

REPORT FOR THE PROVISION OF FOOD CADDY LINERS AS PART OF THE WHEELED BIN ROLL OUT

(Report produced by Jonathan Hamlet)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek approval to procure 62,000 rolls of food caddy liners to be delivered as a "one off" as part of the wheeled bin distribution to increase participation in the food waste service.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The authority provides a weekly kerbside collection of household food waste, which currently on average collects 40 tonnes per week.

Other authorities have demonstrated that the introduction of a wheeled bin service has seen a significant increase in the participation of food waste recycling. It is expected that with the introduction, next June, of a fortnightly wheeled bin collection of residual waste it is expected that the participation in the food waste service will increase by 100% as restrictions to the amount of residual waste collected will encourage households to recycle more.

As part of the procurement process of the wheeled bins, including delivery to individual households, there exists an option to deliver a roll of food caddy liners to each household along with the wheeled bin. The provision of food caddy liners is seen as a means to encourage householders to use the food waste bins.

This option if exercised has an associated cost pressure of £0.10 per delivery which equates to £5,800; delivery to the estimated 58,000 properties receiving a wheeled bin.

The authority has previously provided a "free" roll of 52 food caddy liners to residents as part of a DCLG grant. This resulted in the food waste collected increasing by 10%.

Providing households with food caddy liners can also lead to a legacy of continued participation which is supported by the sale of food caddy liners at libraries, a selection of recycling container collection points, including Brightlingsea Town Council, Walton Forum, Jaywick Resource Centre and Community library, Clacton Town Hall and Council Offices, Weeley.

The sale of the food caddy liners supports the purchase of further liners some of which are provided for free to primary schools who participate in the food waste service and subsequently educates the students on the principles of recycling from the home.

During 2018 the libraries within Tendring have sold over 2200 rolls, which equates to a revenue stream of approximately £2775.

Further competition via the ESPO framework (Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation) was sought for the procurement of 62,000 rolls of food caddy liners; each roll consisting of 52 bags, contained within a weather proof bag plus a leaflet. A further option was requested for the bags to be constructed to either compostable grade or plastic PE (Polyethylene) grade.

Essex County Council as the disposal authority is responsible for the final destination for food waste; currently via Anaerobic digestion. Previously the operator required any food waste packaging to be of compostable material; however this has now been upgraded to include the inclusion of plastic packaging; all of which is removed at the front end of the process.

Following the procurement exercise three bids were received two providing costs for both options.

PE grade bags;

- Biobag at £16,740 (£0.27 per roll)
- Cromwell at £24,728.08 (£0.40 per roll)
- Peter Ridley: No price quoted

Compostable bags;

- Biobag at £48,360 (£0.78 per roll)
- Cromwell at £49,746.32 (£0.80 per roll)
- Peter Ridley Ltd at £70,089.76. (£1.13 per roll)

Whilst plastic bags may be perceived as less environmentally friendly, compared to compostable bags they are more robust, providing greater capacity and ultimately more user friendly for householders. The processor prefers PE bags as due to their robustness they are easier to remove at the front end of the process, whereas the compostable bags split and tear more resulting in processing complications and contamination issues as the bags do not fully breakdown during the digestion process.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Agreement is sought for:

- To appoint Biobag as the preferred contractor for the supply of 62,000 PE (plastic) food caddy liners at the tendered price of £16,740.00.**
- Instruct the wheeled bin delivery contractor; JETT to deliver food bags as part of the wheeled bin roll out at an additional cost of £5,800.**
- Costs to be met from cost centre code C200 C625.**

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

This meets the Council priority of renewing the waste and recycling contract.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

Costs are to be met from the cost centre C200 C625; funded by the New homes bonus.

As detailed in previous reports the provision of food caddy liners has been budgeted to the value of approx. £70,000 (supply and delivery). With the received lowest bid, including delivery at £22,540 this remains within budget.

The authority currently sells food caddy liners at libraries and selected recycling container collection points for £1.50 per roll of 52 bags (cheaper compared to supermarkets).

Currently the libraries alone sell approximately 180 rolls per month. With approximately 4000 extra rolls ordered, the new stock will continue to support this service and remain economically sustainable, with surplus revenue reinvested within the waste and recycling budgets.

Risk

Negative public perception of providing food caddy bags which are single use plastic compared to compostable bags. However plastic bags are more robust, a third of the cost and are the preferred option of the processing facility with the plastic bags more effectively removed at the front end of the processing compared to compostable bags, which do not degrade fully during the digestion process.

LEGAL

No legal implications as recycling of food waste is not a statutory obligation

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward affected / Consultation/Public Engagement.

Only households who are receiving a wheeled bin will be delivered a roll of food caddy liners. This is anticipated to be in the region of 58,000 households out of a total of 70,000 households. Of the remaining 12,000 households approximately 8,000 of these do not receive a food waste service and so would not benefit from a roll of food caddy liners. The 12,000 properties are all remaining on a weekly refuse

collection, whilst the properties receiving a wheeled bin will be transferred to a fortnightly collection of residual waste, which will increase the significance of recycling food waste.

Equality impact assessment has been carried out and has highlighted no adverse or negative impacts.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND AND CURRENT POSITION

The authority provides a weekly kerbside collection of household food waste, which currently on average collects 40 tonnes per week; this service is perceived to be of low participation rate; partially attributed to the current weekly residual waste collection service and partially to food waste service being least user friendly service for homeowners to buy in to.

Food waste is sent to an Anaerobic Digestion facility where upon the food is broken down to produce heat/electricity and fertiliser product.

As demonstrated by other authorities who have swapped to a fortnightly residual waste collection service and introduced restrictions on side waste; the resultant participation in the food waste service increased tonnage collected by 100%.

The authority has previously provided a “free” roll of 52 food caddy liners to residents as part of a DCLG grant. This resulted in the food waste collected increasing by 10% and also provided a continued legacy where households can procure rolls of food caddy liners from libraries and collection points for a cost lower than supermarkets.

As part of the procurement process of the wheeled bins, including delivery to individual households, there exists the option to deliver a roll of food caddy liners to each household along with the wheeled bin, using the wheeled bin contractor JETT.

This option if exercised has an associated cost pressure of £0.10 per delivery which equates to £5,800 for the delivery to 58,000 households.

Further competition via the ESPO framework (Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation) was sought for the procurement of 62,000 rolls of food caddy liners; each roll consisting of 52 bags, contained within a weather proof bag plus a leaflet. Further option was requested for the bags to be constructed to either compostable grade or plastic PE (Polyethylene) grade.

Following the procurement exercise three bids were received two providing costs for both options.

PE grade bags are the cheapest option with the lowest bid received from Biobag at £16,740 (£0.28 per roll) the next lowest bid for PE bags was from Cromwell at £24,728.08, whilst Peter Ridley did not provide a quote. Bids for compostable bags ranged from the lowest at £48,360 (£0.81 per roll from Biobag), £24,728.08 from

Cromwell to £70,089.76. (£1.17 per roll, Peter Ridley Ltd)

Whilst plastic bags may be perceived as less environmentally friendly, compared to compostable bags they are more robust, providing greater capacity and ultimately more user friendly for householders. The processor prefers PE bags as due to their robustness they are easier to remove at the front end of the process, whereas the compostable bags split and tear more resulting in processing complications and contamination issues as the bags do not fully breakdown during the digestion process.

FURTHER HEADINGS RELEVANT TO THE REPORT

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

Officer's decision and Equality impact Assessment.

APPENDICES

None