

BRIEFING NOTE

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT

13 September 2022

KERBSIDE TEXTILE COLLECTION SERVICE

(Report prepared by Shelley Correia-Bird and Jonathan Hamlet)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To set out the details of the proposed Kerbside Textile Collection Service and;
2. To seek agreement for the entering into a Service Level Agreement with Essex Textiles and the implementation of the service within the Tendring district.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Previous waste composition analysis carried out by ECC has highlighted that textiles is one of the largest recyclable items placed in the residual waste and therefore goes to landfill.

There are currently approximately 40 textile banks within the district located at bring sites, whereby householders have to physically take their textiles to, to be recycled. These banks currently collect between 3 and 6 tonnes per month.

It is proposed to reduce the amount of textiles going into landfill and to complement the current kerbside collection service, the proposal is to offer an additional independent service of a fortnightly kerbside textile collection to the majority of households in the district. The provision of a kerbside collection of textiles would provide a more convenient mode of textile recycling for the householder, resulting in increased tonnage collected, complementing the wheeled bin service in reducing the amount of textiles placed in the residual waste stream and reducing the amount of textiles fly tipped at bring sites.

This additional service would be a standalone fortnightly collection and would mirror householders' kerbside red recycling collection day, which is the paper and cardboard recycling week, with the blue textile bags placed alongside the red recycling boxes for collection. It is estimated that approximately 50,000 households could be eligible for this fortnightly service.

The proposed service would be funded and run by an external contractor at no cost to the authority or to householders.

Revenue to the Council from bring sites is likely to be reduced but it is envisaged that the increased tonnage of recycling collected at kerbside together with the associated recycling credits will lead to only a marginal overall financial effect to the authority.

There is only one contractor operating realistically in this market and information from other Essex Authorities indicates that the contractor is working successfully.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Portfolio Holder:

- 1) In consultation with the Corporate Director approves the proposal;
- 2) Notes the proposal for the Corporate Director (Operations and Delivery) to enter into a service level agreement with Essex Textiles in order to facilitate the service.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The potential disposal are pertinent to the following Council priorities:

- Minimise waste; Maximise recycling
- Carbon Neutral by 2030
- Joined up public services for the benefit of our residents and businesses

Essex Waste Partnership

The Council is a member of the Essex Waste Partnership. The Partnership has adopted a The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. Although the strategy does not specify the nature or type of recycling in District areas it does set out a clear aspiration to reduce, reuse and recycle. Accordingly these proposals are entirely in line with the adopted policy.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

The revenue to the council per tonne collected from the kerbside will be £45.
The revenue to the Council per tonne collected from the textile banks will be £150

Whilst the kerbside revenue is lower than the revenue associated for the bring site textiles, which is currently £150 per tonne (£5000-£10,000 revenue per annum), the provision of a kerbside collection of textiles would not only complement the existing textile bank service, it would also provide a more convenient mode of textile recycling for the householder at the kerbside, encouraging householders to recycle their textiles, providing an overall increased textile tonnage, increased participation and also assist in potentially lowering the textile fly tipping around the current textile banks and bring sites.

No capital or ongoing cost pressures are associated with this service and provision of a kerbside collection service highlights a potential cost revenue of £600 per annum for the waste and recycling budget. The cost increase can be accommodated within the wider service budget.

Risk	Control/Mitigation
Failure to meet the Council's ongoing ambition to not only improve its recycling rates but to also increase the scope of materials that can be recycled.	Roll out of this additional service would risk this ongoing ambition.

<p>Service changes will lead to increased call centre calls.</p>	<p>Although all communications with residents would be managed by the contractor for the ongoing management of the service with enquires, supply of bags and collections, it is envisaged that residents may still contact Tendring District Council's customer support team. This could place additional pressures onto the team in regards to increased telephone and email enquiries. The intention is to have an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) message on the main switchboard number to assist in signposting customers direct to Essex Textiles.</p> <p>The Tendring website would also be updated to assist promoting the service and also signposting the residents direct to the contractor. For the initial roll out of the service the Tendring Facebook and twitter accounts would also be utilised for enhanced communication with any associated costs met through current waste and recycling budgets.</p>
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LEGAL

As a collection authority, Tendring District Council has a statutory responsibility under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to collect clinical waste from domestic properties within its district. It is better for the organisation to collect waste as recycling rather than residual waste for financial and environmental reasons.

