

12th November 2014

Environment Committee

Textile Collection

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 16th September 2014 it was resolved that the Council will inform all charity shops of the collection scheme to be introduced, and seek their views before the final implementation of the scheme.

1.2 Officers have now visited the following shops, and their feedback is noted in Appendix A of the report:

- Saint Francis Hospice
- Cancer Research
- Sue Ryder
- British Heart Foundation
- Save the Children
- Barnardo's

1.3 It was evident from the discussions with the charity shops that they are opposed to the introduction of a free collection by the Council. However, they provided no evidence that this has impacted their shops in other areas of the Country, where Council's currently provide a household collection.

1.4 Other Essex Council's were also contacted, which included; Uttlesford, Castle Point and Rochford, all of whom have run a service for a number of years through Essex Textiles with no adverse impact on charity shops. Both Southend and Colchester also provide a service, either through their contractor or through a single charity.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 Agree that the Council introduces a monthly Kerbside collection service through Essex Textiles for a trial period of 12 months.

2.2 Agree that Officers work with local charity shops to enhance income through recycling credits.

2.3 Agree that the results of the trial are reported back to the Environment Committee in order to approve the long term strategy for textile recycling.

3. Introduction and Background

3.1 At the Environment Committee on 16th September 2014 it was resolved that the Council will inform all charity shops of the collection scheme to be introduced, and seek their views before the final implementation of the scheme.

3.2 Officer's have now visited a number of shops on the High Street and sought the views of the Managers, who were negative towards a kerbside collection scheme being introduced by the Council.

3.3 However, the shops provided no tangible evidence that the service would impact on their charity, but it was their perception that it may have an adverse impact on income, as local people would not make the effort to bring their textiles to the shops.

3.4 There is anecdotal evidence from other Council's that provide a Kerbside service, that it has no impact on local charity shops, and that working with the shops can enhance their income through recycling credits. This is outlined in page 54-55 of this agenda. There is also evidence from waste analysis surveys carried out by the Essex County Council that approximately 400 tonnes of textiles are sent to landfill each year through residual waste collected at the kerbside.

3.5 The Council currently have 6 Bring Sites for textiles, which average 28 tonne per annum. The British Heart Foundation also provides textile sites, and collects an average of 37 tonne per annum. They also enhance their income as they provide weighbridge tickets to the Council, and have a share of the recycling credit, which is currently £60.69 per tonne.

- 3.6 The impact of introducing a kerbside local collection on charity shops is unknown, but evidence from other Authorities suggests that there is no impact.
- 3.7 There is however, an opportunity to work with the charity shops to enhance their income by providing weighbridge tickets which can then be used to claim recycling credits, and go towards the Borough's recycling rate. Officers will have further discussions with the charity shops and identify more opportunities for recycling, and monitor any impact the Kerbside collection may have.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 This scheme would provide an enhanced service for our residents, and an opportunity to work with charity shops to enhance their income through recycling credits.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To provide an enhanced service for our residents, and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The results of the consultation are contained in Appendix A of the report.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 Partnership working is a key part of the Corporate Plan, as is increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Jo-Anne Ireland, Acting Chief Executive

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- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications at this stage – but these will be fully evaluated as part of the options appraisal process.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Christopher Potter, Monitoring Officer and Head of Support Services

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8.2 None.

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

Appendix A - Consultation with local charity shops.

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