Waste and Recycling Strategy: Options Appraisal

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages	Cost Implications	Impact on Recycling Rate
Retain existing service	No additional costs (other than standard contract uplift) Maintain high customer satisfaction	Offers the council no savings. The Council will not meet the national recycling target of 45% by 2015	Contract uplift on 31 st July each year Cost per household remains high	30%
Implementation of fortnightly residual waste collections	Offers significant savings to the council. More efficient and cost effective service. Significantly increases recycling rate through reduction in overall waste arisings	Public perception – customer satisfaction likely to fall based on Place Survey results elsewhere Food waste would only be collected fortnightly increasing likelihood of smells and problems of waste not being contained within bin. With this service alone, the council will not meet the national recycling target of 45% by 2015.	Savings in excess of £300,000 taking into account the set up costs. Cost per household significantly reduces	38%

Implementation of weekly food waste collections alongside fortnightly residual waste collections	Increases amount sent for recycling – both food waste and mixed dry recycling. Council will meet/exceed the national recycling target of 45% by 2015. Maintains a weekly collection for the food waste which is most likely to cause smell and problems for residents – therefore should be perceived well by residents. Encourages waste reduction and leads to less waste being disposed of. Reduces disposal costs. Will maintain/improve reputation of the council with Kent County Council and WRAP.	Does not offer any savings to the council. As some residents have to remain on weekly service this creates a more complex service. Potential issue with nappies being collected fortnightly.	Set up cost of £426,000 funded through WRAP and Kent Waste Partnership SIP fund. Running costs for the food waste collections would be minimal due to the savings generated from fortnightly residual collections. Further funding from Kent Waste Partnership is being sought to meet the operational costs of running the service. Further savings in the core service operation will be sought within the context of the Best Value Review of waste.	45% up to 50% with additional educational work and promotion of glass banks at recycling sites
Introduction of weekly food waste and fortnightly residual waste collections to 7000 households	Allows trial of scheme prior to re-tender of waste contract Increases waste sent for recycling in trial area. Maintains reputation with Kent County Council, WRAP and local residents	Different services operating across the borough will result in higher operational costs Complexity of service increases – impact on contact centre and provision of information to residents	£118,000 Kent Waste Partnership SIP funding has been awarded as well as £70,000 WRAP funding which would cover the set up costs. Running costs until 2013 are likely to be met by the savings generated from a reduction in one residual waste vehicle.	32%