Body:	**Cabinet**
Date:	**13 December 2017**
Subject:	**Options for the recycling service for Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) Part 1**
Report of:	**Ian Fitzpatrick, Director of Service Delivery**
Cabinet member:	**Portfolio Holder for Place Services, Councillor Dow**
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of the report:	**Reconfiguration of Eastbourne's recycling service**
Decision type:	Key decision
Recommendation:	Cabinet is recommended to 1. Agree in principle to move to a fully co-mingled recycling collection system for dry mixed recycling from June 2019, subject to best value considerations 2. Delegate authority to the Director of Service Delivery, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place Services, to develop and progress recycling disposal arrangements, either through a contract arrangement or through the Waste Disposal Authority.
Reasons for recommendations:	• Timely consideration is required regarding the future shape of the service, in order that arrangements can be made to secure a disposal route for dry mixed recycling
Contact:	**Jane Goodall** Strategy and Partnership Lead, Quality Environment Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough Councils T: 01323 415383 E: jane.goodall@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Cabinet 12 July 2017 made the decision to bring waste and recycling services in-house from June 2019, following a mutual exit agreed with Kier Services to terminate the current contract.

1.2 A key area of work in this programme is to reconfigure Eastbourne's recycling service in preparation for the changing circumstances, ensuring it will be fit for purpose in the new context, post June 2019.

1.3 Although not involved in a future East Sussex Joint Waste Partnership (ESJWP) contract for waste collections, EBC seeks to work with the other LAs in East Sussex where it continues to be advantageous.

1.4 EBC and LDC are likely to seek joint disposal arrangements for dry mixed recycling from June 2019, combining tonnages with Hastings Rother and Wealden. In order to dispose together, a pre-requisite is a consistent collection method.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 An in principle decision to move to a fully co-mingled recycling collection service from June 2019 and seek joint and timely disposal arrangements with the other local authorities in East Sussex, as appropriate.

3.0 Background – service change proposals

3.1 It is important to note that this in principle decision (in 2.1), if approved, does not mean the council will proceed to a fully co-mingled collection if the existing method of separating glass proves to be more cost effective for the council. However, indications from the Ricardo and Local Partnerships' appraisals for ESJWP (included Eastbourne BC) are that the best option for all parties in the partnership is fully co-mingled recycling (including glass) as a key part of redesigned services post June 2019.

3.2 All the other Waste Collection Authorities (Hastings, Lewes, Rother and Wealden) have now made the decision to collect fully co-mingled recycling – including glass – from the kerbside. Fully co-mingled recycling will bring Eastbourne in line with the other districts and boroughs in East Sussex.

3.3 The remainder of the Joint Waste Partnership made the decision on 10 November 2017 to adopt fully co-mingled recycling collections for their future contract (no longer separating glass) and crucially decided to let the contract for collections separately from future recycling disposal arrangements. This is important for Eastbourne Borough Council and Lewes District Council as it means the five districts and boroughs in East Sussex can combine recycling tonnages to go out to the market together or deliver material through the integrated waste management contract with ESCC as Waste Disposal Authority.

3.4 Due to technological advances in recent years, modern Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs) are able to take fully co-mingled material, including glass, because they use highly technical sorting processes to produce excellent outputs. The onus is on the MRF to produce quality recyclate in order to benefit from the onward sale of the sorted material.

3.5 The national recycling charity, WRAP, endorses the kerbside collection of co-mingled material and supported the recent Ricardo options appraisal for the Joint Waste Partnership.

3.6 Co-mingling of recycling is now undertaken by the majority of councils (53% co-

mingled and 34% two stream, WRAP 2016/17)

http://laportal.wrap.org.uk/Statistics.aspx.

3.7 Fully co-mingled recycling collection is a simpler method for residents (all dry mixed material in one wheelie bin) and brings benefits to the collection crews in the reduction of manual handling injuries, no longer having to lift the separate box for glass.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 Recycling collections will continue to be fortnightly – this does not constitute a material change to the service, other than by simplifying it.

5.0 Corporate plan and council polices

5.1 Waste, recycling and street and beach cleaning services play a vital role in maintaining a quality environment within the town.

5.2 Key objectives are to reduce waste, increase recycling and maintain street cleanliness while delivering an efficient and cost effective service.

6.0 Business case and alternative option(s) considered

6.1 The Ricardo report for the Joint Waste Partnership (including Eastbourne) contains a full appraisal of different recycling collection options (see background paper). The benefits of fully co-mingled recycling collection derive predominantly from the diversion of greater quantities of dry recyclate from the residual waste stream owing to increased ease of use for participating householders.

6.2 In addition the co-mingled option ranks well in relation to value for money in terms of the fleet and single wheeled bin containers reduce the risks for operatives in manual handling.

7.0 Outcome expected and performance management

7.1 Simpler collection of dry mixed recycling is anticipated to encourage more residents to participate in the scheme.

7.2 The simpler collection method brings benefits in terms of health and safety of the collection crew, reducing manual handling injuries.

7.3 With all the Waste Collection Authorities collecting dry mixed recycling in a consistent way, a joint disposal route can be explored which is likely to be more cost effective than EBC making unilateral arrangements.

8.0 Financial appraisal

8.1 East Sussex CC, the Waste Disposal Authority, is the responsible body for the disposal of recycling materials. As such, disposal arrangements will be developed with ESCC and neighbouring authorities with the intention of

achieving best overall value for the East Sussex taxpayer, as well as best value for the taxpayers of EBC, in accordance with the council's fiduciary duty.

8.2 If necessary, EBC will explore the costs of glass collected separately from the rest of the dry mixed recycling, should that be a more cost effective solution.

9.0 Legal implications

9.1 Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, subject to some exceptions, EBC has a duty to arrange for the collection of household waste in its area and in doing so it must ensure that the arrangements it makes in relation to those premises include arrangements for the collection of at least two types of recyclable waste together or individually separated from the rest of the household waste unless it is satisfied that:
(a) the cost of doing so would be unreasonably high; or
(b) comparable alternative arrangements are available.

It is the duty of EBC to deliver household waste to such places as the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) as disposal authority directs. This duty does not apply where EBC decides to make arrangements for recycling the waste which it agrees with ESCC as disposal authority.

10.0 Equality analysis

10.1 An assessment has been carried out and there are benefits to all householders from a simpler recycling collection system.

11.0 Conclusion

11.1 A timely decision on moving to a fully co-mingled recycling collection method will ensure that EBC can be part of joint arrangements with the other Waste Collection Authorities in East Sussex for the disposal of dry mixed recycling. The final decision in this respect will be subject to an assessment of best value for the East Sussex and EBC taxpayer.

Appendices

None

Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- Ricardo report to ESJWP
- Equalities and fairness analysis

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.