Delegation of Executive Functions to Officers – Part 3.39 of the Constitution provides that Corporate Directors have delegated authority to discharge executive functions within their respective areas as set out in Article 12, having authority to act on all such matters. The Monitoring Officer has confirmed that agreeing the terms of the Service Level Agreement for the purposes of the kerbside collection fall within this delegation and consultation with the Portfolio Holder should be undertaken, if appropriate, once further detail is known.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of:

Equality and Diversity:	Domestic collections will facilitate services to those less able to travel to bring sites.
Health Inequalities:	
Crime and Disorder:	Domestic collection may reduce littering and fly tipping of materials at bring sites.
Consultation and Public Engagement:	If approved the project will be subject to a programme of public engagement.
Wards:	All.
Net Zero Emissions:	Recycling rather than landfill and the use of virgin materials

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

Previous waste composition analysis carried out by ECC has highlighted that textiles is one of the largest recyclable items placed in the residual waste and therefore goes to landfill.

There are currently approximately 40 textile banks within the district located at bring sites, whereby householders have to physically take their textiles to, to be recycled. These banks currently collect between 3 and 6 tonnes per month.

Research has been undertaken to ascertain how other local authorities reduce the amount of textiles going into landfill. Essex authorities such as Braintree District Council, Brentwood District Council, Rochford District Council, Castle point, Maldon District Council and Colchester Borough Council provide a kerbside textile collection service, complemented by a network of textile banks to increase tonnage collected from households and reduce the amount of textiles being placed in the residual waste stream.

CURRENT POSITION

Currently householders receive a fortnightly collection of paper, cans and plastic on alternate weeks as well as weekly food waste collections.

There are also currently approximately 40 textile banks within the district, collecting between 3 and 6 tonnes per month.

PROPOSAL

To reduce the amount of textiles going into landfill and to complement the current kerbside collection service, the proposal is to offer an additional independent service of a fortnightly kerbside textile collection to the majority of households in the district. The provision of a kerbside collection of textiles would provide a more convenient mode of textile recycling for the householder, resulting in increased tonnage collected, complementing the wheeled bin service in reducing the amount of textiles placed in the residual waste stream and reducing the amount of textiles fly tipped at bring sites. This additional service would be a standalone fortnightly collection and would mirror householders' kerbside red recycling collection day, which is the paper and cardboard recycling week, with the blue textile bags placed alongside the red recycling boxes for collection. It is estimated that approximately 50,000 households could be eligible for this fortnightly service.

For the remaining non-urban areas, flats and householders who receive an assisted collection, the service would be an on demand collection service, resulting in the householder contacting the contractor directly to arrange a dedicated collection, typically undertaken within 7 days or sooner.

There are currently approximately 40 textile banks within the district. The intention is to keep these in situ whilst continuing to encourage householders to donate textiles to their preferred charities or participating in the kerbside scheme.

The ambition is to commence the bag and leaflet delivery to all households for the kerbside textile collection service in mid-January 2022, taking approximately 10

weeks to complete the district wide delivery. Subsequent to this, the proposed first collection of textiles from households is anticipated to commence on a weekly staggered phase from 31st January 2022 onwards.

If this initial delivery target is missed then the next opportunity for delivery of leaflets and bags becomes September/October 2022, followed by January 2023.

Contractor

Research has been undertaken to ascertain within the market place companies who provide a kerbside textile collection service on a district wide level. At the same time contact was also made with the other local Essex authorities who provide a similar service including Braintree District Council, Brentwood District Council, Rochford District Council, Castle Point and Maldon District Council.

These investigations highlighted that only one company existed in the market place that could provide such a service, with this company being Essex Textiles. With all the local Essex authorities employing this company under a service level agreement (SLA). An example of the SLA is attached to this report as Appendix A.

