

Agenda Item No. 4(b)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

19 September 2018

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**BLACK BAG SPLITTING TRIAL AT WATERSWALLOWS HOUSEHOLD
WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE**

(1) **Purpose of Report** Working in conjunction with the Council's contractor SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK (SUEZ), the Waste Management Service proposes to reduce residual waste to landfill by trialling the splitting and sorting of bags of household waste received at Waterswallows Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) from residents.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The HWRC in Buxton is operated by SUEZ on behalf of the County Council. The site is licenced to receive household waste generated by members of the public and aims to re-use and recycle as much waste as possible. The public are advised to separate waste into different recyclable materials before arriving on site, however, frequently bags contain mixed waste types and are subsequently deposited as non-recyclable waste and sent for final disposal. Typically, there is a significant amount of recyclable material mixed with non-recyclable waste within the bags that could be recycled.

In seeking to tackle this issue, SUEZ proposes to carry out a three month 'bag splitting' trial. This will require some minor modifications to infrastructure on site, notably the erection of a small canopy and sorting bench for staff to receive the waste from customers and sort it. Staff will sort through the waste, extracting recyclable materials and bulk it up in wheelie bins for recycling. Any non-recyclable waste will be disposed of via the usual methods/outlets.

Once a wheelie bin is full of recyclable material, it will be weighed before being decanted into larger bulk containers. This will allow careful measurement of the quantities of material recycled and diverted from landfill or incineration. Using this data, disposal savings can be calculated.

Additional information on the proposed trial is outlined below:

1. The trial requires some modest infrastructure and equipment, notably the installation of a canopy and heavy duty sorting bench, floor level weighing scales, wheelie bins and cut resistant gloves.
2. Agency staff will be employed to sort the waste. The staff will be dedicated to the trial and will not be involved in other aspects of the site's operation.
3. The canopy will be located in front of one of the three hatches/apertures of the transfer station building that the public currently use to deposit non-recyclable waste through.
4. Two site operatives will receive bags of waste from the public, take them to the sorting bench and sort the waste into recyclable and non-recyclable waste types.
5. If a member of the public requests staff not to split and sort bags (e.g. personal or sensitive items) staff will adhere to this.
6. The agency staff employed for the project will be in addition to existing staffing levels. This will ensure the customer service to the public will not be reduced.

SUEZ has agreed to fund all costs associated with the trial, however, should the trial be successful, and the Council and SUEZ agree to implement the initiative beyond the initial three month period, the Council would be required to contribute towards the project. Any such proposals would be the subject of a separate report at the appropriate time.

Subject to approval, the Waste Management Service proposes to review the effectiveness of the trial by an evaluation of the following performance indicators:

- quantities of recyclable material;
- staff feedback;
- customer feedback;
- recycling percentages; and
- savings in waste disposal costs.

(3) **Financial Considerations** SUEZ has agreed to fund the bag splitting trial for a three month period and there are no cost implications for the Council. Should the trial be successful and provide cost savings, the Waste Management Service will consider the longer term merits of continuing the initiative. As outlined above, this will be the subject of a future report.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity,

environmental, health, human resources, property, social value and transport considerations.

(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details - Ruth Robinson, extension 39799.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member approves a three month bag splitting trial at Waterswallows Household Waste Recycling Centre, as detailed in the report, to enable maximisation of recyclables and reduce waste disposal.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment