cllr Julie Laws, Craig Thorpe, Sheila Chauhan, Caroline Souto.
Background papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task and Finish Group Meetings</li> <li>• Report to Strategic Planning and Environment Committee 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014</li> <li>• Cabinet Report 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013.</li> <li>• Cabinet Report 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014</li> </ul>
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	TEEP – Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable.

## 1) Background

1.1 The new waste service configuration was approved at Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013. This means that from November 2014 the collection method for waste in the Borough of Dacorum for households will be :

- **Weekly collection of food waste (with new kitchen caddy).**
- **Fortnightly collection of fully co-mingled recycling (using a new ‘third’ wheeled bin).**
- **Fortnightly collection of ‘landfill’ waste (using existing grey wheeled bin).**
- **Fortnightly collection of garden waste from February until November (using existing green wheeled bin).**

1.2 For residents living in flats (as their service is mixed with commercial waste collections for efficiency reasons) a new service will be introduced in early 2015. This will allow officers to develop proposals for a new Commercial Waste recycling service.

## 2) The Context for Dacorum Borough Council

2.1 With regards context, before moving on to the Waste Framework Directive, it is important to set out again the drivers for the changes to the collection service in the Borough.

- 2.2 Dacorum Borough Council has operated an alternate weekly collection service for 10 years which has included a weekly collection of dry recyclables via a kerbside sort system which has delivered a recycling rate of 46%. The recycling rate has plateaued in recent years and in fact decreased last year. Alongside this, Dacorum along with the rest of the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership (HWP) was also experiencing significant problems with cardboard contamination at organic waste outlets which led, after much debate, to a strategic decision being made to remove cardboard from this collection stream.
- 2.3 In response, in early 2012, the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership embarked on a research project to analyse how best to remove cardboard from the organic waste stream. This led to a range of options being discussed and for Dacorum it was decided that it would be best to set up a Members Task and Finish Group so that a preferred way forward could be identified. The Group met seven times and was made up of five Councillors (including the Portfolio Holder), specialist officers and Duncan Jones, the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership Manager.
- 2.4 The findings of the Task and Finish Group were presented to the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SPAEC) on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Following this meeting it was agreed to employ a waste specialist to validate the findings of the Task and Finish Group and this was carried out by WYG consultants. The research outlined above led to the preferred option for the waste collection service being presented to Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 where it was approved in principle.
- 2.5 A follow up report, to update Cabinet on progress of the new service was subsequently presented to Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014. This report referred to the draft TEEP statement being developed by the HWP which was being designed at that time to provide guidance to HWP authorities with respect to future decision making in this area.

### **3) The EU Waste Framework Directive**

- 3.1 The EU Waste Framework Directive requires Member States to set up separate collections of waste paper, plastic, metal and glass from 2015, where necessary and practicable. These requirements were transposed by DEFRA into the Waste Regulations 2012. The Regulations were challenged by judicial review, but the High Court ruled in DEFRA's favour in 2013. This means that the requirements allow the co-mingled collection of recyclables after 2015 but it will up to local authorities to decide what is practicable.
- 3.2 With this in mind , it is important for Dacorum Borough Council to be able to demonstrate that the decision to implement a commingled collection service for mixed dry recyclables under the context of what the Authority considers to be 'technically, environmentally and economically practicable (TEEP)'.
- 3.3 At the time of Cabinet (February 2014) it was unclear whether DEFRA would issue further guidance on this matter but it was confirmed afterwards that they did not intend to bring forward any statutory guidance for Local Authorities.

- 3.4 This being the case, a 'Route Map' was developed to assist Local Authorities assess whether their collection arrangements meet the TEEP and quality requirements as set out in the revised Waste Framework Directive. The route map was developed by a range of Local Authority specialist groups including WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

#### **4) TEEP Assessment for Dacorum Borough Council**

- 4.1 Clearly the original work for the changes to the waste collection systems in Dacorum started in 2012 and at that time there was a lack of clarity over what would be acceptable with regards to compliance with the Waste Framework Directive. Since that time there has been a lot of research (as referred to in this report) into the best way forwards for waste collection in Dacorum.
- 4.2 Given the publication of the route map, officers decided to revisit this research against the principles of the route map and employed WYG Consultants to carry out this work. A copy of their report is included as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 4.3 There is a significant level of detail in WYG's report but in summary it confirms the evidence in relation to the context of research for Dacorum has resulted in the system being chosen because it is more technically practicable, environmental and economic than other systems. The principle reasoning for this is that a move to comingled collections is:
- Economically the most efficient option for removing cardboard from the organic waste stream.
  - Environmentally the best option based on evidence from the top performers in the UK who show that the convenience of comingled collection systems generate higher tonnages for recycling.
  - Environmentally, the use of Twin pack vehicles will decrease tipping frequency (reduced journeys) and allow the weekly collection of food waste (without the employment of further separate vehicles).
  - Technically the most suitable in that the wheeled bin system is safer and allows a wider range of recyclables to be effectively collected.
- 4.4 The other significant issue to consider is how we can demonstrate that the quality of recyclables will be the same as if collected separately. This is an area we have understandably given a lot of serious thought to and indeed have visited several MRFs (Material Recycling Facilities) to view their operation, the quality of recyclate they produce (together with their quality control procedures in line with the MRF Code of Practice) as part of understanding the context of the end markets they sell onto. Following on from these investigations, we have identified our preferred operator (Viridor) and have entered into an agreement with them. A key component of our decision was Viridor's ability to effectively segregate glass from the comingled mix and their commitment to continue to invest in technology that further increases the proportion of glass that can be recovered for remelting and reprocessing. A position statement on recyclate quality by Viridor is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

- 4.5 Given the above, it is recommended that the TEEP Assessment for Dacorum is approved by Cabinet and that a re-assessment at suitable point in time should be done as detailed in the route map.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix 1 – Waste Regulations Route Map (April 2014).**

**Appendix 2 – ‘TEEP’ Assessment Report by WYG Consultants**

**Appendix 3 – Position Statement on Recyclate Quality by Viridor.**