

To: Candidates

From: Jane Parfitt  
City Environment, General Manager

### **Christchurch household kerbside waste collection**

There has been recent media attention around the future use of the black bag in the collection of household rubbish in Christchurch. A decision on this has yet to be made by Council.

The Council, as part of its Waste Management Plan 2006, is progressing through a process to introduce a new kerbside domestic waste service. Earlier this year, staff worked through an interactive process with prospective contractors.

Last month tender documentation was issued for contracts to collect and process Christchurch's domestic waste and included requirements for a household kerbside service:

- a weekly collection of organics (food scraps and green waste) in an 80 litre wheelie bin
- a fortnightly collection of recyclables in a 240 litre wheelie bin
- a fortnightly collection of residual waste in a 50 litre plastic bag (under this proposal bags would be purchased by the householder)

In addition, the Council is investigating and obtaining prices for a residual waste wheelie bin collection. Under this option there would be a fortnightly collection of residual waste in a 140 litre wheelie bin.

The results of the tender are expected to be presented to Council and contracts awarded in December 2007. A staged rollout of services is currently planned to start in February 2009.

At this stage no decision has been made about the use of wheelie bins or user-pays black bags in the collection of residual rubbish.

However, evidence both nationally and overseas, and comments made by very experienced contractors during the interactive tender process indicate the long-term use of rubbish bags is not sustainable because of the health and safety of the collector.

The future of the black bag will be something for the Council to take account of when it considers the proposals received through the tender process.

Should a wheelie bin option for residual rubbish be implemented, residents would only put two bins out each week eg:

- week 1 – organics plus residual waste
- week 2 – organics plus recycling

The amount of waste generated remains constant under all options; growth in waste generated has been shown to be dependant on population and economic growth.

Last year around 55,000 tonnes of domestic waste was sent to landfill (33,000 tonnes Council kerbside collection and a further 22,000 tonnes by private collection operators)

A Council funded wheelie bin collection is predicted to send around 26,500 tonnes to landfill with a further 10,000 tonnes sent to landfill by private collection operators. A reduction of 44% in the amount of domestic general waste sent to landfill.

#### **• More information**

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