The feedback from the authorities were all positive, in terms of roll out, operation and day to day management of the service.

Based in Southend, Essex Textiles have been servicing the textile banks in the Tendring district since 2019 and have continued to provide an exemplary service. The goal is to operate the kerbside and bank service together under a two-year rolling Service Level Agreement.

Service

Essex Textiles as part of the service level agreement and at their own cost, will manufacture and distribute all leaflets and bags to householders. The intention will be to sub contract the initial delivery of bags and leaflets to Veolia to coincide with the Veolia delivery of the new 2022/23 recycling calendars to all households serviced by the main and rural collection rounds. With the remaining households residing in flats to be delivered by Essex Textiles. This initial delivery will be scheduled for 10 weeks with a completion date of end of March 2022.

The ongoing delivery of further bags as and when required by householders will be undertaken by Essex Textiles and will be delivered by a dedicated crew once a week free of charge. It is proposed that a supply of bags will also be left at selected libraries and collection points for householders to collect when required, also free of charge. Essex Textiles will undertake all the collections, providing all vehicles, equipment and operatives and all costs associated with the service.

As part of the service they will also be responsible for managing all customer enquiries and contacts with a dedicated telephone number and email address promoted on the leaflet for customers to deal directly with the contractor. This will be further supported by TDC web/social media communication signposting the residents to Essex Textiles and not TDC as it is proposed that this is a standalone service.

This service is currently employed by:

- Braintree District Council
- Brentwood District Council
- Rochford District Council
- Castle Point
- Maldon District Council
- Colchester Borough Council.

In March 2020 Maldon District Council introduced a textile kerbside collection service. Rolled out to approximately 28,000 properties tonnage data and corresponding revenue streams have been reviewed to ascertain any cost pressure upon the authority.

Appendix A includes analysis of collection rates from Maldon and Colchester Councils and a baseline for Tendring. The data is audited tonnage from ECC. All the contractors listed in the comparisons provide a textile bank service only apart from Essex Textiles.

When reviewing this data, whilst only projections it highlights that:

- Textiles collected overall could increase by 33%
- Reduction in tonnage through the contracted textile bank service is out performed by textiles collected at the kerbside
- Taking into consideration recycling credit claims and revenue streams, Tendring could be approximately £600 per annum in surplus whilst also collecting an additional 38 tonnes per annum of textiles.
- Whilst projected tonnage indicates only a slight increase in revenue to the authority this is supported by the additional textiles which are recycled and not sent to landfill, supporting the aspirations of the authority to improve waste and recycling services
- Is far more convenient collection service for the residents of Tendring, reducing trips to bring sites
- Reduction in dumped textiles left at bring sites, which ultimately end up at landfill. Also reduces the pressures to maintain cleanliness of these bring sites.
- Supports the wheeled bin fortnightly collection service.

ANY OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS

Essex Textiles currently collects small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling (WEEE) items in other districts, this service could also be offered to the residents of Tendring. We currently collect these items in selected libraries, where residents can drop off small electrical items to be collected and recycled through a network of wheeled bins located inside the libraries, which TDC receives recycling credits for. Currently, this service is supported by the Hit Team from Veolia in collecting the WEEE from the libraries and whilst we receive the recycling credits it can be quite labour consuming for the Hit Team who are also responsible for clearing fly tipping and other duties.

The option provided by Essex Textiles is an on demand service collected from the doorstep of small items (no larger than a microwave) at NIL cost to the authority and

TDC would continue to receive recycling credits for this service. Whilst this WEEE collection potential offers a convenient service to the resident and potential increase in WEEE tonnage, officers preferred option is to focus on the implementation of the kerbside textile collection service and embed that service firstly before proceeding this further option of collecting WEEE.

Environment Bill

The Environment Bill, which has now received Royal Assent, requires a core set of materials to be collected for recycling. Textiles is not one of these core materials and as such is not subject to the Environment Bill.

