



Report for:	SPAE Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	12 September 2017
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Recycling for Flats
Contact:	Councillor Janice Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Sustainability Craig Thorpe, Group Manager, Environmental Services
Purpose of report:	1.To advise Members on Options for Flats Recycling
Recommendations	1.That a decision be taken on the options presented
Corporate objectives:	To provide a clean, safe and green environment
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> Significant additional spend
'Value For Money Implications'	<u>Value for Money</u>
Risk Implications	None as result of this report
Equalities Implications	N/A
Health and Safety Implications	None as a result of this report
Consultees:	Officers within Environmental Services

	Task and Finish Group
Background papers:	A presentation to be given on the evening
Historical background <i>(please give a brief background to this report to enable it to be considered in the right context).</i>	This report has been provided to give a brief history of Waste Services implementation of recycling facilities in the Borough up present time. The report will also present options to Members on inclusion of remaining flats who currently do not have the facility to recycling and the provision of a weekly food waste collection to all flats.
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	HWRC – Household Waste Recycling Centre HCC – Herts County Council MRF – Material Recycling Facility WS – Waste Services TF - Task and Finish)

Introduction

- 1.0** In 2003 Dacorum changed from a weekly black sack collection to an alternate weekly collection of residual waste from wheeled bins coupled with a weekly collection of separated recyclable materials in boxes. Garden waste, where before was chargeable in grey sacks, was introduced free of charge and collected in green bins which also included food waste. The service was rolled out to the whole of the Borough over a 2 year period so by 2005 approximately 55,000 residents received a kerbside collection by way of side loading vehicles
- 1.1** The remaining flat dwellers were required to transport their recyclable waste to one of 37 bring sites or the HCC run HWRC.
- 1.2** Prior to this introduction Dacorum's recycling rate was around 12%
- 1.3** Recycling waste collected was brought back to Cupid Green Depot where it was sorted into the relevant materials in the MRF, baled and sold to processors. Although this process was time consuming and labour intensive it generated significant income for the service.
- 2.0** In 2008 prices for “baled” materials fell and therefore it was no longer financially sustainable to continue to sort materials into the relevant waste streams. The three streams of glass were mixed, plastics and cans were mixed and paper continued to remain separated. As a consequence the MRF operation was changed from one of a “positive pick” to one that merely removed contaminants and the workforce was reduced accordingly.

- 3.0** In 2005/2006 WS commenced the surveying and installing of recycling frames at flats. This consisted of up to five domestic wheeled bins being placed side by side on paving slabs and held in place by a metal frame displaying relevant signage relating to the materials collected.
- 3.1** Between the period of 2008 to 2013 approximately 200 frames have been installed which service approximately 4000 properties. Due to pressure on revenue budgets and lack of suitable sites in other blocks of flats, no more frames have been installed and this has left approximately 3000 residents without a kerbside recycling collection.
- 3.2** The recycling rate at this stage was fluctuating around 48%
- 4.0** November 2014 saw the next major service change with the removal of the recycling box scheme and the introduction of the blue lidded bin for fully comingled dry recycling material collected on alternate weeks. Alongside this was the introduction of a weekly collection of separate food waste.
- 4.1** As a direct result of this change rounds and employee numbers were reduced and a contract was entered into with Viridor to sort the dry recycled material and, at this stage the MRF at Cupid Green became redundant. There were no redundancies as part of this staff reduction
- 4.2** The recycling rate at this point in time is over 51%
- 5.0** There has long been an expectation from flat dwellers that they would receive the same level of service as house dwellers. However it was felt in 2014 that flats needed to be tackled as a phase two to the main roll out due to the physical difficulties posed by the individuality of the block of flats.
- 5.1** Following the roll out of the new blue lidded service there was no capital funding agreed to implement recycling at flats.
- 6.0** In 2016 a Task and Finish (T and F) group formed consisting of members and Officers to assess all the options relating to implementing recycling at flats that are still without provision. The condensed options can be seen in the presentation.
- 7.0** The T & F Group considered all 3 options and were firmly of the view that option 1 (no change) is unacceptable, that ideally Option 3 should be implemented but recognised the difficulties and cost implications of doing this.
- 7.1** It was agreed to progress proposals which offered all remaining flats an alternate comingled recycling service where suitable. The Group also requested that proposals be developed to implement a food waste collection pilot scheme, the findings of which would be analysed to determine the way forward.
- 7.2** There are approximately 8000 flats in the Borough none of which currently receive a collection of food waste

8.0 Food Waste Trial

- 8.1** Initial thoughts are that it will be achievable to implement a 3 month trial in April 2018.
- 8.2** Officers have identified an area in Berkhamsted which contains 70 blocks of flats with a population of approximately 1400 properties which, due to its density, would be suitable to undertake the trial. This would equate to one days work per week for a vehicle, a driver and a loader.
- 8.3** All residents will be contacted to be advised of the scheme and before commencement will be issued with a 5 litre kitchen caddy, a roll of caddy liners and an information leaflet. Bin cupboards will be supplied with 140litre bins for storage of food waste as well as posters and signage.
- 8.4** During the trial the tonnage, the participation and the quality of the food waste collected will be monitored to provide data on which to decide on a further roll out.
- 8.5** Officers will report their findings in July 2018

8.6 Costs of the trial

120 x 140 litre bins @£21 each	= £2500
1680 caddys @£1.09	= £1831
Liners @£.18 pence each (2 per week)	=£540
Letters	=£590
Leaflets	=£250
Delivery	=£2000
Vehicle. £585 per week	= £6900
Staff 1 driver plus 1 loader 12 days	= £2400
Fuel	=£500
Total	= £17,511

9.0 Comingled roll out

- 9.1** Capital funding has already been approved at Cabinet to appoint 2 x Recycling Advisors for a 2 year period and to retain the provision of the existing Project Development Officer. At this point in time only one of the Recycling Advisors has been employed in readiness and is currently completing a project that will improve recycling facilities in schools.
- 9.2** Officers have already commenced surveying all flats to identify their requirements based on their individual needs. It is recommended that this project is rolled out over a two year period as each areas flats will require individual assessment and may need structural modifications to accommodate additional bins
- 9.3** There are significant time restraints of procurement of equipment. For example a suitable collection vehicle can take in the region of ten months to build from point of order and will need to go through a formal tendering process.

- 9.4** As the remaining 3000 or so flats are not in one geographical area their collections will be spread amongst the existing rounds. This will mean that their inclusion onto the scheme will mean a total review of the collections round through a route optimisation programme which may mean day changes and disruption for some. It is difficult to predict at this time the level of changes that will be required
- 9.5** Officers will also need to identify a point of contact such as a Warden or a recycling champion in each block of flats in order to help with identifying any issues and liaising with residents
- 9.6** A further project team will need to be set up involving colleagues from other departments such as Housing and communications.

End