

# **ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**SUBJECT: Exit Strategy for withdrawal of the 1-2-3 Food Waste & Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP) Collections**

**REPORT AUTHOR: Oliver Handson, Environmental Services & Strategy Manager**

**DATE: July 2022**

**EXTN: 01903 737955**

**AREA: Services Directorate, Neighbourhoods Group**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Environment Committee resolved on 19th May 2022 to retain, for the time being, a weekly residual service from black sacks until such time that the Government mandates food waste collections to all households. In view of this West Sussex County Council (WSSC) through the Joint Project Board, questioned the added value of continuing the 1-2-3 collections in the trial area. WSSC concluded that continuing the collections in the trial area would not represent the best use of their Recycling Improvement Fund. This report proposes an exit strategy for early closure of the 1-2-3 collection scheme.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the Committee approve:

1. The withdrawal of the 1-2-3 collections to residents from the end of September 2022
2. To fund the remaining collection costs until this point from existing Neighbourhoods Group budgets

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 On the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 a report on the positive progress and achievements of the 1-2-3 collections trial was presented to the Environment Committee. The Committee endorsed the continuation of the 1-2-3 collections beyond the initial 12 months trial (May 2022) until the end of January 2023 and the start of the Council's new Combined Cleansing Services Contract (CCSC).
- 1.2 The trial which ended on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 resulted in significant diversion of food waste from the residual stream alongside high resident engagement and satisfaction, full details of which were presented to Members at the January Committee. In summary the trial had realised a drop in residual waste by more than half, an increase in recycling rates and residents had welcomed the collection scheme, with over 85% participation rate throughout the trial period.
- 1.3 The final survey of over 180 residents, completed in April 2022, highlighted the following which largely mirrored the positive results at the 6 month survey stage:
- 90% were "very satisfied" or "fairly satisfied" with the food waste collection service
  - 94% were "very satisfied" or "fairly satisfied" with the recycling service
  - 73% were "very satisfied" or "fairly satisfied" with the general waste
  - 76% found the general waste bin to be large enough
  - 95% of respondents have been using the food waste bin
- 1.4 Funding for the trial was provided by West Sussex County Council as part of an improvement fund available to all District & Borough Councils within West Sussex as part of the West Sussex Waste partnership. West Sussex County Council were prepared to fund continuation of the 1-2-3 Collections following endorsement by the Environment Committee for its continuation until the end of January 2023,
- 1.5 On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, a further report was presented to the Environment Committee concerning options for the delivery of the Councils CCSC from the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2023, in which the officer recommendation was to move to a fortnightly refuse collection service from this date with phasing in of food waste collections. The Committee's decision was to maintain a weekly refuse collection from sacks until such time as the Council were mandated to bring in a universal food waste collection service.
- 1.6 Following this decision to retain a weekly refuse collection as part of the CCSC, WSCC raised the question with the Project Board as to whether continuing the 1-2-3 collections in the trial area beyond June 2022 would provide any added value. The data and learnings from the trial have provided sufficient evidence to support a 1-2-3 collection system, which was intended to influence decisions on a collection methodology which included food waste collection and reduced frequency for residual collections district wide. Having discussed this with the Project Board, WSCC felt that having proved the concept, continuing the collections in the trial area would not represent the best use of the Improvement Fund which could be directed at other projects.
- 1.7 To ensure the withdrawal requirements and communication to residents of this decision can be planned accordingly, it is recommended that officers work on an exit strategy including communications plan based on the withdrawal of the service from the end of September this year.

1.8 Whilst it may be disappointing to the high number of residents that were fully engaged with the 1-2-3 collections that it will be withdrawn, over twelve months of data has been gathered throughout the course of the trial, alongside significant learning in how to roll out changes to refuse collections and introduce a weekly food waste collection element.

**2. PROPOSAL(S)**  
 For Members of the Environment Committee to agree the recommendation outlined in the report

**3. OPTIONS:**  
 a) To fund the 1-2-3 Collections until the end of January 2023 requiring a supplementary estimate of £35k

**4. CONSULTATION:**

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		

**5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)**

	YES	NO
Financial	✓	
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓

**6. IMPLICATIONS:**

**6.1** WSCC will continue to cover the costs for AHP and Food waste recycling/disposal during the winding down period. There is a cost of approx. £11,919 to run the trial from the beginning of July until the end of September which incorporates the costs of food waste and AHP collections until this point. It is recommended that this cost be borne from existing budgets within the Neighbourhoods Group. A virement will be made transferring the required funding from other budgets to this budget during 2022/23.

The cost to operate the 1-2-3 collections until the end of January 2023 which incorporates the costs of food waste and AHP collections until this point is approx. £35k.

**7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

To ensure a planned withdrawal of the 1-2-3 collections and effective resident communications regarding this withdrawal

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Environment Committee minutes:

[20<sup>th</sup> January 2022](#)

[19<sup>th</sup> May 2022](#)