Leaflet

The initial delivery of a roll of bags for textile recycling delivered to all households will also include a leaflet providing service information and contact details. An example of the leaflet deployed for Colchester Borough Council is attached as Appendix B. The leaflet will be bespoke to Tendring District Council and our collection arrangements.

Appendix A: Analysis of other authorities' collection rate changes

Total tonnages between 01.12.2018 to 30.11.2019 (Before kerbside collection) for Maldon District Council

	Bag it up (Charity banks)	LM Barry (Commercial contractor)	Salvation Army (Charity banks)	SOEX	Total	Total recycling credits (£)	Total revenue from LM Barry (£)	Total Revenue
Tonnage	12.511	20.350	76.233	1.450	110.544	£7738.08**	£3052.50+	£10790.58

** Recycling credit based on £70 per tonne
 + Revenue from LM Barry based upon £150 per tonne
 Assumption no revenue from charity banks

Total tonnages between 01.02.2020 to 31.01.2021 (Including kerbside collection) for Maldon District Council

	Essex Textiles (Kerbside collection)	LM Barry Commercial contractor	Salvation Army Charity banks	SOEX	Total	Total recycling credits (£)	Total revenue from Essex Textiles (£)	Total revenue from LM Barry (£)	Total Revenue
Tonnage	44.5	12.8	83.7	1.327	142.3	£8,062.60**	£2001.60***	£1924.50+	£11,989

** Recycling credit based on £70 per tonne
 + Revenue from LM Barry based upon £150 per tonne.
 *** Revenue from Essex textiles based upon £45 per tonne
 Assumption no revenue from charity banks.

When reviewing this data, the following points can be made:

- Residents are still using the charity banks (Salvation Army);
- Overall participation has increased by 22%;
- Reduction in tonnage through their contracted textile bank was out performed by textiles collected at the kerbside;
- Taking into consideration recycling credit claims and revenue streams, Maldon District Council are approximately £1200 per annum surplus revenue combined with collecting an additional 32 tonnes of textiles per annum.

Maldon has approximately 28,000 properties in the district, whereas Tendring has approximately 70,000+ eligible properties for this collection, as such we would expect to collect double the amount of tonnage compared to Maldon.

In May 2021, Colchester Borough Council were the latest authority in Essex to implement a kerbside textile collection service through Essex Textiles and whilst there is very limited data, the revenue and tonnage collected has increased significantly.

Total tonnages between 01.02.2021 to 30.04.2021 (Before kerbside collection) for Colchester Borough Council

	Green World Recycling Ltd	Salvation Army (Charity banks)	Total	Total recycling credits (£)	Total Revenue
Tonnage	3.810	40.785	44.595	£3121.65**	£3121.65

** Recycling credit based on £70 per tonne
Assumption no revenue from charity banks

Total tonnages between 01.05.2021 to 31.07.2021 (Including kerbside collection) for Colchester Borough Council

	Essex Textiles (Kerbside collection)	Green World Recycling Ltd	Salvation Army (Charity banks)	Total	Total recycling credits (£)	Total revenue from Essex Textiles (£)	Total Revenue
Tonnage	78.040	2.325	28.559	108.924	£8060.38**	£3511.80* **	£11572.

** Recycling credit based on £70 per tonne
*** Revenue from Essex textiles based upon £45 per tonne
Assumption no revenue from charity banks

For the same period to the Maldon data, the textile banks in Tendring collected approximately 5 tonnes per month.

Total tonnages between 01.02.20 to 31.01.21 for Tendring District Council

	Essex Textiles (Banks)	Green World Recycling Ltd	SOEX	Total	Total recycling credits (£)	Total revenue from Essex Textiles (£)	Total Revenue
Tonnage	67.180	6.005	0.974	74.159	£5191.13**	£10,077+	£15,268.13

** Recycling credit based on £70 per tonne

+ Revenue from Essex textiles based upon £150 per tonne

Based on current property numbers within Tendring it is projected that the implementation of a kerbside textile collection service could result in the following tonnages over a 12 month period similar to that of Maldon Council data (01.02.2020 to 31.01.2021):

Predicted textile tonnages for 12 month period for Tendring District Council.

