

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Environment Committee**

**Textile Waste Contract**

**Report of:** Roy Ormsby Head of Street Scene

**Wards Affected:** All

**This report is:** Public

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 At the Environment Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 it was resolved that Officers should explore the possibility of introducing a kerbside textile collection service for our residents.
- 1.2 Discussions have now been held with Essex Textiles, who would provide the service free of charge for the Council, and provide £80 per tonne for the textiles collected. The Council would also be able to claim the recycling credit on the collected textiles, which is currently £60.69 per tonne.
- 1.3 In addition to the £80 per tonne, the company would also provide a delivery service for the sacks. The Council currently employ agency staff each year to deliver the orange sacks and food waste bags at a cost of circa £12,000, which will be saved if the scheme is introduced.
- 1.4 The predicted tonnage from the collection is based on that of similar sized Authorities, at 60 tonnes per annum. This could generate an income of £4,800, plus the recycling credit income of £3,641 if similar tonnages are achieved
- 1.5 Therefore the combined financial benefit from the saving and the predicted income will be circa £20,441 per annum.

**2. Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 Agree that the Council introduce a free textile waste collection service for the residents of the Borough.**

**2.2 That the Council will inform all charity shops of the collection scheme to be introduced and seek their reviews before the final implication of the scheme.**

**3. Introduction and Background**

- 3.1 On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 the Environment Committee resolved that Officers should explore the opportunity to provide a free textile collection service for the residents of the Borough.
- 3.2 Officers have had discussions with Essex Textiles, and it has been identified that there would be a financial benefit to the Council of approximately £20,441.
- 3.3 The Company would pay the Council £80 per tonne for the textiles; we would also be able to collect an additional £60.69 per tonne from recycling credits.
- 3.4 The Company would also provide a bag delivery service at the start of each financial year to deliver the orange sacks ,green waste sacks, food waste sacks, textile sacks and calendar, which currently costs the Council circa £12,000 for additional staff, vehicles and fuel.
- 3.5 Essex Textiles operate in a number of other Authorities in the area, including Castle Point and Rochford, who are both pleased with the service provided.

**4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 4.1 The key issue that Members will need to consider is the potential impact on local charities, as this could be in direct competition with them. However, the service is optional and residents that previously donated textiles to specific local charities of their own choice are expected to continue to do so.
- 4.1 Consideration should also be given to the reduction in landfill waste from textiles, as many residents will put textiles in their residual waste rather than take the time to donate to a charity shop. Therefore providing the service could be seen as a more environmentally friendly option for residents.

## **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 The service will generate an income and savings for the Council, and provide an alternative option for disposing of textile waste for our residents.

## **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 Discussions have been held with Rochford Council, who have had this scheme for over four years. These discussions revealed that there had been no adverse impact on the charities within the area.

## **7. References to Corporate Plan**

- 7.1 This initiative is a key driver for the Council to review all services with a view to opportunities for commercial ventures. The development of a free textile waste service is in line with this approach.

## **8. Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

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- 8.1 The on-going saving of some £20,441 per annum will reduce the overall budget costs within the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

### **Legal Implications**

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- 8.2 None directly arising from this report though due process will need of course to be followed and evidenced in the event of a decision to put the matter out to contract

**Other Implications** (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

- 8.3 None

- 9. Background Papers** (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

9.1 None

**10. Appendices to this report**

None

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