



Report to the Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee

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| Title: | Bulky Waste Strategy & Re-use and Recycling Credit Policy Update |
| Committee date: | 14 th October 2014 |
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| Report signed off by Cabinet Member: | Cllr Lesley Clarke OBE |
| Electoral divisions affected: | All |

Purpose of Agenda Item

At the request of Cllr Lesley Clarke OBE, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, the purpose of this item being brought to the Select Committee is:

- to present the Committee with information on the Bulky Waste Strategy & Re-use and Recycling Credit Policy project;
- to provide the Committee with an opportunity to review and comment on the options presented; and
- to seek approval for the approach being taken.

Background

1. This project is about identifying the most suitable and practical option for the efficient and effective delivery of bulky waste services in Buckinghamshire. Currently being developed is:
 - A sustainable Bulky Waste Strategy for the Council in collaboration with the District Councils that will seek for optimum and effective utilisation of inherent skills, knowledge, infrastructure and capability of all stakeholders including capable third sector organisations; and
 - A defined policy regarding Re-use and Recycling Credits for maximising re-use and recycling of bulky waste.
2. The two main project drivers are:
 - A review of the existing (and subsequently revised) Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Buckinghamshire identified re-use as a priority area. Bulky waste has been identified as a priority waste stream to target for re-use.
 - The new Energy from Waste (EfW) facility at Greatmoor will provide the Council with a cost effective and performance efficient route for the treatment of residual waste that is currently landfilled. It will not however, treat bulky waste in its original form without some form of pre-treatment. Therefore under the EfW era, bulky waste is to be managed as ad hoc waste under the contract and will incur higher costs for its management compared to standard residual waste (i.e. black bag waste).
3. The two main sources of bulky waste arisings in the municipal solid waste stream are from: direct collection from households by Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs), typically 1/3 of all bulky waste arisings; and acceptance at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), typically 2/3 of total bulky waste arisings.
4. In recent years there has been significant progress at the HWRCs. In 2013/14, approximately 1,250 tonnes waste items destined for landfill were re-used, of which about 220 tonnes were from bulky waste (i.e. large domestic appliances, furniture, mattresses and bicycles). The HWRC service supplier, FCC, is constantly exploring ways to maximise the quantities of waste re-used.
5. Currently there is no segregation of re-usable or recyclable bulky waste collected by WCAs in Buckinghamshire, and therefore all bulky waste (with the exception of bulky Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment [WEEE]) is landfilled. Reliable tonnage for direct collection from households by WCAs (typically 1/3 of all bulky waste arisings) is not available, as the reported tonnage can include fly-tipped waste and/or street cleansing. This is due to the collection fleets utilising resources and costs effectively. A study by WRAP a few years ago estimated that approximately 150 tonnes of bulky waste collected by the WCAs in Buckinghamshire could be potentially diverted for re-use. Some of the key constraints mentioned by the WCAs to divert bulky waste for re-use are:

- Inability to pick up bulky waste directly from homes instead of from kerbside (due to H&S and potential liability claims);
 - Lack of storage facilities (to assist separation of re-usable bulky waste post-collection);
 - Contractual service arrangements; and
 - Potential loss of income for some WCAs.
6. There are several third sector organisations (TSOs), furniture re-use organisations (FROs) and charities operating within Buckinghamshire who may be able to partner with the Council and WCAs to divert bulky waste for re-use and recycling. A successful example is the partnering arrangement between FCC (the HWRC service provider) and South Bucks Hospice (SBH) that has resulted in the re-use of 1,250 tonnes of waste received at HWRCs in 2013/14.
 7. There has been engagement with key stakeholders since the start of this project in April 2014. Key stakeholders are:
 - BCC (Place Services, Localities & Safer Communities, Finance, Legal and Members);
 - All four WCAs (and their collection contractors, where applicable);
 - FCC (the Council's HWRC and residual waste management services provider); and
 - the Re-Use Forum – made up of representatives from BCC, WCAs and their collection contractors, FCC and charities, FROs and TSOs (with interest in re-use in Buckinghamshire).
 8. In August and September 2014, SLR (BCC's consultants for this project) provided the BCC project team with the first and second draft project document outputs. The draft versions of the Strategy were subsequently shared with stakeholders. At the time of writing this report, comments are being sought from all stakeholders regarding the second draft version.
 9. On the 30th September 2014, the latest reports and positions for the Strategy and Policy were discussed at a Re-use Forum meeting. The meeting was facilitated by SLR Consulting to ensure all views were captured.
 10. Following consideration of all the comments received, including discussion at the Joint Waste Committee meeting on 9th October 2014 and at BCC's Environment, Transport and Locality Services Select Committee meeting on 14th October 2014, the Bulky Waste Strategy & Re-use and Recycling Credit Policy will be finalised. The final stage for this project is currently planned for November 2014, when the adoption of both the Bulky Waste Strategy and a Re-use & Recycling Credit Policy will be a decision made by Cllr Lesley Clarke OBE, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment. The appropriate method of choosing a partner(s) will be part of the decision process made by Cllr Clarke OBE at this time. Following Cllr Clarke's decision a new project will be established in order to implement both the Strategy and Policy.

Discussion

11. At the time of writing this report version two of the draft project documents exist but by the time the Select Committee meet there will have been further versions created as a result of the consultations described in paragraphs 8 to 10.
12. A verbal update will be presented to the Members of the Select Committee on the 14th October 2014, giving the up-to-date position on the Strategy and Policy development, and seeking comments from the Committee.
13. To help aid this discussion two diagrams accompany this report, which will help inform the final the Bulky Waste Strategy for Buckinghamshire. Appendix 1 is an options model, presented by WRAP to partner authorities' officers at a Buckinghamshire specific bulky waste training day in spring 2013. This was the base from which the options for this project were drawn from. Appendix 2 is a summary of the Buckinghamshire specific options considered, which has been developed by SLR during this project and highlights the current preferred options.
14. The development of a new BCC policy regarding Re-use and Recycling Credits is the second element of this project. The policy is being designed with the purpose of maximising re-use and recycling of bulky waste. At the time of writing this report it does not appear it is financially viable for an actual credit to be offered, but options of support through other incentives are being explored.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – WRAP Bulky collections options model, 2013.

Appendix 2 – a) Options considered for the provision of bulky waste collection services, and b) Options considered for the re-use of bulky waste accepted at HWRCs.