

CABINET MEETING 22 MARCH 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Household Waste and Recycling Management arrangements

Author(s):

Report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet's approval to the development of waste management arrangements and associated policies.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is requested to;-

- i) approve the revised Bin Replacement Policy and;
- ii) authorise the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Leader, to implement the revised Bin Replacement Policy city-wide; and
- iii) note the proposals to develop future Household Waste and Recycling Management arrangements and associated policies

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? ***Yes**

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework - No

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The change in policy responds to the growing issue where residents that suffer from stolen or vandalised bins and are unable to afford a replacement.

Alternative options to be considered:

1. The option of having a flat reduced rate for all residents was considered and rejected as it was felt that at this time with the financial impact from the Covid pandemic and the recent sure in in the cost of living all residents should be able to access a replacement bin if this is required
2. The option of applying the free replacement bin only to residents/households in receipt of Local Council Tax Support was also considered. This was the basis of the core budget proposal approved by Council on 2 March 2022, although given the inherent uncertainty in demand levels, it was noted that actual usage will need to be monitored closely to assess the adequacy of the relevant reserve set aside for the costs of the scheme. Following consideration of the proposed policy by Cabinet, taking into account the views from Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Sub-Committee, it is felt that the financial pressures currently facing all residents justify the free replacement scheme being introduced for all residents from 1 April 2022. Future policy reviews will take into account the actual demand levels and financial cost of the scheme.

Impacts analysed;	
Equality <input type="checkbox"/>	Privacy <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Crime and Disorder <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values?	Yes
Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?	Yes
Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?	Yes

HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**Report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet's approval to the development of waste management arrangements and associated policies

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to; -
- i) approve the revised Bin Replacement Policy and;
 - ii) authorise the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Leader, to implement the revised Bin Replacement Policy city-wide; and
 - iii) note the proposals to develop future Household Waste and Recycling Management arrangements and associated policies

3.0 Household Waste and Recycling Management arrangements

- 3.1 The Council has a legal duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to collect household waste. Residents have a duty to store, dispose and present their waste in line with the Council's collection arrangements. If a resident fails to comply with the Council's waste collection scheme, they can be issued with a Section 46 Notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- 3.2 The Council provides two bins, a green bin for household waste and a blue one for recycling. In addition, a caddy is provided for paper as part of the recycling process. Both bins are 240 litres in size for most residents however there are some smaller bins provided at 140 litres for residents living in purpose-built aged-persons homes and a limited number of properties with bin cupboards. There are occasions when a larger size 360 litre bin is provided, for medical or large family requirements, in these situations the Council attempts to maximise the use of larger recycling blue bins.
- 3.3 The Council collects household waste and recycling on a fortnightly cycle. Residents are asked to present their bin on collection day at the most appropriate collection point to their home before 7.30am and are encouraged to ensure that bins are taken back in by 7.30pm.
- 3.4 There are occasions where residents fail to present or manage their waste appropriately, contrary to the Council's advice and guidance within its waste management arrangements. When this happens, residents are subject to enforcement intervention and activity. We endeavour to provide support, advice and education in waste management and expectations. Where these efforts fail, enforcement action is undertaken.

- 3.5 The Council also provide a subscription Garden Waste Collection Service. In 2022 this service will cost £33.00 and run between 29 March 2022 to 18 November 2022. If a resident subscribes before 28 February 2022, they are guaranteed to receive all 17 collections. The bookings for the service opened on 11 January 2022.
- 3.6 Household Waste and Recycling Management arrangements covers a wide range of activities that support the management of waste and recycling across the City. The Refuse Service is continually reviewing and considering residents and Member feedback, best practice and statutory guidance to ensure that all aspects of our service are appropriate and meets statutory and local needs.
- 3.7 This report highlights feedback from residents and Members on the current Bin Replacement Policy. Future reports to Cabinet will review wider Household Waste and Recycling Management arrangements in particular:
- the Council's approach to side waste – waste that is placed in refuse bags and not in the bins provided or the overloading of bins to the extent that they cannot be handled by the refuse collection operatives.
 - the Council's future waste management arrangements shall also address the requirements of the Environment Act 2021 which covers, amongst other things, targets, plans and policies for improvement of the natural environment, environmental reporting, waste and resource efficiency and air quality
 - the Council's waste management policies shall also be revised to address recycling rates, contaminated waste and resident communication arrangements.

