

Report

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Report to:	Community Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 March 2013
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Waste Management and Improvement Team
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise the Committee how operational change and future tender preparations for waste management should be delivered

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the establishment of a dedicated team comprising of an Advisor, Officer and Assistant on a temporary basis for four years to develop changes to the waste collection and disposal operations to meet legislative requirements, as detailed in Sections 4 and 5 of the report, be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 introduce new requirements which will impact on South Lanarkshire Council as a waste producer, waste collection authority and a food business operator. From 1 January 2014 food businesses producing more than 50 kg of food waste generated by the commercial food activity in a normal week must ensure the reasonable separation of the food waste from general waste stream. At the same time all non-domestic waste producers should present glass, metal, plastic, paper and card (including cardboard) for separate collection. Complete segregation of dry recyclables is the preferred option, but co-mingling can be acceptable. The legislation aims to produce high quality recycling material and provide a closed loop recycling system to divert waste from landfill.
- 3.2. From 1 January 2016 the requirement to separate food waste will be extended to food businesses producing more than 5kg of food waste per week and by this date a separate collection service for domestic food waste requires to be in operation.
- 3.3. Several waste contracts are coming up for renewal at a time when the legislative requirements for the waste sector are changing. New operational procedures will be introduced and will have a significant impact on both trade and domestic waste streams.

4. Proposals

- 4.1. The Council has been working on maximising the amount of waste recycled and the new legal requirements will refocus our efforts to recycle. The new requirements also provide an opportunity to evaluate our current practices and determine if operational change would provide the Council with greater flexibility to manage our waste collection and disposal arrangements in the future. Success in meeting our legal obligations will rely on introducing collection systems that will be supported by waste producers.
- 4.2. In addition to reviewing our operating procedures, an education and awareness campaign will be required for the trade and domestic sectors to ensure the effective separation of waste at source. Internal and external reporting requirements will necessitate the collation of verifiable data on our recycling and disposal activity. The work streams above are interlinked and a joined up approach to these tasks will ensure that South Lanarkshire Council has a fully integrated waste management solution to meet all our legal obligations.
- 4.3. The complexity and time pressures that exist warrant a dedicated team comprising representatives with experience of waste operations, waste strategy and regulation being assembled to successfully implement the necessary waste collection and disposal arrangements for the Council.
- 4.4. Although, there are employees with the necessary skills to progress this work, the capacity does not exist within the current establishment to resource this team without backfilling the posts for the period the team is in place. The Committee is asked to approve the establishment of a team to develop waste management arrangements and identify operational changes required in the coming years for the efficient and effective collection and disposal of waste.
- 4.5. The new team will have both a strategic and an operation remit. At a strategic level the new team will consider the statutory changes impacting on the Council as a waste generator and waste collector to determine the implications for the waste services the Council operates and disposal routes available for the waste. The team will then work closely with existing operational staff to identify operational changes that will allow the Council's waste management function to be delivered in the most efficient way possible and achieve landfill diversion targets. The team would also liaise with other Resources to ensure they are aware of the statutory requirements relating to waste and advise them on how to implement effective waste storage and separation systems. The new team will also be involved in the tender preparation process for any waste management procurement and be responsible for ensuring the technical aspects of the tenders will achieve compliance with waste legislation and are compatible with our waste collection operations.
- 4.6. The team would liaise with Scottish Government departments and recognised waste management organisations to ensure decisions relating to our waste operations were based on current industry best practice.
- 4.7. During the life span of the team it is anticipated that external consultants may be required when evaluating some of the more complex, technical aspects of the waste disposal options available to the Council and during the preparation of the tender for the disposal of residual municipal waste.

- 4.8. It is anticipated that the team would be in place for a four year period. This would cover the period during which the interim contract for the disposal of residual waste would be awarded; the contract for disposal of recyclate waste would be renewed and the new domestic food waste collection service would be introduced.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. It is therefore proposed to increase the establishment of Waste and Environmental Services for four years as follows;

Post Title	Current No of Posts	Proposed No of Posts	Grade /Level	SCP Range	Hourly Rate	Annual Pay	Total Cost (including on costs)
Waste Management Adviser	0	1	Grade 4 Level 2-5	79-88	£19.73 £22.57	£36,005 £41,188	£48,822
Waste Management Officer	0	1	Grade 3 Level 1-4	50-80	£12.81 £18.32	£23,377 £33,432	£38,973
Waste Assistant	0	1	Grade 2 Level 1-4	31-57	£9.65 £14.21	£17,610 £25,932	£26,473

- 5.2. These appointments will be made on the basis of existing posts graded as shown above.
- 5.3. In order to progress the new waste management contracts, it is proposed to establish a group of officers from relevant services across the Council to input as appropriate. This group would oversee a substantive review of the service.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The total four year cost will be £457,072 including on costs. This will be funded from the existing revenue budget for Waste and Environmental Services.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There is a risk that the Council would not be able to deliver the requirements of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 without the recommendations set out in the report.
- 7.2. The recommendations contained in this report contribute directly to the Council's overall Sustainability Strategy.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1 This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2 Consultation has been undertaken with the appropriate Trade Unions.

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Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values

- Council Value: Sustainable Development
- Council Priority Objective: Improve the Quality of the Physical Environment

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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