

Future Collection Scheme for the Waste and Recycling Service

Cabinet Member Cllr Neal Davey
Responsible Officer Waste & Transport Manager

Reason for Report: To consider and agree the revised recommendations for Cabinet on the Refuse and Recycling Collection Scheme commencing in October 2015. To receive an update on the new scheme from the Project Board.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the PDG recommends to the Cabinet the following two changes to previous recommendations:

- **Collect food waste in a new kerbside caddy weekly**
- **Continue to collect residual waste from sacks**

Previously agreed and not affected by changes

- **Adopt the same scheme for all households in District**
- **Collect household residual waste and recycling fortnightly**
- **Collect mixed plastics, excluding film, as kerbside recycling**
- **Collect card as kerbside recycling**
- **Retain the discretionary garden waste (which now excludes card and food) as a fortnightly, chargeable service (at a rate to cover cost of the service)**
- **Retain existing paid for bulky waste collection service**
- **Retain the contracted out clinical waste collection service**
- **Retain assisted collections and update eligibility for the service every two years**
- **Provide free and limitless boxes for recycling, including one additional per property of a different colour to permit greater separation**

Relationship to Corporate Plan: Maintaining front line services in the face of the ongoing funding cuts requires the redesign of services to enable them to continue to be affordable.

Financial Implications: There are costs associated with the changes proposed in this report, however long term revenue reductions are also recommended. The detailed costings are to be provided to a future PDG once recommendations have been accepted. An estimated reduced cost of £400,000 per annum is anticipated against the current budget for Refuse and Recycling. The recommended scheme will also create an anticipated treatment and disposal savings of around £300,000 per annum for Devon County Council as the disposal authority. A mechanism to share this saving between the two authorities is currently being negotiated and will also be reported back at a future PDG.

Legal Implications: There is a duty to collect all household waste and four kerbside dry recyclates from 2015. The size and type of collection receptacles used, where they are placed and the frequency they are emptied, are all for the Council to decide. There is no obligation to collect from private roads or to collect garden waste. Garden Waste is a material for which a charge to householders can be made for the collection.

Risk Assessment:

Members of the PDG have agreed that, without considering and implementing changes to service delivery, the Council will face the risk that it runs a service that is not affordable or will require deeper cuts to other services to support it. In order to mitigate service risks a trial of 1,000 properties has been proposed.

A review of all service based risks and a full health and safety review will be completed by the new Service Manager over the next three months.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the Managing the Environment PDG meeting on the 23rd April 2014, a list of recommendations were made to the Cabinet regarding the future waste collection scheme. A joint Officer and Member Project Board was also established to consider details of the scheme. During the September Project Board meeting some issues were identified with the proposed scheme which have resulted in some new recommendations being made, which are outlined in this report.
- 1.2 This report sets out an amended scheme that could be implemented from October 2015.
- 1.3 The report gives an update from the Project Board on the new scheme roll out.

2.0 Proposals which have remained unchanged

- 2.1 All households in the District will have the same scheme.
- 2.2 Provide free boxes for recycling, including one additional box per property of a different colour to permit greater separation.
- 2.3 Remove card from garden waste and collect in black boxes as kerbside recycling.
- 2.4 Remove food from garden waste and collect in a caddy as kerbside recycling.
- 2.5 Collect mixed plastics, excluding film, as kerbside recycling.

- 2.6 Collect household refuse and recycling fortnightly from each premises
- 2.7 Retain a non-statutory garden waste service (which now excludes card and food) as a fortnightly, all year chargeable service, based on full cost recovery.
- 2.8 Retain existing paid for bulky waste collection service and the Waste Electrical Equipment (WEE) collection
- 2.9 Retain the contracted out clinical waste collection service
- 2.10 Retain assisted collections and update eligibility for the service every two years

3.0 **Proposed Changes**

3.1 **Food Waste Collection Frequency**

The scheme recommended in April proposed a fortnightly collection of food waste only from a 60 litre kerbside caddy. It was considered by the Project Board that a fortnightly collection of food waste only would be very unpopular with residents and would affect diversion of the material away from landfill. Also, due to the heavy composition of this material it was believed that two weeks food waste in a caddy would be very difficult for both residents and operational staff to lift. Further research had also established that there were no other known authorities in the country undertaking a fortnightly collection of food only. It was therefore proposed that a weekly collection of food waste only from a 23litre caddy (normal size used) now be recommended.

- 3.2 The food waste would be collected one week by the kerbside recycling vehicle and by a split vehicle on the alternative week which would also collect garden waste in a separate compartment. This would reduce the requirement for additional vehicles and rounds visiting each household.

3.3 **Residual Collection Container**

The scheme recommended in April proposed using the current brown bins for residual collections. It was identified that a wheeled bin collection scheme is a much slower process and could add around 25% to collection times (see estimated cost impact in section 4). This increase would require additional rounds and expenditure on containers for households which do not currently have a brown bin. Although collections from wheeled bins could reduce manual handling risks it may not reduce accident levels. Wheeled bins tend to increase accident levels relating to slips, trips and falls but also does not remove manual handling risks as often wheeled bins are overfilled and allow recyclable material to be hidden. If all households used the recycling scheme offered fully then the remaining material would be limited to mainly non dense material. Sack collections for residual waste makes the identification of non-recyclable material much easier. This means that education and enforcement could be targeted to households who do not recycle.

- 3.4 If the brown bins are then utilised for the paid garden waste collections it is

likely that no additional containers will be required. Some residents would return containers if a charge was introduced. These containers could then be used for rural residents who do choose to participate in the garden waste collection scheme but do not currently have a wheeled bin.

4.0 Waste Project Group Update

4.1 Costs

The Project Board received some estimated costings for the scheme and some variations in collection types. When the final scheme has been selected by the PDG a detailed budget will be completed and reported back at the next Managing the Environment PDG and 5th February Executive meeting.

Wheeled bin Residual Collections

It was identified that the additional cost to collect residual waste via a wheeled bin would increase the revenue costs by £210,000 per annum. It would also require a further set up cost of £330,000 for new wheeled bins.

Disposal Authority Savings

It was estimated that the Disposal Authority could save over £300,000 per year. The Waste & Transport Manager would be meeting with Devon County Council in November to discuss the estimated savings in detail and a proposed a sharing mechanism. The savings can not be agreed before the scheme is introduced as it will be dependant on diversion rates which will be unknown.

Mixed Plastics

The cost of introducing the collection of mixed plastics was estimated to be £160,515 per annum. This cost was based on the additional resource needed to collect extra material on rounds and the loss of income from the higher valued HDPE material. The Council would receive additional recycling credits from the additional tonnage but this would be much lower than the loss of income.

Set Up Costs

The scheme selected would have set up costs of £276,000 to cover the costs of supplying and delivering new containers and the cost to alter the recycling depot to accommodate the new materials collected.

4.2 Trial

It was agreed that a trial of the new scheme of approximately 1,000 households would be undertaken on two rounds in the Tiverton and surrounding area. The trial would be run for four weeks in February and would be split between urban and rural properties. The trial would give a better understanding of expected diversion rates for dry recycling materials. The trial would not include a charged garden waste service. All households would be delivered the same containers as would be required for the new scheme.

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