4.0 Replacement Bins

- 4.1 Replacement bins were free for all residents up until the middle of October 2017 when the £25 charge was introduced. This charge is applied to all residents requesting a replacement bin. The only exceptions are when the Council provide a bin for a new build home and when a replacement bin is required due to a fault of the refuse crews, such as when the bin is damaged or accidentally falls into the back of the refuse collection vehicle.
- 4.2 The £25 charge has been in place now for nearly 5 years and requires a review to determine whether this charge and current arrangements are still appropriate.
- 4.3 To understand the situation and data with regards to bin replacement, a review of the past 8 years data has been undertaken. The bin replacement data is summarised below:

Bin requests & payment position				
Year	Bins requested	Comment	No. bins paid for	Income (£)
2013	7990	Free	n/a	0
2014	9401	Free	n/a	0
2015	8877	Free	n/a	0
2016	6751	Free	n/a	0
2017	10066	Oct-Dec (17 th) fee was applied	442	11050
2018	5889		2513	62825
2019	5852		2635	65875
2020	6979		3600	90000
2021	5619	Covers Jan-Sept	2750	68750

5.0 Proposed Policy

- 5.1 The current Policy states that all requests for a replacement bin are subject to the £25 charge. Reports from Members and residents are that damaged and stolen bins, beyond the residents' control, is occurring. Members recognise that with the growing financial pressures facing residents the bin charge is posing an additional financial pressure and many residents cannot afford to pay the £25 charge and the Council wish to support residents in these difficult financial times.
- 5.2 In the past, residents were able to attain a Police crime number to receive a replacement bin, but this is no longer possible as the Police no longer issue crime numbers for bin theft or damage.
- 5.3 Therefore, due to the financial impact of the Covid pandemic and the recent unprecedented increases in the cost of living it is proposed that replacement bins are available and free to all residents for 12 months.
- 5.4 This revised Bin Replacement Policy will be implemented on 1st April 2022 and run to 31st March 2023 at which point this Policy will be reviewed.
- 5.5 Usage of the Bin Replacement budget will be monitored monthly during 2022/2023 and any forecast budget variation reported via the quarterly revenue budget monitoring reports to Cabinet as necessary.
- 5.6 Actual usage will inform any changes to the budget that may be required in-year and the amount to be included in the financial planning for 2023/2024 and subsequent years as part of the Policy review process.

6.0 Reasons for the Decision

- 6.1 The change in policy responds to the growing issue where residents that suffer from stolen or vandalised bins and are unable to afford a replacement

7.0 Alternative options to be considered:

- 7.1 The option of having a flat reduced rate for all residents was considered and rejected as it was felt that at this time with the financial impact from the Covid pandemic and the recent sure in in the cost of living all residents should be able to access a replacement bin if this is required

- 7.2 The option of applying the free replacement bin only to residents/households in receipt of Local Council Tax Support was also considered. This was the basis of the core budget proposal approved by Council on 2 March 2022, although given the inherent uncertainty in demand levels, it was noted that actual usage will need to be monitored closely to assess the adequacy of the relevant reserve set aside for the costs of the scheme. Following consideration of the proposed policy by Cabinet, taking into account the views from Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Sub-Committee, it is felt that the financial pressures currently facing all residents justify the free replacement scheme being introduced for all residents from 1 April 2022. Future policy reviews will take into account the actual demand levels and financial cost of the scheme.

8. Impact Analysis

- (a) **Equalities** – This policy has been developed to balance the provision of services and bins to those most in need within the City.
- (b) **Reduction of Crime and Disorder – Community Cohesion / Social Inclusion** – The Bin Replacement Policy has been developed to respond to those residents that have suffered from a stolen or vandalised bin and could not afford a replacement bin. This policy now supports the provision of a replacement bin.

9. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- (i) **Financial Implications** – The cost of the revised policy is forecast to be £0.206m annually, although given the inherent uncertainty in assessing demand levels this will be monitored closely. This cost will be met from the approved use of the Street Scene and Open Spaces reserve in 2022/2023, with the ongoing cost of the scheme considered in the financial planning for 2023/2024 later this calendar year.
- (ii) **Legal Implications** – The Council has a legal duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to collect household waste. In order to support this duty, the Council provides two bins to residents, a green bin for household waste and a blue one for recycling.
- (iii) **Health & Safety Considerations** – All bin replacements are fully risk assessed and undertaken with all health and safety measures in place
- (iv) **Procurement** – All replacement bins shall be procured from an approved procurement framework.
- (v) **Risk Analysis**- The process of bin replacement is subject to Health and Safety risk assessments.