

Officer responsible Waste Manager	Author Simon Collin, Solid Waste Manager
Corporate Plan Output: Solid Waste	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of recent developments with respect to inner city recycling.

BACKGROUND

When the domestic kerbside recycling scheme was introduced in May 1998, questions were asked by inner city businesses about whether a recycling service was to be provided for the Central Business District (CBD). In response to this a study of inner city businesses was carried out. One of the key outcomes sought from the study was to determine the possible role the Council could play in facilitating increased levels of commercial inner city recycling services. It was felt that due to a number of factors, a facilitation role by Council was preferable to actually providing a collection service and this approach was supported by the Committee at that time.

The study results were presented to the Committee in January, and a resolution was passed to establish an Inner City Waste Options Working Group.

PROGRESS TO DATE

So far the working group has not eventuated due to pressure of other work. However an approach has recently been made by Onyx with an offer to provide a comprehensive recyclables service to both the CBD and other commercial areas of the City.

OFFER BY ONYX NZ LTD

The Onyx Proposal is as follows:

1. To provide a recyclables collection service, to businesses in the CBD and other commercial areas of the City.
2. To collect the same materials as currently collected with the residential kerbside collection.
3. To charge customers for the service, recognising that for it to work, charges must be lower than existing waste removal services offered by various other commercial companies.
4. To collect the material at night using the same trucks as are used for the residential service.
5. The recycling collection service is a stand alone service; not conditional upon the customer using Onyx as a waste collection company.

6. All recyclable materials will be accepted by the Recovered Materials Foundation (RMF) at no cost, with the quality standards of acceptable material being prescribed by the RMF.
7. Onyx and the RMF to agree on commercial arrangements for the RMF to provide materials acceptance services at night.
8. Recycling collection service details to be adapted to suit customers needs eg nightly collection service.

ISSUES

The following issues arise from this proposal:

1. Independent collection services already offered have the potential to be disrupted.
 - Carter Holt Harvey Ltd currently collect cardboard for free on Tuesday nights. Onyx have undertaken not to collect cardboard and if potential new customers appear, Onyx have agreed to put them in touch with Carter Holt. (In any case the collection trucks are not suitable for anything but very small quantities of cardboard).
 - Southern Cross Bottle Exchange Ltd (SCBE) collect whole bottles, charged by the drum. It is not a comprehensive service. Onyx, in conjunction with RMF and Waste Management Unit, propose to negotiate with SCBE to find an appropriate solution. This is not seen as a major impediment.
 - Canterbury Paper Company collect high value office ledger paper, charged by the wheelie bin. Again negotiation needs to take place between the parties involved.
2. The proposed service must not interfere with the residential service. This is a contractual issue and no problems are envisaged.

The advantages of this proposal are:

- Comprehensive recyclables collection service offered to city businesses. – a desired Council outcome.
- Long term favourable impact on Waste Minimisation within the City.
- Potential for refuse tonnage currently collected by Council funded inner city collection service to reduce, with consequent savings to Council.
- No risk to the Council.

SUMMARY

Onyx are offering to set up a comprehensive commercial recyclables collection service for businesses in the CBD and other commercial areas. One of the reasons the Council contracted Onyx was to extend services in an innovative way. This proposal is innovative by virtue of using vehicles that Onyx specifically designed for recycling collection. It will be at no extra cost to the Council. Also this proposal aligns with the Council's Waste Minimisation goals in its solid Waste Management Plan and it is in the interests of the City's Waste Minimisation goal that such a service be encouraged. It is expected that the service provided will be reliable, low cost and well organised, which may help to overcome negative perceptions brought about by the sometimes haphazard nature of some past commercial recyclables collections. This in turn should encourage increased willingness for businesses to become involved in recycling.

- Recommendation:**
1. That Onyx NZ Ltd be encouraged to offer the proposed commercial recyclable collection service following satisfactory negotiation with existing players in the market.
 2. That the establishment of the Inner City Working Group be held over until the success of the new service can be evaluated.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.