

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING SERVICES**

**HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS –  
BIN REPLACEMENT POLICY**

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide members with an update report on the Council's Waste Management arrangements and the review and proposed changes to the Bin Replacement Policy.

**2.0 Household Waste and Recycling Management arrangements**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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
- 2.3 The Council collect 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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.

2.6 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.

2.7 This report highlights feedback from residents and Members on the current position with bin replacement.

### 3.0 Replacement Bins

3.1 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 new bin. The only exceptions are when the Council provide a bin for a new build home and when a new 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.

3.2 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.

3.3 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 fee was applied	442	11050
2018	5889		2513	62825
2019	5852		2635	65875
2020	6979		3600	90000
2021	5619	Covers Jan-Sept	2750	68750

## 4. Proposed Policy

4.1 The current Policy states that all requests for a new 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 financial impact of pandemic, many residents cannot afford to pay the £25 charge and the Council wish to support such struggling families.

- 4.2 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
- 4.3 It is evident from the data that introducing a blanket “free” bin request service will increase the demand for new bins significantly. This would increase the financial impact to the Council as more bins will need to be purchased and no income will be received. Additionally, the ability to keep up with demand for new bins may be difficult due to a national shortage of materials to manufacture new bins. However, the fact that many people who suffer with a damaged or stolen bin, at no fault of their own, are unable to afford a new one cannot be ignored. However, the fact that many people who suffer with a damaged or stolen bin at no fault of their own and are unable to afford a new one cannot be ignored.
- 4.4 Therefore, the proposed new Bin Replacement Policy would be structured as follows:
- Utilise the approved bin replacement budget of £206,350
  - To qualify for a FREE replacement bin the resident must be in receipt of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme at the point of applying;
  - A resident can only get two FREE Replacement Bin in a 3-year period. This is for two new bins only, whether it’s a Green bin or a Blue bin
  - This scheme does not apply to our Garden Waste Service and the provision of a Brown Bin
  - If a qualifying resident requires more than two bins in a 3-year period they will be able to purchase one extra bin at a reduced rate fee of £18.75. If further Replacement Bin requests are made by qualifying residents this will be offered at the full rate of £25; and
  - The £25 fee remains in place for all residents who are not in receipt of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.
- 4.5 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. 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.
- 4.6 Cabinet will consider these proposed changes at its meeting on 22 March 2022. If a new Replacement Bin Policy is approved by Cabinet, the new Policy arrangements will start from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

## **5.0 Recommendations**

- 5.1 That Scrutiny Committee consider the report and provide views on the proposed Bin Replacement Policy.