STIRLING COUNCIL

THIS REPORT RELATES TO ITEM 11 ON THE AGENDA

STIRLING COUNCIL

PLANNING, REGULATION & WASTE

24 JUNE 2010

RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTION – ROAD END COLLECTION POLICY

1 SUMMARY

1.1 The Council successfully operates a road end recycling and refuse collection service for 5,000 households who are accessed via private roads and tracks.

1.2 There remains 1,500 households, mainly in the Council’s rural areas, which receive a service where recycling and refuse collection vehicles travel along private roads and tracks in poor condition, where access is often difficult and potentially hazardous.

1.3 The proposed Recycling and Waste Collection – Road End Collection Policy describes the types of roads suitable for access by recycling and waste collection vehicles. Where access is unsuitable, refuse and recycling collection points would be established at road ends on adopted public roads, (where appropriate) for affected households.

1.4 Implementation of this policy would achieve consistency in service delivery and result in significant efficiencies, in terms of vehicles, staff and time taken on routes, and reduced vehicle damage, with associated financial savings.

1.5 The proposed implementation programme would be phased over 2 years.

1.6 The Executive on 20 May 2010 referred this matter to Council for consideration.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:-

2.1 Note the resources and costs expended in the collection of recyclables and waste from rural households accessed via private roads and tracks.

2.2 Note the benefits, efficiencies and financial savings that can be achieved from collecting recyclables and waste from suitable locations.
2.3 Agree to adopt the Recycling and Waste Collection – Road End Collection Policy, thereby achieving uniformity of service delivery.

2.4 Agree to the phased implementation of the Policy during 2010/11 and 2011/12.

3 CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Road end collection points are currently in use at locations throughout the Council’s rural areas, serving circa 5,000 properties, which are accessed by private roads or tracks. These were established on an ad-hoc basis in agreement with local residents and landowners.

3.2 Road end collections are an accepted part of the recycling and waste collection service in much of the rural area. The majority of householders with road end collection points pass their bins and boxes on a daily basis and the system works well.

3.3 Refuse and recycling collection vehicles on some rural routes can spend a significant proportion of time travelling on un-adopted/private roads of very poor condition. This drastically reduces their efficiency and results in substantially higher vehicle repair and maintenance costs both of which contribute to an increase in collection costs per household.

3.4 Under the terms of the proposed policy, approximately 1,500 households which are mainly served by smaller collection vehicles and are accessed via un-adopted/private roads which are in a poor state of repair and/or are deemed to be dangerous from a road safety point of view, would have their recycling and waste collection point relocated to the most appropriate location on the closest adopted road.

3.5 Smaller recycling vehicles cannot accommodate the collection of food waste, tetrapaks (cartons), batteries and small electrical items (currently being rolled out). The establishment of road end collection points would enable these households to be serviced by the Council’s larger recycling vehicles, thus providing for the inclusion of these key additional recyclables, enabling an enhanced recycling service for customers and contributing to the Council’s overall recycling and waste reduction targets.

3.6 The introduction of a formal Recycling and Waste Collection – Road End Collection Policy would achieve uniformity of service for all households across the rural area. Road end collections would have the added benefit of better securing consistent service delivery in times of adverse weather conditions.

3.7 Collecting recycling and waste from road end collection points on adopted roads prevents conflict with pedestrians, livestock and other vehicles on private roads, accesses and tracks; reduces the risk of road traffic accidents and minimises associated health and safety risks to collection staff. This accords with the Council’s Roads & Transport Service Development Standards and Specifications, which aim to promote safer environments by minimising conflicting functions on minor access roads.
3.8 Poor surface conditions on un-adopted/private roads in the rural area cause significantly more wear on recycling and waste collection vehicles which routinely service properties in remote areas. In addition to the cost of such repairs, the associated downtime also impacts negatively on rural service provision.

3.9 Road end collections will mainly be established where un-adopted/private roads display all or any of the following characteristics:-

- The road surface is in a poor state of repair and/or is not asphalt (or a similar bound surface);

- There are health and safety risks to recycling and waste collection vehicles and employees arising from road conditions such as adverse cambers, poor visibility at bends, risk of flooding, unprotected steep embankments; and long-term health risk to the crews e.g. resulting from frequent exposure to whole-body vibration;

- Where recycling and waste collection vehicles are travelling for distances greater than 1 km to collect bins from fewer than eight households.

3.10 There are some minor exceptions to this approach where un-adopted roads are of sufficient quality to enable safe access.

3.11 Where roads are adopted, the Council has responsibility for the management of road verges and can use these (subject to a road safety assessment) for the establishment of the proposed recycling and waste collection points.

3.12 Implementation of the proposed Recycling and Waste Collection – Road End Collection Policy would follow the existing protocol where such arrangements have been successfully implemented, and will be undertaken on a phased basis in liaison with local residents and landowners.

4 POLICY/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

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<th>Resource Implications</th>
<th>Consultations</th>
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<td>Internal or External Consultations</td>
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Policy Implications

4.1 The proposed Recycling and Waste Collection - Road End Collection Policy supports the Council’s strategic theme of making services better, through efficiency and best value in the continuous improvement of service delivery.

4.2 Implementation of the proposed road end collection policy would facilitate an increase in the types and volumes of recyclables collected, including food waste, which is essential if the Council is to continue to meet the objectives and targets of the Single Outcome Agreement and the Scottish Government’s national Zero Waste Management Plan.

4.3 The proposed Road End Collection Policy will improve the health, safety and wellbeing of employees by reducing the journeys on un-adopted and private roads, many of which are in poor condition.

Resource Implications

4.4 Improved recycling and waste collection efficiency in terms of reduced number of vehicles, increased number of households serviced per route day, fuel economy, increase in crew productivity (number of uplifts per crew member per day) can be achieved through the adoption of the road end Collection Policy.

4.5 The above benefits will culminate in an overall reduction in the transport costs associated with emptying waste containers within rural areas. This will be achieved on the basis of a reduction in one refuse collection crew, in addition to managing down excessive repair costs, resulting from accessing poorly maintained roads.

4.6 The annual financial savings resulting from the above efficiencies would be in the region of:-

- £60K – Removal of 1 smaller recycling collection vehicle and reduction of 2 FTE employees.
- £10K - Reduction of avoidable repairs and maintenance on recycling and waste collection vehicles.

4.7 It is anticipated that the above savings could be realised in stages over a phased implementation programme spanning 24 months.

Consultations

4.8 Waste Services will consult with local landowners and residents on a case-by-case basis during the implementation of the proposed Recycling and Waste Collection - Road End Collection Policy.

4.9 The Roads & Transport Service will be consulted on appropriate locations for road end collection points.

4.10 Local Elected Members will be kept informed of progress with the implementation of the Road End Collection Policy within their Wards.
5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 Paper to Executive dated 20 May 2010 - Recycling and Waste Collection: Road End Collection Policy.

5.2 Roads & Transport Service - Development Standards and Specifications.

5.3 Waste Services - Road Access Risk Assessments.

Authors:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Tel No/Extension</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Mooney</td>
<td>Waste Projects Officer, Waste Services</td>
<td>Ext: 3354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim McBrier</td>
<td>Projects &amp; Communications Team Leader, Waste Services</td>
<td>Ext: 2696</td>
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Approved by:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Robertson</td>
<td>Head of Planning, Regulation &amp; Waste</td>
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Date   24 May 2010

Reference REP1137SC(KJR).doc