



<b>Full Council</b>	<b>Tuesday, 24 April 2018</b>	<b>Matter for decision and Information</b>
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**Title:** **Changes to the Receptacle for Recycling Collections**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. At its meeting on 5 December 2017, the Council decided that the authority would continue with a "business as usual" approach until further work on route optimisation for refuse and recycling collection was carried out, and that the outcomes of this work would be overseen by a five Member Working Group.
- 1.2. The five Member Working Group was convened in early 2018, and the project and its key objectives were identified. The Group was next scheduled to meet in late April/early May 2018 to discuss progress regarding the above work.
- 1.3. In early April it became necessary for Officers to convene a meeting earlier than anticipated to discuss a number of external factors which had arisen since 1 April 2018 leading to operational challenges with the collection of recyclables in plastic bags. These challenges are set out in detail in paragraph 4 of this report. The main challenge concerns a significant increase in kerbside collection of glass from July 2018 due to a recent communication from the County Council that the "bring sites" across the Borough can no longer operate under the Direction Notice. This will mean the use of bags becomes cost prohibitive and operationally, increased health and safety risks.
- 1.4. The Working Group was also informed that the route optimisation project was progressing ahead of schedule and the March highlight report is attached at the **Appendix**. A verbal update for April 2018 will be given at the meeting.

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

That Council considers the report and approves accordingly that:

- 2.1. There needs to be a change to the type of receptacle used to collect kerbside recycling from co-mingled bags to co-mingled wheelie bins for the reasons set out in paragraph 4 of this report. This change is to be implemented as soon as practicable with an estimated go-live date of 01 July 2018.
- 2.2. The advantages of the early adoption of recycling bins set out at paragraph 4.10 of this report be noted by Members.
- 2.3. That the progress of the refuse and recycling project, and the progress made by the Council to be ahead of the anticipated end date of Stage 1 of the Project be noted by Members.

## **3. Background Information**

- 3.1. Since the December Council Meeting, a Five Member Working Group has been formed, which met in January 2018. The meeting outlined why the Working Group had been

formed and what its remit was.

- 3.2. The Group were informed of the progress in appointing WebAspX as the Council's professional partners in delivering the scenarios for changes to Refuse and Recycling Collection.
- 3.3. Data has been collected and passed on to WebAspX ahead of schedule, and they have been able to begin their testing/challenge process well ahead of the key milestones.
- 3.4. Successful cross-departmental working between the depot team and the transformation team ensured that work involving gathering technical information could be carried out in-house and ahead of schedule, rather than having to access a third party specialist and incurring additional costs and delays.
- 3.5. A copy of the latest project plan for March 2018 can be found in the **Appendix**. The latest project highlight report is scheduled for 25 April 2018.
- 3.6. The information below is correct as at 10 April 2018.

<b>Project Milestone</b>	<b>Planned Date</b>	<b>Expected/Completed Date</b>
Appoint Partner	16 December 2017	5 February 2018
Data Collection	23 March 2018	15 March 2018
Review As-Is Model	24 April 2018	24 April 2018
Distribute Resident Survey	16 April 2018	26 April 2018
Final Checks on new Model	24 May 2018	16 May 2018
Create Fully Implementable Model	8 June 2018	31 May 2018

- 3.7. A survey was scheduled for April/May 2018 to consult with residents as to the proposals for collection methods and cycles for recycling and refuse collection. This is still due to be carried out, with the responses to be fed back to the working panel in May 2018, to be taken into consideration alongside the findings from WebAspX.

#### **4. Legal Directive & Co-Mingled Recycling Trial**

- 4.1. There have been two new, key, developments that arose in the first week of April 2018. These relate to the Legal Direction Notice issued by the County Council, and increased utilisation of recycling bags.
- 4.2. The County Council contacted OWBC to state that as part of the Legal Direction Notice, the "bring sites" that the Council currently operates contravene the Direction Notice, and all glass should be collected as part of our household service with all other domestic glass.
- 4.3. The County Council has informed OWBC that there would be a period of grace before this is enforced (i.e. July 2018), and that after that, the amount of glass being collected from kerbside would increase, meaning an increase in the requirement for recycling bags, which at current levels would be estimated at approximately an additional £30,000 per quarter (on top of the current increased costs for the new recycling bags).

