

CABINET

Referral to Cabinet – Food waste 7th October 2008

Report of Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To request Cabinet to consider the referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a result in of the Call-in of Cabinet's decision with regard to Food Waste – Minute 47.				
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Overview & Scrutiny
Date Included in Forward Plan				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This report is public				

RECOMMENDATIONS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- (1) That Cabinet should reconsider its decision to adopt Options 1 and 2 in the light of lack of detailed information from County Waste Management, and that they should look again at the most cost effective and efficient schemes including option 3 and other schemes not yet discussed, for example home composting and using green bins instead of the caddy. Before proceeding with any system it is vital that a rigorous cost benefit analysis be undertaken.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Chief Executive agreed to a request by Councillors Histed, Plumb, Roe, Fishwick and Williamson to Call-in the decision made by Cabinet at its meeting on 2nd September 2008 with regard to Implications of the Lancashire Municipal Waste Strategy and PFI Funded Waste Disposal Arrangements – Food Waste – Minute 47.

At the Call-in held on 23rd September 2008 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made a recommendation which has been referred to Cabinet for consideration.

2.0 Details

- 2.1 The recommendation agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is detailed below:

That Cabinet should reconsider its decision to adopt Options 1 and 2 in the light of lack of detailed information from County Waste Management, and that they should

look again at the most cost effective and efficient schemes including option 3 and other schemes not yet discussed, for example home composting and using green bins instead of the caddy. Before proceeding with any system it is vital that a rigorous cost benefit analysis be undertaken.

3.0 Officer Comments with regard to the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

In preparing the original report to Cabinet officers considered a wide range of supplementary information which was then distilled into a decision making report for Cabinet. The detailed financial information referred to has been fully considered and taken into account when putting options to members. Detailed information on the financial impact to Lancaster City Council was provided in the original report and included information on the level of cost sharing provided by the County Council. The only relevant financial information required from the County Council was an estimate of the cost of landfill and the likely income from compost which was then factored into a cost benefit analysis and fed into the options.

In developing options for Cabinet to consider Officers looked at many different ways of dealing with food waste. The three options put forward were the ones that Officers considered would be the ones that would be fit for purpose. With any of the three options it is recognised that the need to reduce waste is the priority. These options are designed to supplement initiatives like home composting rather than replace them. It is envisioned that through the Lancashire Waste Partnership work to promote and educate householders on waste minimisation will continue.

Cabinet did not request a cost benefit analysis of the options but a supplementary document has now been attached to outline this process (see appendix 1).

4.0 Options

1. Reaffirm the decision of Cabinet of 2nd September 2008.
The original report to Cabinet on Implications of the Lancashire Municipal Waste Strategy and PFI Funded Waste Disposal Arrangements and the relevant minute are attached to this report.
2. Accept the recommendations either wholly or in part made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the Call-in on 23rd September and make resolutions in line with those recommendations.
3. Take a different decision, although if the decision is not in accordance with option 1 and 2 above it is subject to call-in.

The cost benefit analysis together with the original report to Cabinet and relevant Cabinet minute is attached.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Council's Corporate Plan 2008/09, Priority Outcome No. 6 is to 'Reduce waste in the District by recycling and reuse.'

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural

Proofing)

The Council's collecting of both food waste for composting and separated trade waste for recycling will contribute towards sustainability.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The implications of the original Cabinet report are set out in the appendices attached.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

An early decision was sought from Members, to allow early planning for any food waste recycling operation and for the financial implications to be factored into the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). This was so that Members could have a more up to date view of future years' budget and Council Tax projections. It is recognised that taking an early decision on food waste does not allow the issue to be considered alongside other competing priorities and demands (as happens during the main budget process), though the Council already has a commitment to take action on food waste through the Lancashire Waste Strategy.

Further to the call-in, there is still the need to resolve the way forward, to help with operational and financial planning. If one clear option is not chosen, therefore, it will still need to be resolved during the 2009/10 budget process and depending on timing, there could well be other operational and financial issues arising as a result.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from the report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact Officer: Liz Bateson
Telephone: 01524 582047
E-mail: ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk
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