

SUBJECT:	Provision of Caddy Liners to Flats
REPORT OF:	Officer Management Team - Director of Services Prepared by - Head of Environment

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the recommended future provision of caddy liners to flats.

2. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- 2.1 This matter is related to the following local and national policy objectives:

- South Bucks Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Plan Key Theme - Sustainable Environment - protecting our heritage, protecting our future.
- Council priority to continue to improve the street scene and cleanliness of the district as a key public services coordinator
- The current Joint Waste Management Strategy for Bucks policies, including “securing a long-term strategy for the management of wastes for which the member authorities are collectively responsible”.
- The Council’s recycling/composting target of 60% by 2025 as part of the Joint Waste Management Strategy for Bucks. The national target of 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020. There are no longer District specific targets.

3. Background

- 3.1 The improved waste and recycling collection for households started in February 2014, this included a weekly food waste collection from 23L food waste caddies and residents were also issued with a 5L kitchen caddy and starter roll of liners. Once the initial supply of liners has been used residents can choose to purchase their own thereafter or choose to not line their caddies at all.
- 3.2 Approximately 3000 flatted properties across at least 200 sites initially remained on either a weekly black sack or weekly bulk collection due to being unsuitable for the standard food waste collection service. Since June 2014 these sites have undergone a service review and the Council is currently rolling out communal weekly food waste collections to bring these sites in line with households in the district.
- 3.3 Flats food waste collections include the provision of a communal 140L wheelie bin per c.20 apartments, that is located in the bin storage area alongside refuse/recycling bins. Approximately 730 flatted properties across 40 sites are now receiving food waste collections. Residents have been provided with 5L kitchen caddies and an initial supply of liners in keeping with the household service.
- 3.4 As providing recycling services, particularly food waste collections, to residents living in flats is fundamentally different to residents living in houses, it was agreed (Environment PAG 14th June 2014) that the issue of liner provision was to be re-visited by this PAG at a later date.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 Food waste collections from flats are much more complex than from households. Research and experience from other Local Authorities (WRAP: Recycling Collections for Flats - Food Waste Collections) shows lower participation rates in flats due to the additional effort that is required by residents. Key to maximising participation is to pay particular attention to container/liner provision and bin security/cleansing.
- 4.2 Residents in flats can be given the same options as households i.e. to purchase their own liners or to not line their caddies, however the above research and experience has shown that much higher participation and volumes of food waste can be expected if liners are provided. This is because residents can use them to transport food waste to the collection point on their way out instead of having to return the kitchen caddy back to their property.
- 4.3 Analysis of existing communal food waste collections has shown that participation in food waste schemes is higher when residents can easily and hygienically deposit their food waste and when smells and odours are kept to a minimum. The provision of liners also helps to prevent food waste sticking to the communal bin thereby reducing the need for cleaning. Where liners are not provided experience of other Councils (WRAP) has shown a bi-annual cleaning schedule is effective, if the Council chooses not to provide a cleansing service then there could be an increase in complaints and reduction in participation.
- 4.4 An additional benefit of providing liners to flatted properties is the reduction of contamination, particularly from plastic bags and newspaper. Contamination in communal bins is much more difficult to deal with effectively because it is impossible to identify which property is responsible. It also means that more than one properties food waste will end up being sent to landfill due to the contamination which can be demoralising for residents who are using the system correctly.
- 4.5 Continued provision of liners to residents would invariably burden the Council with on-going costs of between £8,000 and £14,280 per year. This cost will increase as more flatted developments are built and if sites currently on the standard service are moved over to communal collections. There is also the cost of delivering liners to residents although this can be minimised by delivering on request or providing collection points such as Council/Parish Council offices, libraries and Property Managers rather than undertaking regular blanket deliveries.
- 4.6 The other disadvantage of providing liners to flats is that residents living in houses may see this as an unfair system and hence complain as they are required to purchase additional liners if they wish to use them.
- 4.7 Table 2, below summarises the advantages and disadvantages of the continued provision of liners.

Table 2. Advantages and Disadvantage of caddy liner provision to flats.

Advantages of liner provision	Disadvantages of liner provision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier for residents • Increased participation • Increased tonnage i.e. increased recycling rate • Reduced contamination • Reduced complaints re. cleanliness • Reduces need for bin cleansing schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of liners • Cost of delivery/distribution • Perception from residents living in houses

- 4.8 If the Council chooses not to provide any further liners to flatted properties this will obviously reduce the financial burden on the council. Some property managers have

indicated the possibility of purchasing a supply of liners directly for their residents use, to be kept on site.

- 4.9 Taking this into account Officers recommend the following course of action.
- Flats are not automatically provided with a further supply of liners
 - Property Managers are encouraged to purchase a supply to be made available to their residents. They can be given contact details to purchase direct from the supplier which will significantly reduce costs for residents compared to buying from supermarkets etc.
 - A small stock of liners is kept available to use in extenuating circumstances i.e. in very poorly performing sites where a re-launch of the service is required. And also for Reception to sell, this can be replenished as and when necessary using existing budgets.
 - From time to time the Waste Team may need to promote communal food waste collections, for example in low performing areas, in which case liners may be provided as an incentive but the budget for this can be built into the specific project (for example one pallet costs £2,284.80).

5. Resource and Wider Policy Implications

- 5.1 Continued and automatic provision of liners would result in an ongoing cost of at least £8,000 per year that is not currently budgeted for, plus delivery costs (although these could be minimised by encouraging storage and collection from local community venues, suggested previously).
- 5.2 To reduce the potential costs the Council would retain a small stock of liners and further specific campaigns can potentially be met from existing budgets.
- 5.3 Potential risks are as follows;
- Participation and capture are likely to decrease if liners are not supplied (WRAP). This will impact on the amount of waste going for disposal and associated disposal costs albeit marginally.
 - There is likely to be a need for regular communication campaigns in order to promote the benefits of food waste recycling, however these can potentially be targeted and planned using existing budgets.

6. Recommendation

Members are asked to note the content of this report and advise the Portfolio Holder as to whether to recommend to Cabinet the proposed course of action as detailed in section 4.9.

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Background Papers:	Previous Reports on this matter. Flats Service Review Report June 14 PAG