- 4.4. The Council has already seen an increase in the demand for the recycling bags in the first weeks of use. Whilst this is partially due to the increase in recycling collected, the primary reason that the Council is aware of is that residents are utilising the bags for other uses due to their size and strength.
- 4.5. The original recycling bag budget for 2018/19 was circa £80,000 (based upon prior usage). It is forecast that the spend for the first quarter of 2018/19 will be circa £60,000, rising to £90,000 once the "bring site" glass is included in the collection from July onwards.
- 4.6. It has also been noted that, due to the strength of the bags used for recycling, the current vehicles take longer to compact the contents, and there is an increased risk of projectiles due to the pressure created when crushing the bags. This increases the already highlighted Health and Safety issues that have been reported to Council previously. Therefore, any continuation to collect all refuse and recycling materials would require the need for additional staff to mitigate these issues, and this would cost circa £100,000 per annum.
- 4.7. There has also been a notable increase in comments and complaints to the Council regarding the increase in plastic being used through only using bin/recycling bags, and the continuing problems regarding bin bags and littering.
- 4.8. It should also be noted that collection of co-mingled recycling in bags utilising the existing fleet (using the 30/70 split vehicles) only allows for 4.5 tonnes of recycling be collected due to weight and capacity restraints. This means that two trips can be needed to Casepak per round, with each round trip to Casepak taking at least one hour. This issue is compounded by the issues Casepak are experiencing with the increase of recycling materials coming their way since the turn of the year. Our vehicles have had to wait at Casepak up to 1.5 hours to unload which means with travelling time, it can be up to 2.5 hours, which is wasting valuable collection time. If the Council were to move to recycling bins and purchase the relevant replacement vehicles, the amount of recycling collected could rise to 10 tonnes per vehicle, meaning only one visit to Casepak is required, and a significant increase in recycling collected on each vehicle. With the saving of travelling/waiting time, this would mean there should be no operational impact on the crews being able to complete collection with bins. There would also be a saving on gate fees, as there is a charge per visit per day. It should also be noted that the replacement vehicle programme has already been approved in the Capital Programme.
- 4.9. Given all of these factors, the Council needs to take the operational decision to move to recycling bins as a receptacle to collect recycling from July 2018 (or as soon as practicable) given that the Council cannot afford to spend approximately £280,000 on additional recycling bags in 2018/19 (£360,000 cost less the original £80,000 budget), and the need to employ additional staff of circa £100,000. These costs are revenue spend whereas the purchase of recycling bins are capital. It is estimated that the capital cost to purchase recycling bins including delivery would be £550,000 with a life cycle of approximately 10 years. In certain circumstances where access for bins or vehicles is a problem, it will be practical to continue with recycling bags.
- 4.10. The advantages of the early adoption of recycling bins are:

**Advantages:**

- Wheeled bins address health and safety concerns;
- Decreased littering opportunities;

- Reduces risk of vermin;
- Addresses residents' concerns/reduces complaints;
- Realisable revenue savings;
- Keeps weekly waste collection; and
- Minimises the number of waste receptacles on the street at any one time.

4.11. It should be noted that operational issues relating to bin allocations to households, exceptional circumstances and other operational issues are being managed by the project team and will be reported to both the Council's project management board and the Member Working Group on refuse and recycling.

**Background Documents:**

Appendix - Project Status Report - Refuse and Recycling Stage One (March 2018)

Report to Full Council (Extraordinary) on 6 July 2017

Report to Full Council on 5 December 2017

SLR Waste Options Policy Review Report

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<b>Implications</b>   Changes to the Receptacle for Recycling Collections	
<b>Finance</b>	The Council is currently facing unprecedented financial pressures and challenges. The increased costs incurred by using recycling bags cannot be maintained even in the short term and is unbudgeted. It is imperative that the Council finds a cost effective method of collection so that it stays within its approved budget.
<b>Stephen Hinds</b> (Director of Finance & Transformation / Section 151 Officer)	
<b>Legal</b>	The decision to move to recycling bins is an operational decision in accordance with Article 11 the Council's constitution.
<b>David Gill</b> (Head of Law & Governance / Monitoring Officer)	
<b>Corporate Risk(s) (CR)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Decreasing Financial Resources (CR1)</b> This report and its recommended outcomes will play an important part of the Council being able to set a balanced budget.
<b>Stephen Hinds</b> (Director of Finance & Transformation / Section 151 Officer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Organisational/Transformational Change (CR8)</b> The arrangements moving forward look to provide an improved service, utilising technology to provide efficiencies.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other Corporate Risk(s)</b> This report addresses potential health and safety risks.
<b>Corporate Priorities (CP)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>An Inclusive and Engaged Borough (CP1)</b> The report utilises information from previous borough consultations and feedback via the CSC. The report also encourages further consultation with our residents.
<b>Stephen Hinds</b> (Director of Finance & Transformation / Section 151 Officer)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Effective Service Provision (CP2)</b> The report addresses the need to improve the effectiveness of the waste collection services, particularly in relation to reducing littering.
<b>Vision &amp; Values (V)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Innovation (V4)</b> The report recommends the utilisation of various technologies to improve the effectiveness of service provision.
<b>Stephen Hinds</b> (Director of Finance & Transformation / Section 151 Officer)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Customer Focus (V5)</b> The report and its recommendations are in direct response to our resident's requests and needs.
<b>Equalities &amp; Equality Assessment(s) (EA)</b>	There are no equalities implications directly arising from this report.
<b>Stephen Hinds</b> (Director of Finance & Transformation / Section 151 Officer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Not Applicable (EA)</b>