

The Highland Council
Transport Environmental & Community Services
7 November 2013

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| Agenda Item | 4 |
| Report No | TEC 76/13 |

Statutory Food Waste Collections

Report by Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Summary

This report invites Members to note the introduction of statutory food waste collections in Inverness ahead of the date set out in the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, and that the actual tonnages of food waste diverted from landfill will be monitored on a regular basis, together with the ongoing revenue costs associated with the collection service, to establish the overall financial position which will be taken into account when setting future budgets.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Members will recall the report to the TECS Committee on 17 January 2013 (TEC-07-13) in relation to the Council's application to Zero Waste Scotland for one-off funding to support the roll-out of separate food waste collections in the City of Inverness, Culloden, Smithton, Balloch and Milton of Leys.
- 1.2 The application for financial support was successful and this was reported to the TECS Committee on 14 March 2013.
- 1.3 This report updates Members on the roll-out of the statutory food waste collection service in the Inverness area.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 requires Councils in Scotland to provide a separate food waste collection service in certain areas which in turn have been prescribed by the Scottish Government. For Highland the only prescribed area is Inverness.
- 2.2 The regulations require food businesses producing more than 50kg of food waste per week to have their waste separately collected from 1 January 2014 (including Council premises such as schools).
- 2.3 After January 2016 only food businesses producing less than 5kg of food waste per week will be exempt.
- 2.4 Councils should by 1 January 2014 promote separate food waste collections and by 1 January 2016 have collections in place.

2.5 The funding provided by the Scottish Government, through Zero Waste Scotland, has allowed statutory food waste collections to be introduced in the Inverness area from September 2013, which is well ahead of the date set out in the regulations.

3. Statutory Food Waste Collection Service

3.1 A weekly collection service for food waste has been successfully rolled out to approximately 28,000 households in Inverness over a 2 week period during September 2013.

3.2 The areas covered in the first phase of the roll-out included Kinmylies, Scorguie, Hilton, Dalneigh, Merkinch, Ballifeary, Drummond, Lochardil, Raigmore, Holm and Drakies.

3.3 Collections to the remainder of Inverness including areas of East Inverness, Inshes, Crown and Milton of Leys were introduced during the week commencing the 30 September.

3.4 Households have been provided a 5 litre caddy (a small bin that can be kept by the sink) and a 23 litre caddy for presenting food waste at the kerbside for collections.

3.5 A three month supply of biodegradable liners was provided with the Caddy. Caddy liners will be re-supplied to participating households in December.

4. Monitoring

4.1 Throughout the roll-out process, the collection routes have been monitored by waste management staff. Early indications show an improving trend of household participation.

4.2 Members will recall from the report presented in January 2013 (TEC-07-13) that the Zero Waste Scotland model predicted 2,300 tonnes would be diverted from landfill annually providing an estimated saving of £50 per tonne compared to the cost of landfill. However this saving will be offset by a pressure from on-going revenue costs in relation to staff and vehicles. The ongoing annual revenue costs are estimated at £385k, which results in an annual net pressure of £270k. The actual pressure will be dependent on the actual tonnage diverted from landfill

4.3 During the first 2 weeks of the new service 48.12 tonnes of food waste was collected and diverted from landfill. The tonnage of food waste diverted from landfill will be monitored on a regular basis.

4.4 Collected food waste is taken to a specialist treatment plant, currently New Deer, Aberdeenshire and processed through an in-vessel composter (which controls both the temperature of the material and the follow rate) into compost.

5. Second Phase of the Roll-out

- 5.1 Flatted properties in the participating areas are programmed to be phased in during the early part of 2014. The service will also be delivered to Inverness Schools in the second phase of the roll-out.

6. Implications

- 6.1 The Scottish Government has provided funding to roll-out the service but not sustain it beyond 2014/15. The continuation of the service beyond 2014/15 will be considered as part of the budget process for 2015/16, and will take account of the amount of food waste diverted from landfill and the ongoing revenue costs associated with the collection service.
- 6.2 Providing the service fulfils the Council's duties under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.
- 6.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.
- 6.4 The diversion of food waste from landfill will make a positive contribution to the Council's carbon clever initiative.
- 6.5 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are invited to note the introduction of statutory food waste collections in Inverness ahead of the date set out in the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012.
- 7.2 Members are invited to note that the actual tonnages of food waste diverted from landfill will be monitored on a regular basis, together with the ongoing revenue costs associated with the collection service, to establish the overall financial position which will be taken into account when setting future budgets.

Designation: Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Date: 25 October 2013

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