	Essex Textiles (Kerbside)	Essex Textiles (Banks)	Total recycling credits (£)	Total revenue from Essex Textiles (£)	Total Revenue
Tonnage	90	25	£8,050**	£7,800+	£15,850

** Recycling credit based on £70 per tonne

+ Revenue from Essex textiles based upon £150 per tonne for bank collections and £45 per tonne for kerbside collections.

FREE CALL & COLLECT SERVICE

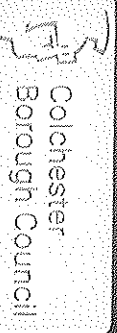
If you have an assisted collection service, live in a flat with a communal bin area or have a large number of bags you can call Essex Textiles to arrange a special collection.



Essex Textiles
 Phone: 0800 78 79 071
 E-mail: info@essextextiles.co.uk
 Web: www.essextextiles.co.uk



PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE BAGS OUT OVERNIGHT!
 If they become wet they are not reusable



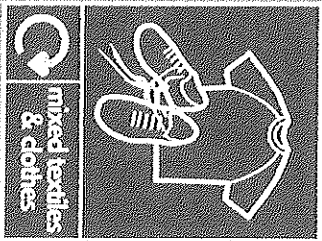
'Too Good to Waste!'



Colchester
 Borough Council



Reusable clothing and shoe collections from your kerbside!



'Too Good to Waste!'



Colchester recycles



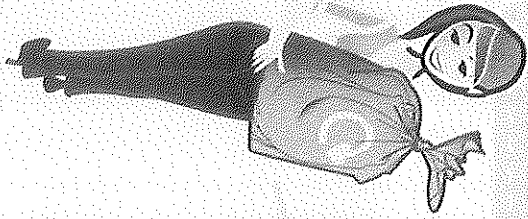
NEW FOR
 2021

Recycling your old clothes is easy!

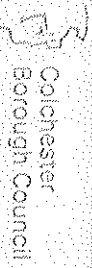
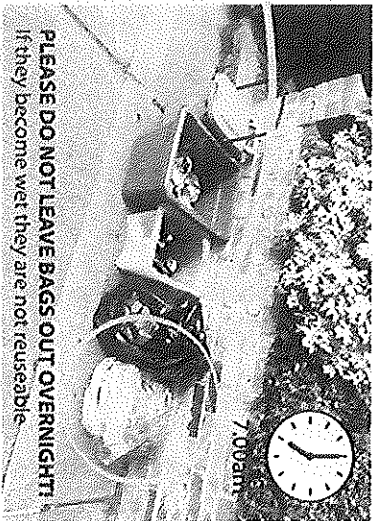
Essex Textiles post blue bags through your door, if you need more bags simply call on: **0800 78 79 071**

- 1 Sort out any clothing and shoes you no longer need.
- 2 Place clean, dry, reusable clothing and shoes into the blue textile bags supplied by Essex Textiles.
- 3 Place the blue bags NEXT TO your glass and cans recycling boxes and black bags/bin on your normal Blue Week collection day by 7am.

Check your recycling calendar at colchester.gov.uk/your-recycling-calendar



REMEMBER! All items are reused where possible so please ensure they are in good condition.



Too good to waste!

Items that can be collected in the blue bags include:

- ✓ Clothes
- ✓ Shoes
- ✓ Handbags
- ✓ Belts
- ✓ Hats
- ✓ Bedding
- ✓ Towels

must be clean & reusable

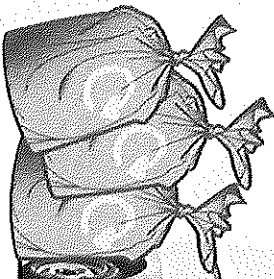
Items that can't be collected include:

- X Carpets
- X Duvets
- X Pillows
- X Quilts
- X Rugs
- X Soiled, wet & unusable items
- X Rags

Need more bags?

Do you need more bags or to report a missed textile recycling collection?

call Essex Textiles on: **0800 78 79 071**



 Colchester recycles