

Committee: Port Health and Environmental Services	Date: 03032020
Subject: Garden waste recycling trial on the Barbican and Golden Lane estates	Public
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Summary

In March 2018 a seasonal garden waste trial commenced on the Barbican Estate to assess the viability and cost effectiveness of operating a garden waste service in the City. The final collection day was 22 October 2018 and the trial resulted in the collection of only 4.8 tonnes of garden waste.

Due to the extremely high costs of undertaking the trial in 2018 (which equated to £1,300 per tonne for collection, transportation and disposal) officers proposed to undertake another trial to collect garden waste when the new waste collection contract was in place to assess the cost of collecting this waste stream with the new waste contractor. The new waste collection contract commenced on 6 April 2019.

A new trial to collect garden waste from the Barbican and Golden Lane estates will commence on 16 March 2020 and last until the week commencing 16 November 2020, after which date the results will be reported back to this committee.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation provides comprehensive household waste and recycling services to all residential properties within the Square Mile. This includes dry mixed recycling, food waste, textiles, low energy light bulb and battery recycling services.
2. At your committee in September 2017, the Assistant Director of Cleansing Services agreed to undertake a garden waste recycling trial at the Barbican estate. The purpose of the trial was to identify the cost of the service and the benefits of providing a garden waste service in the City. The Corporation had previously not diverted garden waste away from the general waste stream as it cannot be included with food waste which is treated at an Anaerobic Digestion Plant and it is not feasible to provide communal compost heaps in the Square Mile.

3. A garden waste collection trial was undertaken on the Barbican estate between March and November 2018 which collected 4.8 tonnes of garden waste. The trial cost £6,500 plus Officer time, equating to a £1,300 per tonne collection, transportation and disposal cost, (by comparison general waste collection, transportation and disposal costs were £245 per tonne). The overall contribution to the recycling rate in 2018 was minimal at 0.17%. The Corporation's Parks and Gardens department collected the garden waste from the designated locations and transported it to the recycling facility at Cringle Dock, Battersea.
4. Due to the extremely expensive costs of undertaking the garden waste collection trial on the Barbican estate in 2018, this Committee agreed on 27 November 2018, to revisit the proposal to undertake another garden waste collection trial when *"it's reasonably practical after the new waste collection contract has been mobilised as the new contract may offer different options for the collection and disposal which may reduce the overall costs."*

Current Position

5. The City of London Corporation's new waste collection contract, with Veolia Environmental Services (VES), commenced on 6 April 2019.
6. Officers have been in discussion with VES to conduct another garden waste collection trial in 2020 at the Barbican and Golden Lane estates to ascertain whether it's economically viable to collect this waste stream from residential locations as part of the new waste contract.
7. Officers have liaised with the Barbican and Golden Lane Estate Officers to gain their agreement to participate in a new garden waste trial this year.
8. The same six collection locations on the Barbican Estate which were used in the 2018 trial have again been identified as locations for this year's trial.
9. Golden Lane was not involved in the garden waste collection trial previously but are happy to be involved in the 2020 trial. Officers have identified two collection locations on their estate. This means that the garden waste collection trial this year will have a total of eight collection locations on two estates.
10. Residents on both estates were sent registration forms to assess interest in participating in the 2020 trial. The survey period was between 6 – 24 January 2020. Residents on both estates were able to register their interest and provide feedback via their estate office, email, post or calling the Corporation Contact Centre.
11. Some 194 responses were received from the Barbican estate (approx. 9% of population) with only five responses stating they were not interested in participating in the trial. The response rate was lower at the Golden Lane estate. 29 responses were received (approx. 5% of the estates' population) which included eight respondents who did not want to participate in the trial. At both estates, feedback received included the lack of volume the resident expected to accumulate due to having small balconies, whilst other residents welcomed the

initiative. Some respondents from Golden Lane estate stated they donate their garden waste to the estate allotment

12. Anecdotal observations and feedback from the 2018 trial indicated that more residents used the garden waste service than had originally registered for the scheme. However, the tonnage collected in 2018 was disappointingly low.

Proposals

13. Following discussions with VES, who will be collecting, transporting and disposing of the garden waste, the trial will commence on Monday 16 March 2020.
14. The 2018 trial had some initial issues with contamination in the waste stream including large volumes of soil, some plastic plant pots and fertilisers which cannot be composted. These were addressed through targeted communications, consisting of letters and emails distributed via the Barbican Estate office as well as posters in the bin stores. Contamination levels became much less of an issue as a result. Officers would seek to replicate this should the same contamination problems arise.
15. The 2018 trial showed that the number of bins and frequency of collections increased over the trial to account for demand on the service. The provision of bins and locations will be kept under review throughout the new trial.
16. A report detailing the results of the garden waste trial will be provided back to this committee at the end of 2020.
17. Costs for the collection service and disposal of the Garden Waste as part of this trial are estimated to be £7,000 these costs will be absorbed into the local risk budget. This figure is for the purposes of the trial and if a decision is made to expand the service or continue it permanently these costs would need to be revisited.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

18. This project supports the Corporate Strategic Plan to shape outstanding environments. It also aligns with outcome two of the Responsible Business Strategy and objectives two (Waste Reduction) and objective four (Recycling and Composting) in the Waste Strategy.

Implications

19. The 2020 trial will take place on the Barbican and Golden Lane estates owing to the geographic proximity to each other. However other estates and private blocks also have balconies where a garden waste service could be of interest. Should the trial be a success, there could be budgetary implications if the garden waste scheme was expanded to other locations in the Square Mile.

Conclusion

20. The Corporation will be commencing a garden waste collection trial at Barbican and Golden Lane estates on 16 March 2020 to ascertain whether it is economically viable, and the results are significant enough to contribute towards the recycling rate. The 2020 trial will run longer than previously, and officers anticipate that costs for running the trial will be lower than the 2018 trial.

Background Papers

Garden waste recycling trial on the Barbican estate PHES 27112018

Appendices

- None

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